THE ACTON FREE PRESS

Published Every Friday Morning.

$1 Per Annum in Advance.

JOS. H. HACKING,

Editor and Proprietor.

Acton Free Press

JOS. H. HACKING, EDITOR.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 3, 1875.

THE GRANGERS.

We must confess that we are not thoroughly acquainted with the aims and objects of the Grange societies that have been forming, during the past year or so, amongst our farmers, in various sections of the Province; but so far as our information goes, we cannot for the life of us see wherein the members are going to be benefitted, to any appreciable extent. We could very well understand the object and design of the original Grangers in the Western States, where they had good reason to feel aggrieved at the extortionate charges of the railway monopoly in carrying their produce to market; but here in Canada where no such monopoly and extortion are complained of, and where the merchant and manufacturer are compelled in their own interest to deal fairly and honestly with the farming community, we cannot see what justifiable cause there is for any protective combination. They may in a few instances, possibly succeed in buying some necessary articles a trifle cheaper than others can do, by purchasing in larger quantities, but it is not a legitimate way of doing business, and in the long run is neither profitable or desirable for buyer or seller.

However, we will say no more on this subject at the present time; but would commend the following letter, which we copy from the Milton News, to a thoughtful consideration. It appears to have been written by an intelligent farmer in our neighboring township:

NASSAGAWEYA, Aug. 22, 1875.

SIR: I frequently see in the different newspapers of this section of the country some allusion to the Grangers, and the Grange movement. I would like to know what these Grangers are aiming at. I have long felt the need of a farmers' association or organization of some kind, as there are quite a number of laudable and legitimate purposes well worthy of their attention; such, for instance, as the best paying crop to raise and the best way to obtain the seed; the best kind of stock to raise, and how to feed them; the best way to exterminate noxious weeds, potato bugs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, &c.; also to secure a proper representative of our fraternity, our rights and interests, in Parliament; to engage at our own expense, in the interest of common honesty, an inspector of weights and measures for each and every city and county, to be paid a respectable salary and employ his whole time protecting us against dishonest Merchants who buy our produce and sell us their tea and sugar; also to press upon our legislature the repeal of those objectional clauses in our Common School Act, so that we might be allowed to spend our money with the best possible advantage to our children, both financially and intellectually. These and many more advantages might be secured by a general combination among farmers. But this Yankee notion of a few farmers getting in private conclave with closed doors for fear their neighbors might come in, from what I can hear is not likely to be productive of much good. These Grangers are going to do away with these pests of agents they call middle men. Well we would not wish to defend these gentlemen (the agents) in all their transactions, for many an honest farmer has been shamefully gulled by them, but on the other hand we are much indebted to them as a class for many of the comforts we enjoy. There is not one farmer in ten would have an apple to eat if these agents had not brought the trees to our doors and pressed us to take them, on time, and in many instances even planted them for us. The most of us would also be swinging away at our grain with our old cradles but for these middlemen, who have come to our houses and sold us the machines, then have come back and set them going for us; have stood and watched their operations, and have gone back and suggested practical improvements to the manufacturer.

And to these middle-men we are in a great measure indebted for the state of perfection to which these things have been brought. Next, I argue that these men's time and labor have cost us nothing. To prove my point here, I will refer the reader to two or three facts in the history of our manufactures.

About the year 1853 the first sewing-machines were offered to the people of this Province; the selling price was then $100 each; few people felt themselves able to purchase, thus the article was shut out from the laboring class, where it was the most needed, almost altogether, and the manufacture of them was very limited, so that after all there was no such great profit to the manufacturer. But it was easily seen that by introducing machinery and manufacturing in large quantities, these machines could be made much cheaper. But the next thing was to find sale for so large a quantity, so that the manufacturer might be able to realize in a reasonable time on his large outlay. To overcome this difficulty, the agent was employed to introduce them to the public, sell them, and show the purchaser how to use them, and what has been the result? It has created a useful branch of industry in our midst; it has employed thousands of men whose families have consumed our produce and thus contributed to the improvement of our markets, while we buy our machine seventy per cent less from the agent than we formerly did from the manufacturer, and get thirty per cent more for our produce than we would if these factories had not been established.

Another illustration might suffice: In the same year (1853), in a little unpretentious building on King street in Hamilton, T. W. White was making melodeons. He had no agents, no machinery, and but little help, and manufactured perhaps fifteen instruments per year; he could sell all he could make, and perhaps make all he could sell. If this should ever meet his eye he will not feel insulted by me saying he did not get rich very fast. After a while a number of factories were started in various places and machinery introduced; the instruments were manufactured in large quantities and sent out to sell them, and the result is, the buyer gets a much better instrument for less money; and for the last ten years thousands of men have been employed, thousands of children been fed, and I might say millions of dollars put in circulation by this branch of industry and thousands of homes gladdened by the sound of music, and besides this some person must spend time making sales, and what manufacturer can afford to spend time attending to retail sales perhaps two or three hours or even half a day with some old narrow souled mortals, showing them all through the establishment, start every machine to please them, and show them how it works, and after all not succeed in making a sale. This is produced by the manufacturer when he would rather spend among his workmen. No wonder they declare they would rather never see a retail customer come to their shop.

It is all very fine to talk about saving ten per cent by purchasing direct from the manufacturer; how long will your factories stand? It does not require the vision of a prophet to see the result. A closing of our smaller factories, a reduction of hands in the larger ones, a general stampede to other countries, and then down come our markets.

I remember in the year 1857, I think it was, I was standing in Hamilton market; it was after the close of the Russian war, and the concomitant fall in the markets, that I overhead the following remark by a citizen, "See here, Gregg, here are potatoes for three York shillings a bushel, and I bought butter yesterday for a York shilling a pound, we shall be able to live now, the d—n farmers have had their time and we'll have ours now." Now, poor short-sighted creatures, in a few months from six to eight thousand of the inhabitants were starved out and had to leave the city; whole blocks of houses stood empty, the city itself became bankrupt, and the very furniture of the city aldermen's room, if we remember right, were offered for sale by the sheriff.

I quote this circumstance merely to show the Grangers that our success in this world depends very much on the prosperity of our neighbors, and it is but a miserable, narrow-minded policy in farmers to attempt to monopolize trade and commerce to themselves as I understand they are doing in some neighborhoods by clubbing together and importing their own merchandise, while perhaps at the same time some of them have not paid their country storekeeper for their last winter's groceries.

In conclusion, let me advise my readers to encourage our manufacturers, and give an honest employment to as many as possible, thus villages will grow up around us, towns spring up in our midst, our cities become enlarged, and our nation independent, the resources of our own country become developed; our markets established independent of the rain or sunshine of other countries, or the needs and necessities of foreign purchasers.

NASSAGAWEYA FARMER.

Customs Reform.

A new system of collecting the revenue from persons entering American ports has been adopted. The aim of the new regulation is chiefly to put an end to the genteel swindling in which travellers have, in too many cases, been tempted to indulge. Every one entering from a foreign port will in future be compelled to take an oath in reference to the dutiable goods in his possession. Should any one be caught swearing falsely, his goods are to be confiscated, and the delinquent to be fined three times the amount of the Custom dues. This seems rather a slight punishment for perjury. Why not send persons guilty of false swearing to the State Prison, the same as any other detected perjurer? There seems no good reason why any exception should be made in favor of smugglers, and we see no reason why they should be more privileged to swear falsely than other people. The best cure for the cheating carried on by unscrupulous travellers would be the adoption by our neighbors of the English system of examining luggage. If the trunks of passengers were examined together by one man, so placed that no five dollar bill transaction could take place, Uncle Sam would be greatly the gainer. Small fry revenue officials would lose a great part of their perquisites, and travellers would be obliged to honestly pay duty on their goods.

CASE OF COLONEL BAKER.—Col. Baker was recently tried and sentenced in England for an indecent assault on a lady in a railway carriage. This case, as an example of expeditious justice in a slow country, is worthy of especial note. There are some things that it takes them a great while to do in John Bull land; but when a lady, riding in a railway car, has been grossly assaulted by a person in the station of a gentleman, it is quickly enough seen that such a fact must be protested against with all the emphasis of the law. Nominally the sentence does not sound very heavy—a year in prison and a fine; but when we consider the man's position and the social effect of this sentence, we see the efforts of a life humbled into irretrievable ruin, and the heaviest sentence a court could give could therefore scarcely be worse than the effect of the sentence given.

THINK OF THIS.—Fashion for a long time past has placed a wife among the luxuries which a poor man could not afford to enjoy, but we hear at last there is to be a change, and richness in dress is pronounced vulgar. A French countess has appeared at a public concert arrayed in a dress that cost less than two dollars. Think of this, ye lonely bachelors, with a limited income; you may be happy yet.

They Don't Like the Change.

Of late, instances have frequently come under our notice of natives of the mother country naturalised in Canada, resolving to return to the land of their birth, after a lengthened residence here, and as a rule, after having amassed a pretty fair fortune. It may seem strange that the majority return, having found the old land far from up to their expectations. The reasons are at once apparent. They have been living in a country which is just being developed—which is very far from the zenith of its greatness, either in commercial or productive power; and which therefore has along it all the vivacity that tends to make the declining years of an actively spent life anything but wearisome. They find, too, that whilst they have formed a best of staunch friends in Canada (yet kind to strangers,) the associates of their youth have in the mother country all either crossed the "bourne whence no traveller returneth," or are not to be found in the place which once knew them. No wonder, then, that such parties should return to the land of their adoption, with the exclamation on their lips, "After all there's no place like this Canada of ours."

HEATED GRAIN.—As instances of the bad effect of putting the new grain crop under cover before it is thoroughly dry has come under our notice, it would be well for those engaged in agricultural pursuits to exercise caution. The cool weather and appreciession of rain are both temptations to haste in harvest field operations, and crops are sometimes carried into the barn before the necessary moisture is consumed, and the consequences are realized in heated grain, radically injured for use or sale. Barley, especially, should be carefully watched.

An Alexandrian paper states, that Egypt will probably become an important exporter of salt to India. Since the first of May last 6,000 tons of that article, produced by the new salt pans at Suez, have been exported to Calcutta.

The sugar season in Austria in 1874-5 has been one of the worst known. From the month of August, 1874 to the end of February, 1875, only 928,458 tons of beet-root were cultivated; while in 1872-3 the quantity was 1,068,000 tons.

An Irish lady of good family and fortune, named Kate Graves, has sued a truant lover for £15,000 for breach of promise. The evaporated bridegroom is heir to a large fortune. In announcing his change of heart to his lady fair, he ruthlessly taunted her with throwing over another lover for his sake. "Remember" he wrote, "that others change their minds." The young lady has recovered £4,000, and her father has challenged the faithless sweetheart.

An elevated purpose is a good and enobling thing; but we cannot begin at the top of it. We must work up to it by the often difficult path of daily duty.

The last, best fruit, which comes to late perfection, even in the kindlest soul, is tenderness towards the hard, forbearance towards the unfortunate, warmth of heart towards the cold, and philanthropy towards the misanthropic.

If we would give ourselves only half an hour's reflection at the close of every day, we would preach to ourselves several of the best sermons that could be uttered every week.

No man's life is free from struggles and mortifications, not even the happiest; but every one may build up his own by seeking mental pleasure, and thus make himself independent of outward fortune.

We were born to look upward and onward. Were aspiration crushed within us, we should remain as sterile as the clods of the valley, shut away from the heavenly influence of the morning dew and the mid-day sunshine.

On the proper and complete exercise of the affections alone, the best happiness of life depends; and as the meanest scrap of gauze, of bead, or of tinsel, looks beautiful and costly through the reflecting mirror of the kaleidoscope, so does the most common and dreary scene acquire attraction and value when beheld through the beautifying medium of gratified affection.

Mrs. Gadabout called on her dear friend, Mrs. Holmes, the other day, to tell her that Mrs. Jones was going to invade the Gadabout mansion with her little boy and the baby, to stay a week. "I really think," said Mrs. G., "that people should know enough to stay at home with their children during hot weather." Mrs. Holmes hoped the affair would not be too much of a visitation for her friend. "Oh, no, said Mrs. Gadabout, "I am just going to to let them wait on themselves, and make as little trouble as I can for myself." Rising to go, Mrs. Gadabout continued:—"When Mrs. Jones goes home, I am going to take Eddie and Hattie and Mamie and the baby, and go to cousin Esther's for a month. They have such a pleasant place at Faraway, and the dear children can have a splendid time playing on the lawn and in the barn."

Don't let your angry passions rise,
Because your neighbors advertise,
And draw away the dimes;
But boldly do as they have done,
Pursue the course they have begun,
And drive away dull times.

THE TONE OF VOICE.

It is not so much what you say,
As the manner in which you say it;
It is not so much the language you use,
As the tone in which you convey it.

"Come here," I sharply said,
And the baby cowered and went;
"Come here," I coaxed, and he looked
and smiled,
And straight to my lap he crept.

The words may be mild and fair,
But the tones may pierce like a dart;
The words may be soft as the summer
air,
But the tones may break the heart.

Few words but come from the mind;
And grow by study and art,
But the tones leap forth from the inner
self,
And reveal the state of the heart.

Whether you know it or not,
Whether you mean it or never,
Gentleness, kindness, love and hate,
Envy and anger are there.

Then would you quarrels avoid,
And in peace and love rejoice,
Keep anger not only out of your words,
But keep it out of your voice.

Political Catechism.

"Jimuel Briggs" has commenced writing a political catechism for youthful beginners. This is how it begins:

What are politics?

The science of obtaining a living at the public's expense.

Would you denominate a criminal a politician?

Well—hardly.

Define the difference?

The criminal has been found out, while it should be the object of every politician to escape the detection.

Right you are. What must every politician profess?

Supreme devotion to the interests of his country and fidelity to his party leaders.

What are the principal parties?

Grits and Tories.

What is a Grit?

He is opposed to the Tories.

What is a Tory?

He is down on the Grits.

Is this the only difference?

There is no other visible to the naked eye.

What is the chief end of man?

A Government office.

How are such obtained?

By subserviency to the party in power.

How came they into power?

By professions of purity and economy.

What do you understand by "Purity?"

The expenditure of money to elect members of Parliament of the right stamp.

And by "Economy?"

The outlay of the public funds to promote the best interest of the country, which are identical with those of government supporters.

A smart thing—a mustard plaster.

Marry time engagements.—Naming the day.

The fear that is life to us.—The atmosphere.

The minister of the interior.—The mouth.

Three Popular Kings.—Smoking drinking and talking.

What are they which, though always drunk, are never intoxicated?—Toasts.

What an intellectual appearance those "frizzes" the girls wear upon their foreheads give them.

A celebrated wit once said to his debts that it was neither his interest to pay the principal nor his principle to pay the interest.

There is a man in Colorado who signs himself "T. Pot." It is said that the least thing makes him boil over.

What is the difference between spermaceta and a schoolboy's howl? One is the wax produced by the whale, and the other is the wail produced by the whacks.

SAD.—A contemporary says: "A child was run over in the street by a wagon three years old, with pantalets on, which never spoke afterwards."

The comely cucumber cometh, conveying countless cases of cholery and cholic, causing cheerful comments on the part of the compounder of curious but comforting cordials.

A young man, searching for his father's pig, accosted an Irishman as follows:—"Have you seen a stray pig about here?" To which Pat responded, "Faix, and how could I tell a stray pig from any other?"

The following epitaph is engraved on a tombstone in a churchyard in Ireland:

"Here lies Pat Steel, that's very true,
Who was he? What was he? What's
that to you?

A Presbyterian minister while marrying a couple of rustic parishioners felt exceedingly disconcerted on his asking the bridegroom if he was willing to take the woman for his wedded wife, by scratching his head and saying, "Ay I'm willin'; but I'd rather hae her sister."

A father, in consoling his daughter, who lost her husband said: "I don't wonder you grieve for him, my child. You will never find his equal." "I don't know as I can," responded the sobbing widow "but I'll do my best!" The father felt comforted.

Eugene, a poet, to Amelia:

"Come, sit down on the shelly shore,
And hear the mighty ocean roar,"

Amelia, a fashionable young lady, to Eugene:

"I can't sit down, you silly goose,
Because I'd bust my pull-back loose."

THAT WONDERFUL MAN

JOHN HOGG,

Has pleasure in letting the good people of Acton and the Counties of Halton and Wellington know that he has just returned from the

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARKETS

Where he has made large purchases of

STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,

Which will be along during this month, further notice of which will be given.

WONDERFUL ATTRACTIONS WILL BE OFFERED!

And that Wonderful Man's standing motto "Small Profits and Quick Sales" will be the watchword, which means

DEATH TO LONG PRICES AND LONG PROFITS!

An early inspection from old friends and customers is respectfully solicited.

JOHN HOGG,

Alma Block, Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

August 7, 1875.

SECORD BROTHERS,

ACTON.

Hardware, Crockery, China,

Glassware, Lamps, Oils, &c.

THE GREAT TEA HOUSE,

The largest and cheapest retail stock of Teas and General Groceries west of Toronto.

The Cheapest 50c. and 60c. Teas in Canada.

THE PRINCIPAL REASON WHY THE GOLDEN LION OF GUELPH

Is underselling all the other merchants, is because he

BUYS FOR CASH AND CASH ONLY,

and has resident in the British markets two first-class buyers—one in Glasgow and the other in London, England—both daily on the spot, reaping all advantages for the patrons of the Lion.

THE LION! THE LION!!

Is now opening FALL GOODS extensively and at such low prices. In fact the Lion will sell goods this season lower than other merchants pay for them. Bring your money to the Lion, and

Get Twenty Dollars Worth for Fifteen.

J. B. WILLIAMSON,

Proprietor of the Leading Store and the only direct importer in Guelph.

August 30, 1875.

THE FREE PRESS

PRINTING and PUBLISHING

OFFICE,

Over the Post Office, Mill Street

Orders for all kinds of Job Printing promptly attended to.

GRAND CLEARING SALE

OF

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods

At the Fashionable West End

The inhabitants of the Village of Acton and surrounding country are invited to attend the Grand Clearing Sale of

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods

Now Going on at the

FASHIONABLE WEST END

Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment,

UPPER WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

Immense Crowds every day. Astonishing Bargains to be had. Come and See.

A. O. BUCHAM.

Fashionable West End Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment.

Guelph, July 1, 1875.

GREAT CLEARING SALE

OF

MEN AND BOYS'

CLOTHING

NOW GOING ON AT THE

ELEPHANT CLOTHING STORE,

NO. 31 WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

TREMENDOUS BARGAINS

Will be given during this Sale, having reduced every article to

Cost and Under,

As we are anxious to clear it right out. Call and examine stock, as we consider it a pleasure to show goods.

WM. RUTHERFORD & CO.

Guelph, July 15, 1875.