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SALEM, FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 1877.

THANKSGIVING.

We go to press usually on Thursday, but this Thursday is Thanksgiving day, and we shall not mail the FARMER before Friday morning, so a few of our subscribers may not get their paper on the usual day, but they must remember that nobody stands in more need of a genuine Thanksgiving than we who manufacture newspapers.

Years ago, when we used to be familiar with New England life, Thanksgiving was a prime day for family gatherings and enjoyment of all the good things possible to achieve in a New England kitchen. No good Yankee can ever forget those Thanksgivings that were famous events in life and made the year seem long until they came around again.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

In view of the annual session of the National Grange, which commenced at Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 21, J. W. A. Wright, former Master of the California State Grange, contributes to the San Francisco Post an interesting paper relative to the National Grange matters, from which we take as follows:

The first session of the National Grange, which attracted much attention, was held in Georgetown, District of Columbia, in January, 1873, and nine states were there represented. In February, 1874, at the noted St. Louis session, thirty-two states were represented. At the eighth annual session, which met at Charleston, South Carolina, in February, 1875, thirty-eight states were represented, and much was done by the cordial associations of the delegates from both sections toward inaugurating that "era of good feeling," which has in many gratifying ways marked the progress of our country for two years past.

To show its conservative character, it may be well to mention that its present Executive committee of five members—to be reduced after this session to three—consists of Colonel Alken, of South Carolina; Mr. Chase, of New Hampshire; Colonel Chambers, of Alabama; Colonel Golder, of Illinois, Mr.

James, of Indiana; with Judge Jones, of Arkansas, ex-officio Chairman. In spite of all that has been said by hostile journals and people to the contrary, it can be truly asserted that no organization which has existed in our country ever had its finances managed with stricter integrity than the National Grange. At the last two sessions, and during the interval, the most careful investigation possible was made for the purpose, and every dollar out of over \$300,000 paid since 1867 into our national treasury, was satisfactorily accounted for by Mr. Kelly, Secretary, and F. M. McDowell, of New York, Treasurer.

The strict economy observed in the expenditure of the funds of the National Grange—very limited as compared with the funds at the disposal of similar organizations of so large a jurisdiction—is shown nowhere more conspicuously than in the headquarters office of the Secretary, No 92 Main street, Louisville Kentucky, in the second story of a rented building. Large as is necessarily the business conducted here, the office proper consists of but two plain, unpretending rooms, and joining them is a large storeroom, which contains the necessary supplies for Granges throughout our immense jurisdiction.

Worthy Secretary Kelly, with two lady clerks—members of his family—manages all the business of the office with the most thorough system. The furniture, chiefly of black walnut, is plain but substantial. Over the mantelpiece, in a black walnut frame some three feet square, hangs a well arranged group of photographs, cabinet size, of the twenty-nine members who composed the National Grange when it met at Georgetown in 1873, at which time there were but nine states and 1,362 subordinate Granges in the United States—afterwards increased to 38 states and over 25,000 subordinate Granges. Of these 29 persons only 15 were able to be present at the last session.

The taste of the ladies in the office—both Grange members—is shown by a large and pretty hanging basket inside the central one of three broad front windows. Within are growing beautiful ferns with fronds more than two feet long, and over its sides hang the graceful trailers of the plant known as "Wandering Jew." On each side of the mantel are two small earthen flower pots, in each of which grows a thrifty plant of English Ivy, extending some six feet in length and forming by their united branches a beautiful, natural living wreath, with their star-shaped leaves, above the frame in which are seen the familiar faces of the twenty-nine pioneers of the National Grange. Permit me to close this sketch with a few words of just praise.

As a slight but merited tribute to one who has ever been an honor to the truly great order of the Patrons of Husbandry, which she has done so much to build up. What I mention here, I do the more willingly, because certain journals, hostile to the Grange, have done rank injustice in alluding to this noble, good woman.

The good name and management of Secretary Kelley have now been fully vindicated publicly, and it should be known to the lasting honor of our lady membership, and, especially, of the lady here mentioned without her knowledge, that every dollar paid into the office of the National Grange has passed through the hands and been accounted for by Miss Carrie Hall, Assistant Secretary, and no one is more justly proud to vouch for this fact than the worthy Secretary himself.

A Veritable Pioneer.

Almost forty years ago, in the Summer of 1838, a band of missionaries reached Walla Walla, after a long and painful journey across the continent. Rev. Elkannah Walker, late of Forest Grove, Washington county, was one of these, and we have to record his death last week; his companion in that early journey, Rev. Cushing Eells, is still living, having almost reached the life span of three score years and ten. They were companions and co-laborers with Dr. Whitman, and deserve to be remembered through all time, as the first and most unselfish of all our pioneers, led hither by no hope of gain or worldly ambition, but by the desire to benefit the world that then lay in savage darkness, afar from civilization and all that made life valuable to civilized man. A resistless tide of immigration is now passing into the remote recesses of the vast wilderness they then found only inhabited by savage tribes. The charming valleys have already become populous with life, and animated by civilized influences. The wilderness has blossomed, but where a scattered people settle to-day, an empire will march with steady tread to-morrow. All this has passed before the eyes of these earliest of pioneers; their short span of life has been a living panorama; for the Indian canoe, we have the tolling steamer; the wigwam has disappeared, to give room for the farm house, the council lodge is replaced by church and school house, and tall cities grow, and spires point to heaven, where then the groves were unthinned and the bosom of the prairies unscarred. And as these wonderful results transpire, the gray-haired pioneers are passing away forever.

PIONEER SOCIETY.—We are in receipt of a pamphlet published by the Pioneer and Historical Society of Or-

gon, at Astoria, which contains a historical sketch, delivered as the 6th annual address, also reports of the Whitman Monument Association, by which it seems that \$130.80 has been paid in to that fund, and \$256.50 subscribed and not paid. It is to be hoped that a general movement will take place to raise means to erect a handsome and appropriate monument to the pioneer missionary, patriot, and martyr, who did so much to retain Oregon as part of our national domain.

The Season.

A long season of deluging rain is succeeded at last by clear, frosty weather. Up to this time much less plowing than usual has been done, owing to the ground being too wet and the weather too uncomfortable. It is not known that any former season has seen the three fall months realize such a great rainfall as we have known through September, October, and November.—For weeks past we have known severe and unusual storms, but at last we have sunshine, and the farmers will hasten to make the most of it while it lasts, and it is not certain to continue long at this season of the year.

ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have just sent notices to many subscribers transferred from the Cultivator list, informing them that we have placed a date on each tag that corresponds, at \$2.50 per annum, with the amount they owed last February when we took the list.

Where words and figures are abbreviated on the tag, the last figure stands for the year; we are short of 7s, so Aug. 6 stands for August '76, Se7 stands for Sept. '77, JEs stands for June '78, &c., &c.

As we are short of 8s, those who pay up nowadays will not find their dates changed this week, but we shall probably receive 8s before another week.

We have sent accounts to some of the Cultivator subscribers who have made partial payment to us, and in all such instances we give the date to which such payment entitles them.

A great many on the Cultivator list are badly in arrears, and to all such we send an earnest request to pay at an early day, to enable us to meet our own pressing engagements.

We make this last call to all who were subscribers of the Cultivator that if they have any claims to make of errors in the accounts against them, such claims must be made without delay, as we are closing up all our accounts with the late proprietors of that paper.

Steamer

A. A. McCULLY, Capt. J. W. COCHRAN. Parties desirous of engaging freight or passage, will apply to W. J. HERRIN, Agent, Farmers' Wharf, SALEM.

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT of Willamette University.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL COURSE OF LECTURES will commence Monday, Dec. 17, 1877. Students, on arriving in the city, are requested to call at once on the Dean.

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