

The Grange Order.

An old adage says, "Two of a trade never agree." Though individual cases may seem to deny the truth of this saying, no doubt there is enough truth in it to exhibit a trait of humanity that is universal. But no matter how much strife and opposition there may be between several members of a society, party, class, or profession; no matter how bitter the animosity may be that exists, when the band is attacked from the outside these members will quickly unite to oppose the common enemy, and defend the name and interests of their cherished Order.

In this respect, no doubt, Grangers are like other people, and we think the union and sympathy thus created are among the direct benefits of membership. It is not our purpose to give a detailed account of any direct or immediate cause that led to the formation of this Order, nor to give a history of the work of organizing the first Granges, but simply to show how, briefly, the Organization is, like all other societies, the outgrowth of a natural law that has existed since man was first known upon the earth.

According to the theory of evolution, which is almost universally accepted in the scientific world, in the battle of life, the animals that were most successful survived and propagated their kind; and man, as he advanced in the intellectual scale, and his requirements and responsibilities increased, naturally acquired and transmitted to his offspring a greater degree of that most potent of all incentives to human action—self-interest.

As business increased and pursuits multiplied, it became evident that the natural tendency of man, despite his moral restraints, was to overstep the bounds of strict justice, and hence the idea of organized bands to resist the encroachments of man upon the rights of his fellow-man. It is a sad reflection upon humanity that unusual and extraordinary measures should be necessary to secure that which all men know to be for the best interests of the community. But it seems that the very force of that combination and concentration of self-interest necessary to conduct a large business, without premeditated wrong, it allowed to go un-

positions were practiced upon farmers that were wholly or partially concealed from them. It was not easy to know to just what extent they had been swindled. The case was not like that of a man in a city, who works one day for \$2, and is cut down to \$1.50 the next.

Another reason why the formation of a farmers' society was difficult, was on account of their scattered position. It was not easy to get enough together to support a society; and, we will here say, that from the first, this fact has been, is now, and probably always will be an element of weakness in our Order that we should try to counter-balance by all possible means.

Self-interest leads powerful corporations and rings to extreme measures, and sometimes cruel opposition; and self-interest incites men to resist that opposition; and thus we have the seeming paradox of the same cause producing opinions and actions directly opposite. The mention of self-interest is apt to produce in our minds thoughts of avaricious greed and tyrannical sway; but when possessed in a moderate degree and kept under proper control, it is a most excellent thing. It inspires young people with the energy and resolution which constitutes the foundation of success. The old it makes hopeful and contented, and anxious to make their last years useful. It promotes industry and economy which provide an abundance of the necessities of life. It is a check upon waste and extravagance which lead to want and suffering. It is a spur to the indolent and a support to the unfortunate. The pride of fame and station; the desire to please; to win the approbation of friends; to fill the home with comforts, and love, and joy; these spring from this source, and man's highest hopes of heaven are but the natural ultimate promptings of this universal passion—self-interest.

Our work is but begun. We are now but entering that era of progress and reform, which with fidelity and proper discipline and management of our forces, will be marked with brilliant triumphs. Our broad, liberal platform is worthy of the wide domain of agriculture. It does not seek to enslave us by imposing restrictions upon our minds in matters that do not relate to our purpose. This, it seems to us, is almost a guarantee of success.

Members of this Order should be educated in all branches of science that have any connection with their vocation, and they will thus receive the two-fold satisfaction of being honored and respected for the useful knowledge they possess, and of being able to apply that knowledge to practical and remunerative uses.

Whatever may be our individual opinion in regard to man's origin and destiny, we all know that the most perfectly organized and best developed brain produces the best thought upon any subject, and this should prompt people to greater care for the physical improvement of the human family. Improvement in stock should not be entirely confined to the lower animals. There is one practice that is followed to a great extent in this country, that is fatal to the elevation, advancement and respectability of the farmer's calling. It is this: When a boy reaches the age at which some dawning of his future manhood have been seen, and these are more than usually promising, he is sent off to be fitted for some profession, art or other business. The boy that can only work is taught to do that, and is required to do plenty of it. His instruction in anything else is very limited.

The same course is pursued with the girls. This practice should be reversed. We want men and women of the best natural abilities, the most liberal education, and the widest culture and experience on the farm. When we get them, the business of farming will be more desirable, and the city as well will cease to look down upon those who till the soil. Much has been said about the unfortunate fact that so few farmers have secured seats in our Legislatures and other positions of honor and public trust. One chief reason for this is found in the practice of which we have already spoken. We do not mean that the farming community, as a class, are deficient in mental endowments, for there is a great amount of general intelligence among the farmers of Canada, but it is an undeniable fact that it is not considered necessary to secure the best talent, and have that talent applied by scientific and special study to the pursuit of agriculture, as is required in the other professions.

Furthermore, a large percentage of those engaged in farming follow it simply because they were born to it, and have had no opportunity

shrine. But labor has been down-trodden and despised. Let us raise her from this degraded position, place her upon the pedestal of justice and wreath the immortal garlands of honor, to place upon her brow.

The Grangers' Bank.

The *California Patron* talks as follows regarding the Grangers' Bank in that State:

Last week Tuesday the bi-monthly meeting of the board of Directors of the Grangers' Bank took place. An examination of its accounts showed the business and management of the institution to be in a thoroughly satisfactory state.

One feature was developed which is remarkable for an institution so young in years. It will be remembered that two months since, an assessment of ten per cent. was levied on the capital stock of the Bank made payable on or before the 15th day of April. Otherwise assessments remaining unpaid after that date would be declared delinquent and sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the demand. When the limit of the time set for payment had expired not a share was found delinquent and instead of one hundred thousand dollars (10 per cent) being collected, \$143,320 was paid in, several of the stockholders paying up in full for their stock. On all the stock, 60 per cent has been paid, making \$60,000 cash and \$43,320 in addition repaid on stock in full.

Grange Trade.

There is a disposition in some quarters to sneer at Grange trade arrangements. What is there to justify disparaging remark? Can anybody allege, with truth, that in these arrangements there is anything incompatible with honorable dealing, giving it the strictest construction? The whole plan is nothing more nor less than direct dealing without the employment of credit, except the time necessary for transmission of money in payment of purchases. What makes this method of dealing distasteful is, that it breaks in upon methods established by merchants who have consulted their own interests alone. They have devised a system by which purchasers are compelled to pay for unnecessary handling of goods and for soliciting, which be-

Grange Teaching.

Here and there a Grange is made up entirely of the right material—made up of men with heads on their shoulders, and imbued with a noble purpose to strike boldly and earnestly for independence, for their rights and interests both in public and business affairs. Such Granges are full of life, energy, enterprise and success. Their members read and think, and have confidence in themselves and each other. If a co-operative enterprise is suggested, they examine it carefully, and if it meets their approval they adopt it and work earnestly to make it a success; they do not dismiss it as something beyond their comprehension, which can be inaugurated and conducted successfully only by the intelligent and wealthy merchants of the towns and cities.

If farmers generally had more confidence in themselves, and in each other; if they would read and think more, and come together in the Grange in the right spirit, they would soon make their order a complete success—the leading power in the country in all business, political and industrial affairs.

A Question.

Is organization and co-operation a necessity among farmers?

By isolation farmers live single-handed, are at the mercy of corporate power, and are compelled to submit to the assumed authority unjustly exercised by corporations. Other classes and interests have organizations for the purpose of co-operation and by the application of its power have gained many advantages, and the farmers are made to bear burdens of injustice that a just Government should seek to remove, but by co-operative efforts employed by corporations through political instrumentalities to control legislation and Government, removals are prevented and the burdens of farmers annually increased. By united and consolidated efforts of the farmers *only* can they protect their own interests and secure justice to themselves. Such consolidation cannot be made, nor the efforts employed, without thorough organization. Hence, organization of the farmers is an absolute necessity, and strict co-operation must