Grange Column.

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The Oregon State Grange.

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Vitality in Grange Meetings

To secure life and progress in the Grange, the Master, aided by all officers and members, should, a few days prior to the meeting, give much thought to questions selected for discussion and action, and at convenient seasons aid in suggesting subjects for discussion.

A committee on Topics should be appointed, to whom all members desiring, can present subjects, and from the subjects suggested, the Grange can select by vote the ones best suited for the next if it suits send us \$2 and we will send meeting. We do not believe in handling it until January 1, 1886. In clubs of questions, that from their very nature ten \$1.50 a year. and character, no definite conclusions, for the benefit of members or the order can be reached.

The primary and leading object of the lectual and social faculties of the community. Recreation is best had in Grange meetings by a change from abstruse and difficult problems of thought to light and amusing themes. This course preserves the faculties from impairment and gives a keener relish to the meeting. As a rule the farmer devotes too much thought, or rather too continuous and uninterrupted study to the best manner of realizing on his crop, and he too often loses sight of the higher and holier aspirations and duties of life. If he would divide his time so as to donate a good part of it to social intercourse, to the family circle, to neighborhood improvements and less to bewailing over the low price of wheat, the stringency in finances, and the strife for political preferment, the life of the Grange would CHICAGO, SLPAUL, MINNEAPOLIS & OMAHA grow and the meetings be far better attended.

We do not mean that discussions of Chicago & Northwestern Railways. finance, crops and the markets should be ignored, but that in place of these subjects being the main and all absorbing themes, there should be injected spicy and amusing topics as sauce and condiments to the feast. We want not only a feast of reason, but also a flow of soul.

In this busy money-making age where so many demands are made upon the purse strings of the farmer, when his time and labor are required to feed, clothe and educate his offspring and proside a start for their future competency, he is too apt to neglect the recreation of mind so essential to the demands of his higher nature. All work without cest is just as unwise as all play without work.

Properly Directed Efforts.

There are many people who do not accomplish useful purposes because they fail to direct efforts properly. They may have abundant wisdom to plan but they lack that persistence which leads to execution, and without that plans have no great value. If an illustration were needed it might be found in the Grange. The order was planned wisely for the advancement of persons in whose interest it is offered; but the plan is utterly without value except as members of the order exert themselves to obtain the objects sought. They may not depend on their fellows to accomplish purposes of the order, for their own part A Boarding and Day School Young Women and Girls. is imperative precisely as it is with their fellows. Each person must accept individual responsibilities and put forth effort to aid in achieving the objects of the order. If this responsibility were honestly and fully accepted, accompanied by the required effort, there would be such gain as no association of persons has ever seen in the history of the world -no obstacles would prevent the Patrons of Husbandry from directing the affairs of the nation. The possibilities are all plainly in view, dependent for their attainment on the efforts of members re-

inforced by thousands who would quickly join under leadership that would command respectful consideration from all interests affected.

One of the strangest things in our political history is the idea that a Patron should take no part in polities. Why, bless you, when a farmer joins the Grange he does not lose his citizenship; he does not become an alien; he does not sacrifice the right of suffage; he does not cease to be amenable to the law: why, to tell the truth, he is not even exempt from taxation. Why then should he not be intrusted in politics? Politics is the science of government, and as every patriot and Patron is interested in the success of good government he would be a poor citizen and a poorer Patron if he did not take part in the struggle between the contending parties. "It is right for every member to do all in his power legitimately to influence for good the action of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can in his own party to put down bribery, corruption and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our industrial interests, are nominated for all positions of trust; and to have carried out the principle which should always characterize every Patron; for we seek the greatest good to the greatest number, and desire to purify the political atmosphere of the whole country."-Farmers Friend.

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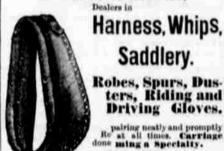
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