

THE WATCHMAN.

Cling and clang, cling and clang!
Listen, little children dear!
Cling and clang, cling and clang!
See, the night is drawing near.
Now, at closing of the day
Dreamland bells ring far away.
No more frolic! No more play!
Cling and clang, cling and clang!
Rings the Watchman looking down
From his tower in Sleepy Town.

Twinkling here, twinkling there,
Stars are shining in the sky.
Bright and round, bright and round
The moon is coming by and by.
In the street the shadows fall,
Mothers' voices gently call,
Little birds in tree tops tall,
Half asleep, faintly peep,
While the Watchman's looking down
From his tower in Sleepy Town.

Swing and chime! Sleepy time!
O, how soft the bells and low.
Swing and chime! Sleepy time!
As to bed good children go.
The sun is hiding in the west,
Little ones must go to rest
In a white and downy nest,
Swing and chime! Sleepy time!
Rings the Watchman looking down
From his tower in Sleepy Town.

"All is well! All is well!"
The Watchman's cry is clear and sweet.
He leaves the far-off, silent bell
And smiling comes along the street.
Now, in and out he softly treads
And bends above the little beds
With fairy dreams for pretty heads.
"All is well! All is well!"
Cries the Watchman coming down
From his tower in Sleepy Town.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION.

"The groves were God's first temples. Ere man learned
To hew the shaft, and lay the architrave
And spread the roof above them—ere he framed
The lofty vault, to gather and roll back
The sound of anthems; in the darkling wood,
Amid the cool and silence, he knelt down,
And offered the mightiest solemn thanks
And supplication."

The broad fertile plains, the gentle uplands, and the beautiful valleys of our grand state seem to lack nothing to make them perfect except groves and forests. No fairer landscape can be seen in all the world than is presented in the portions of Nebraska where time has brought to perfection the work of the pioneers in tree planting.

The planter of grain plants for himself. The planter of trees plants for others. The one plants for the present, the other for the future.

With much wisdom our laws set apart a day each year devoted to tree planting. I would most earnestly call upon all our people to give it special observance this year. Let each school boy plant at least one tree which may be a shade for his noon time of life. Let every young man plant a tree which may be a comfort in after years. Let every man of middle life plant a tree which may grow into a monument of his foresight, when his other work shall have been forgotten. Let all our people give up the day to

tree planting. Plant shade trees. Plant ornamental trees. Plant fruit trees. Beautify the plains with trees. Lay aside the cares of every-day business and engage in a work which shall render our already beautiful state more beautiful and more desirable.

By the authority vested in me as governor of Nebraska, I hereby proclaim and designate

Saturday, April 22, Arbor Day.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
[SEAL]. have hereunto subscribed
my name and caused to

be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska.

DONE at Lincoln, the capital of the state, this 22d day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, of the state the thirty-third, and of the United States the one hundred and twenty-third.

W. A. POYNTER.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

W. F. PORTER,
Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, }
LINCOLN, Neb., March 1, 1899. }

To the teachers and pupils of the public schools of Nebraska:

The recurrence of Arbor Day gives me another opportunity of addressing you, and I assure you it gives me pleasure to bring to your attention the lessons that the observance of this day affords.

It is my wish that you study not only the poetical side, or the sentimental aspect of trees and flowers and birds, but the practical features connected with these subjects as well. We must get beyond the idea that these things were created solely for our pleasure, and be brought to realize that they play a very important part in the economy of nature.

Your observations should not be confined to Arbor Day, but let every day add to your stock of information concerning trees and birds. They are always with you, and their constant changes continually suggest new thoughts for your edification and comfort.

Very sincerely,
W. R. JACKSON.

History of Arbor Day.

At an annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture at Lincoln, Nebraska, January 4, 1872, J. Sterling Morton introduced the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That Wednesday, the 10th day of April, 1872, be and the same is hereby especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting in the state of Nebraska, and the State Board of Agriculture hereby name it Arbor Day, and urge upon the people of the state the vital importance of tree planting, and hereby offer a special premium of \$100,

to the agricultural society of that county in Nebraska which shall upon that day plant properly the largest number of trees; and a farm library of \$25 worth of books to that person who, on that day, shall plant properly, in Nebraska, the greatest number of trees."

Over a million of trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872.

In 1875 the governor of Nebraska, by public proclamation, set apart the third Wednesday of April as a day to be observed in the planting of trees. Annually thereafter other governors made such proclamation until the winter of 1885, when the legislature passed the act which designates the 22d of April, birthday of Mr. Morton, of each year as Arbor Day, and making it one of the legal holidays of the state.

Then in 1895 the name and the fame of Nebraska was further recognized and fixed by the following joint resolution which was approved by the governor, April 4, 1895:

"WHEREAS, The state of Nebraska has heretofore, in a popular sense, been designated by names not in harmony with its history, industry, or ambition; and

"WHEREAS, The state is pre-eminently a tree-planting state; and

"WHEREAS, Numerous and honorable state organizations have, by resolution, designated Nebraska as the 'Tree Planter's State;' therefore be it

"Resolved, By the legislature of the state of Nebraska, that Nebraska shall hereafter, in a popular sense, be known and referred to as the 'Tree Planter's State.'"

At the same session, and as an outgrowth of the same sentiment, the following joint resolution was also adopted:

"WHEREAS, The adoption of a state floral emblem, by the authority of the legislature, would foster a feeling of pride in our state and stimulate an interest in the history and traditions of the commonwealth; therefore be it

"Resolved, That, the senate concurring, we, the legislature of Nebraska, hereby declare the flower commonly known as the 'Golden Rod' (*solidago serotina*) to be the floral emblem of the state."

Approved April 4, A. D. 1895.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

"The Cuban Land and Trading Company" advertises, in The National Rural of February 2, great inducements in the way of small farms of rich soil in Cuba, and rejoices in stating that J. H. Brigham, assistant secretary of agriculture, and past master of the National Grange "is an active officer" of the corporation. Comment can be made by the organs of the Grange, and others when they have time to contemplate the cross, or hybridization, of a department official on a corporation job er.