

**FORESTRY.** The American Forestry Association will hold an important meeting in Omaha on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. This meeting is held in accordance with a vote of the association at its meeting held in Nashville a year ago and it was contemplated at that time that this meeting should be largely devoted to topics relating to the West; it has, also, been arranged that a number of Western men of many years' experience in the West shall be placed upon the program so that the "Great Treeless District" may have a thorough representation.

Some of the topics that will be treated are as follows:

Where Does Our Timber Come From?  
Wind Break—Its Value and Form.

Conifers on the Plain.

The Catalpa in Plantations.

The Extension of Native Forest Growth in the Plains.

How Does Forest Growth Affect Climate?

The Forest Botany of Nebraska, Economically Considered.

Arbor Day and its Economic Significance.

Some of the well-known persons who will take part in the meeting by presenting papers are Dr. George L. Miller, Hon. R. W. Furnas, E. F. Stephens, C. A. Keffer, C. L. Watrous, F. S. Phoenix, Henry Michelson, S. M. Emery, George Van Houten, C. S. Harrison, Prof. Charles E. Bessey, B. E. Fernow, Prof. Lawrence Bruner and George E. Kesser.

The exact topic assigned to each speaker will be announced a little later but, in the meantime, it may be understood that it is proposed to have a thoroughly profitable program, made up from topics which will have the most interest to those who are likely to be in attendance. The low rates on the railroads at this time will make it possible for many to attend this meeting who could, perhaps, not otherwise come. The exact place of meeting in Omaha will be announced in due season.

Persons interested, or desirous of any further information, are cordially invited to correspond with F. W. Taylor, Superintendent of Agriculture and Horticulture, Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Omaha.

The officers of the association are: Hon. Francis H. Appleton, president, Boston, and George P. Whittlesey, recording secretary and treasurer, Washington.

#### The Earth's Shadow.

The earth has a shadow, but very few ever see it, except in eclipses of the moon, or else few recognize it when they see it. Nevertheless, many of us have noticed on fine, cloudless evenings in summer shortly before sunset a rosy or pink arc on the horizon opposite the sun, with a bluish gray segment under it. As the sun sinks the arc rises until it attains the zenith and even passes it. This is the shadow of the earth.

## CURRENT COMMENT.

### Carping.

The most disagreeable animal of the human species is the perpetual fault-finder. Whether he be the snarling literary critic, according to Lord Beaconsfield's definition, the man who has failed as an author, or the political Thersites forever searching for flaws in public policies and admitting no good but in his own microscopic perspective, or the social Jeremiah bewailing the taint and rottenness in the customs and tendencies of the period, or the peevish grumbler who is blind to all but the unpleasant sides of common things, it is the same spirit in different forms. But it is in the latter named phase that the carper makes himself an all pervading nuisance. The characteristic is largely a matter of temperament, whether in a Nordau or a Lombroso, dignified by talent, or in the club's cynic, who mumbles petty epigrams to the mingled amusement and disgust of his fellows, or in the unhappy person forever finding fault with his circumstances and sitting himself up as a victim of fate. If he does not spoil life for himself (for the carper often laughs in his sleeve over his own ironies), he tries desperately to spoil pleasure for others. The iconoclast by profession disdains to leave the agreeable illusions of others untouched. To do him justice, he is quite as apt to air his own skeleton as to rob his neighbor's cupboard, and the effect is fully as repellent. Illusions are a very healthy part of life, after all, and quite logical in the working of the mental constitution. Without them existence would lack salt, and the habitual carper, posing as the truth teller, exercises as evil a function as when he displays his unmitigated perversities. This "bete noir" is in evidence everywhere and should be avoided as we avoid certain small unmentionable quadrupeds.

### The Decay of Caste.

An English contemporary deplors the breaking down of caste privileges and prejudices and finds in the consequences an omen of England's political and social decline.

"We have seen what fate has overtaken France in her rage for so called equality and the rule of the people on a grandiose scale. There is no clearly defined line drawn between the leisured classes and Jean and Jacques of the village commune, and the nation has known no real rest or peace since the 'Man of Sedan' was driven into the hands of his arch enemy—kinder to the royal captive than the raging mob which had once been imperialists of a pronounced type. Now, in one respect we have taken a leaf out

of the French system of morals and ethics, and a page has been turned which is not perhaps too readily replaced. The governing or leisured classes are evading their responsibilities, and the masses are gradually usurping their places."

Since when has England begun this slide to perdition? Surely her tremendous power as a nation augmented to imperial and worldwide dominion really began with the expansion of her commercial and manufacturing interests. It is the development of these, raising men of all ranks of the social cosmos to places of financial greatness which has broken down the barriers of caste. In other words, caste in England, or what is called so, for at least a hundred years has ceased to have a damantine walls. Any one can now break through or leap over the partition who has the genius of success. It is this perpetual commingling of the old blood with the new, the re-enforcement of decayed families with the lusty vigor of the yeomanry and the middle classes, which have permitted the survival of so called caste to be a force in modern English life. The same influences work now which have been molding a great people for a century or more, only perhaps with more organic force and directness. The tool to the hand which can use it, place to talent which dares to aspire and seize, that is the slogan of modern English life, as it is of American. This flexibility of rank gradation, now submerging the old, now uplifting the new, has been the salvation of England. It is the one thing which has made caste tolerable. Without it the nation would have ceased to have a royal family and nobility. It is the rigid preservation of the superstition of the "sangre azul," or blue blood, which more than anything else has ruined Spain. In the one case caste has embraced democracy and sucked its healthiest juices. In the other it has withered in barren impotence and withered the nation with it.

An interesting matter not mentined in the protocol has been laid before the American members to be submitted to the joint high commission which has been sitting at Quebec to settle Anglo-American differences. This relates to a monument to be erected to the memory of Major Richard Montgomery, who fell on the Plains of Abraham in the American attack on Quebec in the Revolutionary war. Several attempts have been made at different times to get this accomplished, but the Quebec municipal council concluded that it would be scarcely consistent to memorialize the name of one who fell in an assault on British power, indeed in the attempt to capture Quebec itself. Yet a notable American some 20 years ago did a thing similar in scope and spirit. There was more magnanimity in Cyrus Field than in the Quebec officials. Mr. Field erected at Tappan, N. Y., a monument to the