

A barn raising.

On Tuesday last Mr. Elmer Frost, of Mantua, raised his barn frame. It has been mentioned heretofore that Mr. Frost is preparing to build an immense barn. Mr. Hoot, of Randolph, with eight men, has been at work over a month in framing the timbers and during the past week it was raised and placed upon the walls. The principal part of the raising was done on Tuesday, when about one hundred men were present.

It is not often that one farmer is called upon to solicit the assistance of the entire neighborhood, yea, almost the entire township, on one occasion. Those met at the call of Mr. Frost, to assist him in the performance of a work such as they will in all probability never be called upon to perform again in all their lives, for buildings of such vast proportions as this barn are seldom erected in the country. Mr. Frost therefore, most keenly appreciated the services of his friends and neighbors, and it was intended that your humble servant should in a speech return the thanks of both Mr. Frost and Mr. Hoot upon the occasion. But unavoidable circumstances prevented the speaker from attending, which he deeply regrets.

Gratitude is an element of human nature. No one who has favors shown him can be insensible to gratitude without being lessened in the estimation of all good people. It would therefore be most unjust to Mr. Frost if I neglected now and in this manner to comply with his wishes on that occasion, to-wit, to return to his friends and neighbors his kind regards and obligations for the willingness with which they responded in raising that grand barn frame. It is a noble structure and nobly they labored in placing it upon the walls, and for this they have the thanks of both Mr. F. and Mr. H. But these men have not only the thanks of these parties but they will have the satisfaction before long of seeing one of the grandest barns in this part of the country. It is destined to be the notoriety of the county, at least. I have no doubt it will be styled the great Mantua barn by everyone who sees it and learns the name of the township. Mr. Frost has already expended \$1,500 for the walls. The probable cost of the barn above the walls, when complete, will be \$6,000 more. It will be an object of which every resident of Mantua may well feel proud.

Every great improvement in a neighborhood or a town adds to its pleasantness and makes it more desirable to live in it. It is true, this is but a barn, and it costs much money. All the more commendable therefore to Mr. Frost for giving his money free circulation. It is better than to sit upon it. Money is an excellent thing to have, but its desire is the root of all evil. Money is neither good to eat nor to wear, and yet we can not do without the use of it. It may be a blessing or a curse, according to the use we make of it. He who makes good use of his money by allowing it to circulate freely among the masses of the people, although his aim be to enhance his wealth by receiving its equivalent increased by fair profit in return, is nevertheless a benefactor to the world, for he gives everybody a chance. It is only the man who lives in imagination and who is devoid of human feelings that can see his fellow man suffer for the want of food and shelter when he has his thousands invested in bonds and mortgages. Excellent buildings are a thousand times more enjoyable than the money itself. While the money they cost goes to satisfy the wants of the carpenter, the mason, the lumberman and a hundred others whose time and labor enters into their construction, and he who has given it circulation has the blessings of a thousand mouths which he helps to feed.

Take this world as we will, it is our common home and abiding place while we live upon it. We are one family here. Every man is our brother and every woman our sister. To live for one another and thereby to make the best of this world is our highest duty, whether there be a God or a devil, or neither. As to our friend Mr. Frost, may he live to realize the satisfaction which he anticipates and enjoy it many years.