

# THE LATE J. STERLING MORTON

## A Monument to His Memory Unveiled at Nebraska City.

### MANY DISTINGUISHED MEN ATTEND EXERCISES

Ex-President Cleveland, Governor John H. Mickey, Hon. Hilary H. Herbert, Hon. David R. Francis, Ex-Vice-President Adlai Stevenson and Dr. Geo. L. Miller Make Addresses.

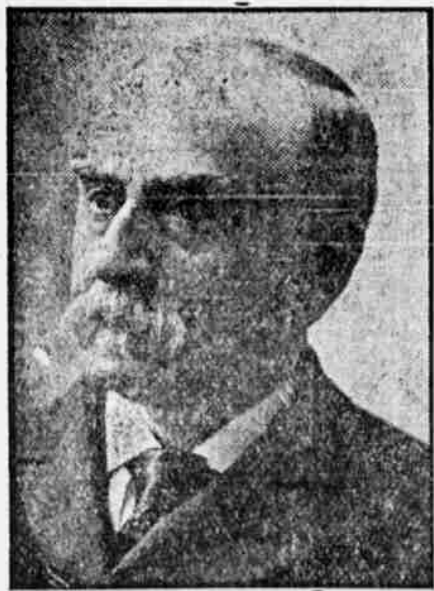
NEBRASKA CITY.—In the presence of the most notable gathering of statesmen ever in Nebraska or possibly in the entire west; witnessed by thousands of people from all over the entire country; dedicated with loving eulogies from old colleagues of former days in public life; consecrated by the humid eyes and tender hearts of hundreds of old pioneer friends and comrades, the Arbor day memorial monument to the late J. Sterling Morton, "author of Arbor day," was unveiled here Saturday in Morton park.

The unveiling ceremonies were simple but impressive and touching. Preceding them was a program which was a remarkable tribute to the memory of a man who made such a signal record as a statesman and who was the father of a quartet of sons, two at least of whom have become as notable as their illustrious father.

Ex-President Grover Cleveland was the speaker of the day, and his address was one of the best ever made by the ex-president. Other speakers were two old cabinet conferees of the late Mr. Morton—Hon. Hilary A. Herbert, former secretary of the navy, and Hon. David R. Francis, former secretary of the interior. Gov. John H. Mickey of Nebraska delivered the address of welcome. Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, ex-vice president with Mr. Cleveland, was another speaker. Dr. George L. Miller, one of the late Mr. Morton's dearest and most personal friends, was the last.

The exercises were held in Morton park, a beautiful bit of natural woodland, situated just out of Nebraska City, and on the east slope of the beautiful grounds of Arbor lodge, the magnificent country home of the Mortons. Morton park is the gift of Mr. Morton to Nebraska City. Fully 10,000 people, from all parts of the country, assembled in Morton park. They came from New York, Washington, Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, and from all over Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. A special train from Lincoln brought in Governor Mickey and his staff and 100 or more Lincoln people. All regular trains were crowded with passengers.

Mr. Cleveland appeared on the platform with Mrs. Cleveland, and was greeted by a storm of cheers. He bowed and smiled, as did Mrs. Cleveland. Governor Mickey, accompanied by Mrs. Mickey, was last to arrive. The governor made an address of welcome, in which he paid a glowing tribute to the life and distinguished services of the founder of Arbor day, declaring that "he did much in developing the two fundamental resources of what is now our state, and the efforts of himself and his compatriots along these lines attracted settlers from the east, and thus shortened the territorial days. He blazed the way that others might follow. By the power of example he demonstrated the possibility



The Late J. Sterling Morton.

ties of the land and encouraged the pioneers in subduing the refractory conditions with which they had to deal. He was the apostle of evolution, the inspiration of a large following of home builders who looked to him as their natural leader."

#### Nothing More to Say.

"Is she pretty?" they asked of the young man who was speaking of his fiancée. "Well, I don't want to boast," he replied, "but she always gets a seat in a crowded street car."—Stray stories.

#### Tobacco an American Plant.

Tobacco is a native American plant, and was first observed on the island of Cuba. It was used by the American Indians before Sir Walter Raleigh introduced it in England.

The governor was followed by ex-President Cleveland, who spoke in a clear tone and was distinctly heard to the outskirts of the large crowd. He closed by exhorting all who were fellow-citizens of the late J. Sterling Morton, and who knew his life, to heed his example, "to the end that our work may be more unselfish and more loyal to the purposes of God and the betterment of our fellow-men. Let his sons, in whom was centered all his worldly pride, remember that the only success that is satisfying and honorable is that achieved by their father's spirit and high resolves. It is fitting



Memorial Monument Unveiled Saturday, October 28, 1905, at Morton Park, Nebraska City.

that this monument should recall memories that must not die. It is well that it should arouse the living to noble endeavor. But to the dead it avails not. He has reared his own monument, 'more durable than brass or stone.'

Following Mr. Cleveland was Hon. Hilary A. Herbert, ex-secretary of the navy. He, in turn, was followed by Hon. David R. Francis, ex-secretary of the interior, ex-Vice President Cleveland and Dr. George L. Miller, the latter a lifelong friend and admirer of Mr. Morton. He expressed thanks for the great tribute that had been paid to the companion of his early days in Nebraska. He went into the history of Mr. Morton's early life in the state, and told many of the hardships and trials endured by the pioneers. During his speech tears came to his eyes. Mr. Cleveland seemed deeply touched. The Morton brothers were deeply affected, and Miss Morton, the dead man's sister, wept continually.

The unveiling ceremony was simple. Mr. Cleveland, accompanied by Mrs. Paul Morton and the remainder of the party, walked inside the enclosure where the monument stands and took places along the sides. The band played softly, and after a moment the three surviving Morton brothers—Paul, Joy and Mark—accompanied by Joy Morton's son, Sterling Morton, walked slowly across the grass to the monument. Sterling Morton was bareheaded. The others lifted their hats and, with a quick tug, the younger

Some men have such bad luck that if they get a railroad pass they are sure to get killed in a smash-up.

It puzzles a man a good deal to come home late at night and try to set back a clock that has stopped.

The king of Italy is presented annually by the emperor of Austria with 10,000 American cigars.

When a man boasts of his morality, shy off—some of his screws are loose.

Morton pulled the cords which held the drapery about the bronze statue of the dead secretary. The drapery fell in a heap about the foot of the monument and a soft murmur of applause rippled over the crowd. For a moment the three brothers stood gazing at the effigy of their father, then, with bowed heads, they rejoined the Cleveland party.

The monument was made by Rudolph Evans of New York. A semi-circular stone bench stands at some distance back of the pedestal, and forming a frieze around it are the words "Pioneer, Statesman, Scholar, Tree Planter."

The central figure, the statue of Mr. Morton himself, which stands upon a massive yet graceful pedestal, in an attitude characteristic of his strong, frank life. His right arm hangs easily by his side, and in his left hand he lightly holds a paper, as though of recent reference; a branch of a tree rests easily at his feet, while a plowshare, slightly in the rear, suggests the rugged pioneer days of his early life.

At the foot of the pedestal stands a graceful wood sprite, her left hand tenderly protecting a young, growing tree, thus symbolizing the spirit of the wise, public-spirited ideal expressed by Mr. Morton's simple formula, "Plant trees."

The lower part of this bench bears the inscription, "Erected by the Arbor Day Memorial Association in Memory of J. Sterling Morton, 1903."

Upon the pedestal itself the following is inscribed: "J. Sterling Morton, Father of Arbor Day. Plant Trees."

The reverse of the pedestal bears a concise sketch of Mr. Morton's life and public services.

The platform around the monument is about seventy-five by fifty feet, and, excepting for the brick used in the platform, the entire monument is of granite and bronze.

The fund with which the monument was erected was raised by the Arbor Day Memorial association, which was organized shortly after the death of Secretary Morton, early in 1902. This association had as its president ex-Governor Robert W. Furnas; H. D. Wilson of Nebraska City was made treasurer, and John Nodhouse was elected secretary.

The Leyden jar, an entertaining device of the Dutch experimenters, had been discovered a year or two before and was being displayed throughout Europe by wandering mountebanks as a scientific curiosity. It happened, therefore, in 1746, while Franklin was in Boston visiting members of his family, that at the same time a Dr. Spencer, of Scotland, was exhibiting some of the new electrical apparatus and lecturing upon it. The philosopher, at that time in the prime of his achievements, attended the lectures, saw immense possibilities in the Leyden jar and other pieces of mechanism, and determined upon his return to Philadelphia to carry on investigations of his own. That was the beginning of Franklin's great accomplishment in making obsolete the idea that electricity is an obscure fluid, producing curious manifestations, and in causing it to be studied as a force capable of being applied to every-day problems of living. His subsequent studies, including the famous kite-flying episode, fairly entitled him to be called the father of modern electricity. Unless some one of penetrative and practical mind had made them, the telegraph, telephone and trolley car and the numerous other utilities dependent upon electricity could hardly have come into being. So that Boston will naturally lay stress upon the man's scientific attainments, mindful also of the fact that in Charleston

#### ON EDUCATION, ET CETERA.

There is great power in beauty, and greater power in love.

In rare families as in rare books, the editions are limited.

Many men stoop to conquer, and some of them stoop very low.

Liberty means responsibility, and responsibility tests the man and the race.

#### London Bill of Fare.

The acme of condensation is believed to have been attained by a London restaurant, which displays this notice: "S. O. 2 S. 4." That means that a patron can have sausage and onions, with two slices of bread, for four pence.

#### Good Intentions Gone Wrong.

Hell is paved with those good intentions which have never been achieved, but, more solidly, with those which have been achieved amiss.

## Prepare to Celebrate Two Hundredth Anniversary of Franklin's Birth

A committee of prominent citizens recently appointed to prepare for the celebration on Jan. 6 of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin in Boston is at work upon an ambitious program. Enough has already been elaborated to make it certain that the forthcoming affair will be a thoughtfest of the kind that Boston so dearly loves—one comparable, perhaps, to the Emerson centenary of two years ago. The anniversary is also to be commemorated in New York, and particularly in Philadelphia, the scene of the major part of Franklin's life work. Yet perhaps nowhere will there be a more

tablets marks the house in which Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, and the first to make practical use of electricity, was born. In the coming celebration there is certain to be a little surmise as to the pleasure Franklin would have experienced could he have lived to see the outgrowth in his native town of his own discovery—the vast dynamos providing power for the transportation of millions, the wireless messages thrown through the air from shore stations and ocean steamships, the telephonic instruments on every business man's desk, and in the houses. Imagine, if Franklin had been able to

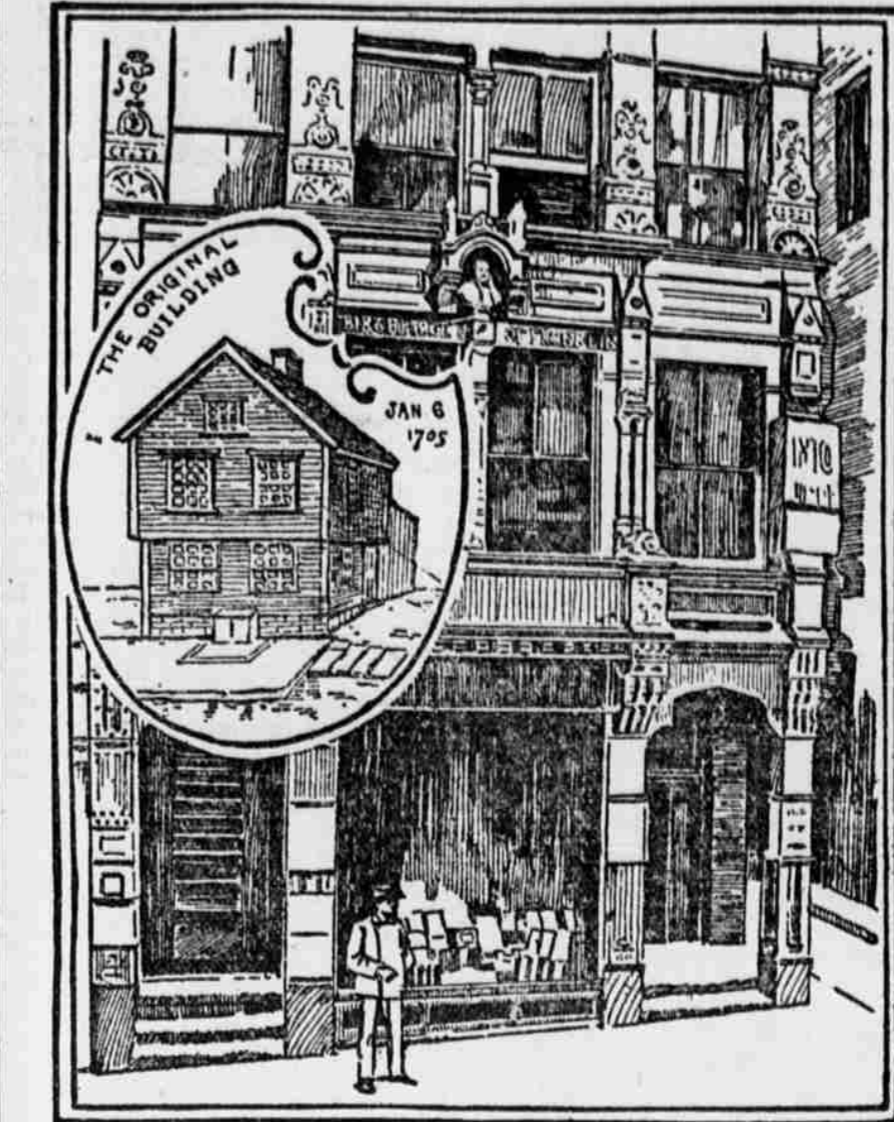
lightning is one of the means of punishing the sins of mankind, and of warning them from the commission of sin, it is impious to prevent its full execution." To-day Franklin would find electricity used in every household, and as highly appreciated as it was dreaded 150 years ago.

That Franklin was able, though living in a provincial town, more than 3,000 miles away from the center of the world's activities, to become one of the most noted savants of the eighteenth century will, no doubt, be proclaimed over and over again in the approaching festivities as one of the wonders of his career. The Quaker City, though more tolerant of Franklin's personal limitations than Boston would have been, did not recognize him socially, and took no great interest in his scientific discoveries, which were far more highly appreciated abroad than here. Thus, in 1744, Franklin started the American Philosophical society, of which he was the first secretary, and he soon after complained in a letter that "the members of our society here are very fine gentlemen who will take no pains." That this society later became co-equal with the learned bodies of Europe was almost entirely Franklin's doing.

Even now there is, perhaps, among some professional scientists a disposition to somewhat minimize Franklin's achievements. His standing as an electrician is sometimes questioned. Undoubtedly, he did not, after his memorable discovery, go much further with his investigations into electrical phenomena. At the same time, probably every American, and certainly every Bostonian, likes to feel that Franklin, as the first investigator to get on the track of the true explanation of electricity, deserves immense credit for the wonders that have succeeded, and that he deserves to stand in the same rank with Watt, Newton, Herschel, Laplace and Volta of his own century, and with Morse, Bell and Edison of the nineteenth, even though to a greater extent than any of the rest of them he gave up his time and attention to problems of practical statesmanship and the application of inventions to everyday problems of living. The many sides of Franklin's complex nature will, of course, get due attention from orators and essayists. Nor will there be any disillusionment of his private character. Fortunately for his subsequent reputation, the worst is already known. There is no more to come. Books on the real Benjamin Franklin and kindred topics have in the last ten years told all there is to be told about the weaknesses of the man. Indeed, he himself has been so surprisingly frank in his revelations that the world has come to accept Franklin, more than perhaps any other of the heroes of the American Revolution, at his true value.—Brooklyn Eagle.

#### How to Say "Saghalin."

A writer in Notes and Queries discusses the pronunciation of Saghalin. The word, it seems, belongs to the Manchu language, and means "black." English gazetteers mark the stress on the final syllable, which they say



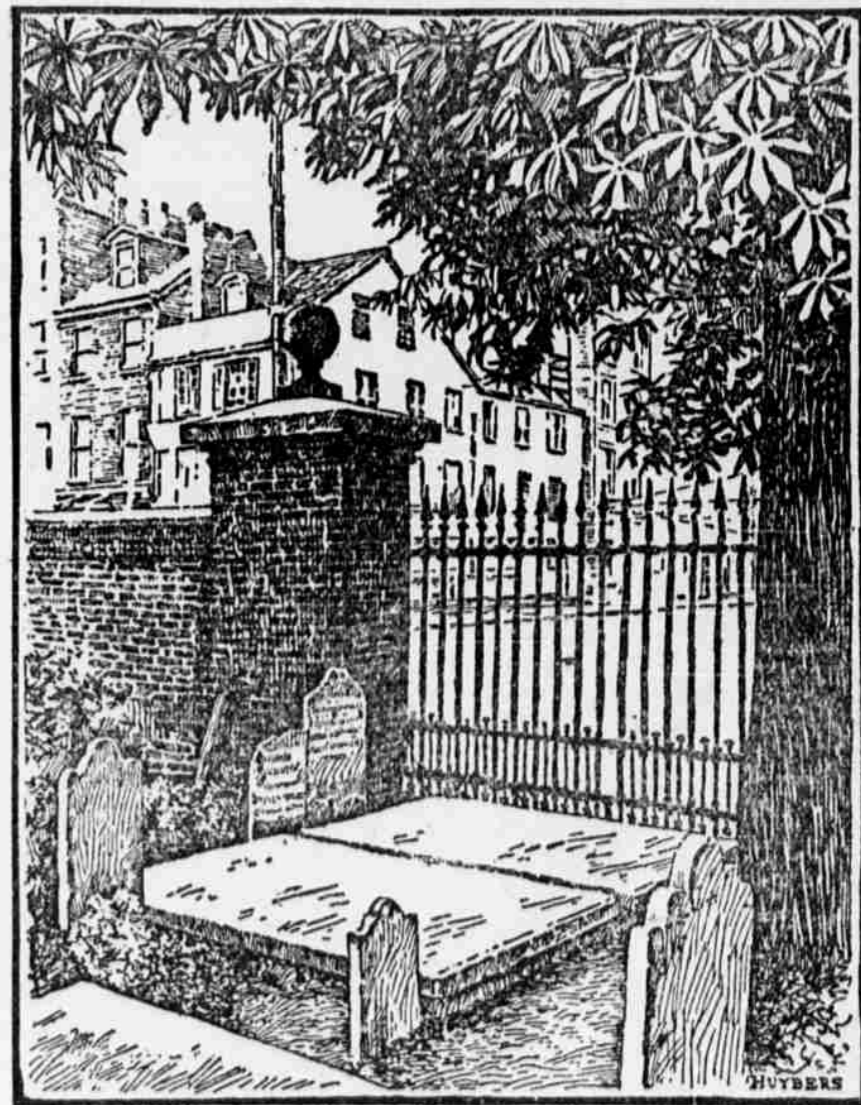
Where Franklin Was Born. The Spot is Marked by Bust and Tablet, on a Modern Business Block.

spontaneous outburst of popular sentiment than in the town of the philosopher's birth.

Franklin was so many-sided a man—statesman, diplomat, scientific investigator, educator, journalist, moralist—that it would be hard to lay one's finger on just the side of his character which is likely to be emphasized in the coming anniversary celebration. Not unlikely, however, emphasis will be put in Boston upon his scientific achievements. As the first American to attain any reputation abroad in scientific pursuits and particularly as the father of modern electricity, Franklin, aside from the fact of his having been born in the puritan capital, has a peculiar claim upon the remembrance of that city, which has been the center of so many of the important electrical developments of the century; where the telephone was developed and where the possibilities of the overhead trolley were first worked out. It was, so historians recall, during a visit to Boston made long after he had become established in Philadelphia, that the great commoner acquired that first interest in electrical subjects which led to the discovery of the nature of electricity. The civilized world at that time was just beginning to grope for knowledge of the mysterious force. Only a short time before had Du Fay formulated his theory of the two kinds of electricity which, from the nature of the substances from which he produced them, he called vitreous and resinous but to which Franklin later gave the name of positive and negative; and only a little while before that had Gray, an English pensioner at Charter house, first noticed that different substances have different electrical conductivity.

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call up Philadelphia by long distance telephone and bid Collinson or other of his associates in scientific work, to look into this new matter of electricity. In Franklin's day the quickest means of communication was by slow-moving coach or chaise, and the journey between the two towns occupied weeks of weary traveling. Suppose that he could have foreseen the time when, with the aid of electricity, the sound of the human voice was to be carried over hundreds of miles of country, when the wires were to stretch to remote farmhouses and lumber camps in the wilderness as well as to populous towns and cities, and when the number of telephone users was to be so large that the subscribers to one system alone would equal in number the population



Franklin's Grave. He Sleeps in a Quiet Corner of a Philadelphia Churchyard.

of the thirteen American colonies at the time when the philosopher sent up his famous kite.

Similarly, picture Franklin's feelings if he could see the rapidly-moving trolley car, the glittering electric light which has taken the place of the tallow candles of his own time, and the manifold other uses to which electricity is put. In his own lifetime, when he proposed to protect buildings by lightning rods, his undertaking was denounced as "an impious attempt to control the artillery of heaven," and the reasons given for discountenancing his undertaking were that "as

should be sounded "leen." The German pronunciation is Cachalin, accenting the penultimate syllable, which the writer says is wrong. The only doubtful point (according to him) is whether the last vowel should be "i," as the Russians sound it, or whether it should be the diphthong "ie," as in sista. (But surely this "ie" is not diphthongal?) What, however, appears to decide the question is the statement that quotes from the "Voyage" of La Perouse, where we are told that the natives pronounced the name of the country exactly as the French pronounce "Segaliten."