

## PRIZE ESSAY.

Prize awarded to H. A. McIntyre of South Elder-slie, Grange No. 453, for Best Essay sent by any Grange for Question Debated During the Month of August.

"IS THE GRANGE ORGANIZATION WORTHY OF THE SUPPORT OF THE FARMERS?"

WORTHY MASTER AND PATRONS:—By our meeting together from time to time in this hall we say plainer than words can that we believe the Grange organization is worthy of the support of the farmers. Who among us has not been the better for our meeting together and discussing subjects of common interest bearing on our occupation? I believe that at the present time the Grange comprises a large percentage of what we may call the cream of the farming community. In it to-day are found men and women who possess the pluck and perseverance necessary to ensure success in any calling. Although many of our comrades have deserted us, although many noble men are not with us that we would gladly welcome to our ranks, still we know that strength lies not altogether in numbers. The man who makes an honest use of his brains is worth a score of those who never think. Though diminished in numbers, there are still great possibilities before us. If we are true to the principles of our order we can improve ourselves in many ways. One reason why so many granges have failed is that the members have not made themselves sufficiently acquainted with the aims and objects of the order. Let us notice a few of them.

First. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes. What a reformation can sometimes be wrought by the application of paint to buildings; by replacing a clumsy fence by a neat one; by tree planting, and numerous other details, each of which would form a good subject for an evening's discussion. Among the ladies on our farms there are many clever writers. Here is a field in which they can make good use of their talents.

Second. To reduce expenses. Much expense results from carelessness—from extravagance, from wrong methods, or from want of method. The Grange improves its members in these respects.

Third. Thorough cultivation. The Canadian farmer has many excellent implements at his disposal; it is of the utmost importance to him that he have the ones best adapted to his soil. In the Grange he can gain information in these matters, and learn from the experience of others. Different modes of cultivation for different crops can here be discussed with profit. New ideas are the material with which progress is made.

Fourth. To condense the weight of our exports. This is one of the most important matters that can engage the minds of the farmers at the present time. Many good farms have been robbed of their fertility by a system of grain-growing for the market. The great advantages resulting from a revision of that system is now acknowledged by all advanced agriculturists. Improved live stock is now the watchword. How to excel in the production of superior horses, cattle, sheep, and swine is work that is being taught in the Grange. Dairying is a branch of farm work connected with the live stock industry which should receive more attention from the farmers. I am sure that we all join in the hope that the present venture of the Ontario

Government in employing the travelling dairy to instruct the buttermakers of this province may be crowned with success. I am pleased that an effort has been made to secure a lecture from Prof. Dean, and an exhibition in the art of buttermaking by that gentleman and his assistants in this hall at an early date.

Fifth. To systematize our work, and calculate intelligently on probabilities. In no branch of industry, perhaps, is there less system employed, and nowhere is it more needed than on the farm. In the rotation of crops, and in the many particulars connected with farm operations system is ready and willing to come to our aid if we will but invite her. The successful man in any business is the man who calculates intelligently. If farmers would keep accounts, and carefully note their profits and losses, they would soon learn to make safe calculations and not overshoot the mark, as almost all do who work in a slipshod manner. Discussions incite men and women to action. The Grange is an excellent institution in which to discuss these matters.

Sixth. To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, and other injurious systems. I believe that fully one-third of the disappointments in business are due to neglect of the precept "Pay as you go." Great masses of farmers, from these causes, are to day bearing burdens grievous to be borne—burdens which generations yet unborn may not see removed. A society that has the courage to discourage such systems is surely worthy of the support of the farmers.

Seventh. Co-operation. The pecuniary and other advantages within the grasp of the farmers from this source alone are incalculable. The wonder is that they have not more fully availed themselves of them. Just in proportion as they unite and make their power felt, will they be enabled to benefit themselves.

These are only a few of the specific objects of the order. But there are other considerations which make the Grange organization worthy of the support of the farmers. Not the least of these is the sociability connected with it. Here friendships are formed which last for life. The young man finds it a medium through which to improve himself; here he is taken by the hand. If he has talents they can here be developed. Public speaking is an art in which farmers as a class are greatly behind. This is a mistake, but one which the Grange can remedy. To all young men who follow agricultural pursuits I would say: Join the Grange. They would thereby be benefited, and they would find many opportunities to benefit others. The fraternal feature is an important one which should not be overlooked. No class of people should find it easier than farmers to foster fraternal feelings among themselves, their interests being the same.

There is a dignity connected with the Grange organization which all true members feel and respect. Its influence is elevating. Such ennobling virtues as honesty, courage, temperance, thoroughness and benevolence are here inculcated. Let us, therefore, not forget the precepts of our order. Let us emulate each other to hasten the good time coming, when a greater and grander brotherhood shall exist.

"When man to man the world o'er,  
Shall brothers be and a' that."

The discussion that followed the reading of Bro. H. A. McIntyre's paper heartily endorsed the sentiments contained in it.

The Grange was a most thorough organization, being based upon a firm constitution, and being supported by principles, the most noble and profound. Those principles have endured the blast and storms of years and to-day are unshaken. It was the high tone of the order that attracted the thinking and intelligent farmer, and caused him to enrol himself a member of this peculiarly farmers' association. To-day the most active, intelligent and prosperous farmers are to be found within its gates. Go into what public meetings of farmers that you will, and the Patrons of Husbandry stand prominently forward. They are the executive of the agricultural class. The Grange has wrought a great work for us, it has worn off the rough edges of prejudice, and taught us to respect each other, to feel and

know that we have a common interest, that we have the same battle to fight. Grangers could now come together, and, if necessary, discuss political questions on their merits. The bitter animosity of the partisan has to a great extent been removed, and he moves in a higher sphere. The Grange came among us with a quiet influence, educating our lives and ennobling our calling. It was impossible to estimate the good that has been done, and is still being accomplished. The awakening of familiar relations, and the pleasures of social joys were simply incalculable. Nor were the benefits of the order exhausted on these lines, but it had been of immense financial value. It had withdrawn the curtain that hung before the mercantile world, and gave the farmer a knowledge of things behind the scenes. It has also taught the farmer that he holds the reins of power—that he could control the destinies of this his native country if he only would put forth his strength in united action. The beautiful ritual of the Grange! How grand; how edifying! Every sentence rang with sweet instruction—with endearing fraternal sentiment.

While the grange confined itself to the discussion of the question as propounded by the Executive of the Dominion Grange, it felt that much good might be accomplished by discussing the reason why farmers did not accord the Grange a more hearty support. All were agreed that if the principles of the order were studied more, and if farmers were fully acquainted with the benefits and pleasures to be derived from it, all would give it their hearty support. It was the opinion that the Grange would survive all other similar organizations.

## Apple Grove Grange, Middlemarch, Elgin.

This Grange is in a very flourishing condition, with a good comfortable hall, containing an organ and library, all of which are paid for. The members have had in the past lectures, debates, historical tableaux, charades and many other entertainments for amusement and instruction. This year it was decided to read and discuss the new agriculture book for public schools. Several books were bought and each lesson assigned the meeting previous. The first lessons were made more interesting by simple experiments with the elements mentioned in them. In the spring when the lesson of weeds came on each one was expected to bring specimens and any work of botany obtainable. This was a very interesting night, and when the meeting closed each one felt he or she had learned something. But perhaps the most enjoyable evenings were those devoted to diseases of plants, and beneficial or destructive insects. Then each one vied with the other in bringing new and curious insects, and finding out friends from foci. Considerable information was obtained regarding these from some of the volumes sent out by the government. In this, as in all other societies for mutual improvement, the ones who do the most work for the success of a meeting derive the most lasting benefit, for our minds are like our fields—the more they are cultivated the better they become. The Grange is thinking of taking up some of the questions sent by the Master of the Dominion Grange next season, and of trying to gain some of the prizes so kindly offered by your excellent farmers' paper.

Mr. Joseph Cope, of Broadview, Assa., speaks of his district as an excellent one for mixed farming. Since coming from England to this country Mr. Cope has been very successful. If his excellent garden could be seen by a large number of the settlers in this new country, it would, or should, be to them as a stimulus to go and do (work) likewise.

The enquiry frequently reaches our office, where can I get a good poultry paper? There is none that fills the bill more nearly than the Canadian Poultry Review, published by H. B. Donovan, at 58½ Victoria St., Toronto. A long acquaintance with both paper and publisher enables us to recommend the Review to all interested in poultry.