

## UNCLE SAMUEL'S PRAYER.

We are not, Lord, as other men,  
Thank God!  
Who slay the heathen, steal his lands,  
And all for gain.  
We are God's chosen race—Amen!  
We are a special gifted band  
To right the wrong on every hand,  
And chasten Spain,  
Thank God!

To beat the Dutch, to cleanse the Turk,  
Thank God!  
To fix things almost anywhere  
There is a hitch,  
This is our self-appointed work.  
Not any heathen shall we spare,  
When heathen lands be fat and fair,  
And wondrous rich,  
Thank God!

Our own foundations are secure,  
Thank God!  
There is no mote upon our sight;  
We are all clean!  
We thank Thee, God, we are so pure;  
Our hived towns all kept aright;  
Our burrowed mines in happy plight;  
No cloud is seen,  
Thank God!

We are the Christ of freedom's creed,  
Thank God!  
To teach this truth which blood has won—  
Which Hancock saw—  
"There are no overlords by breed  
Or sword. The least beneath the sun  
Hath right to say what shall be done—  
Who'll make his law,"  
Thank God!

But if the feeble like us not,  
Oh God!  
They are besotted, Lord, Thou knowest,  
As heathen are.  
And for their good they must, Thou wot,  
Converted be, if e'en by blows,  
The while we sing high, through our nose,  
Of Holy War,  
Thank God!

We thank Thee, Lord, for all Thy grace,  
Thank God!  
That Thou hast set us o'er the world  
To teach all men.  
And what we gain in pillaged place  
We'll spend in iron monsters, hurled  
To keep us somewhere in the race  
For lands. With sanctimonious face  
We cry Amen!  
Thank God!

—C. E. S. WOOD.

## THE PLANTING OF TREES.

[Written for Nebraska Bird and Arbor Day  
Manual by Prof. F. W. Taylor, University of  
Nebraska.]

## I. Kind to Plant.

It is a very easy matter in choosing what kind of trees to plant to make a mistake which will almost do away with the possible good which should result from the planting of trees. It is very easy to get and to plant such trees as the willow, the cottonwood, box elder, soft maple, or others which, though perhaps not bad in their way, are not long-lived and are not sufficiently good for street or school ground purposes. A tree for that use should be one which is reasonably sure, if well cared for, to be long-lived; and if it is long-lived it is almost equally sure that it will be comparatively slow in its habits of growth.

All over Nebraska and the other Western states immense numbers of the

soft-wooded trees like those named above have been planted, and it is doubtful whether today there can be found living one for each thousand that have been planted. Even after they have grown for a good many years such trees are liable to break down or split during times of storms, and then after having lived a good quarter of the time a good shade tree should live, they die.

It can not be too strongly urged that only good varieties should be planted. Some of these are white elm, hackberry, hard maple, and perhaps some of the hardy evergreens such as the spruce or fir from the Rocky mountains. The western red cedar is perfectly hardy and will withstand almost all kinds of bad treatment, but it is so sure to turn brown in the winter time and to become dragged and ragged in appearance that it is not satisfactory. The list of good trees given may seem to be very short, but the planter who sticks to these kinds will in later years be entirely satisfied with his selection, and the probability is that his children and grandchildren may enjoy the shade of such trees, while if the others are used they are sure to disappear within a short time.

## II. How to Plant.

To properly plant trees is a comparatively simple thing and something which everyone should know. Most Nebraska soil is good and rich enough to supply all the needs of the roots of the trees if they are properly planted. It is more often likely to do more harm than good to mix with the soil anything such as gravel, manure, or other foreign substances. Good, black loam answers every need, and it is better alone than mixed with almost anything else.

The hole in which a tree is to be set should be dug considerably larger than will comfortably hold the roots of the tree when they are spread out at full length. Loose earth should be thrown among the roots of the tree when it has been set in place, and as soon as the roots are covered it should be pressed down with the foot until it is well packed. If the soil is very dry, water may be added as the planting is done, but an inch or two at the top should not be soaked or it is likely to bake, and thus the watering do more harm than good. After the trees have been set, if the weather is quite dry, water may be applied every two or three days. It is best in such cases to remove the top inch or two of earth, apply the water, and then put the inch or two of earth back in its place.

## III. Preparing the Tree for Planting.

The largest tree is not necessarily the best tree to plant. Other things being equal, the tree that can be removed with the greatest portion of its roots is the best tree to plant. If very large trees are used a large portion of the root system is necessarily removed in digging,

and a proportionate amount of the top should be cut back.

Never allow the roots of a tree to be exposed to the sun nor to become dry.

Trees that have grown in the timber are much harder to make live when transplanted than those which have been grown in nursery rows. The latter are likely to have been transplanted once or twice or more, and each time a tree is transplanted its roots are likely to become more compact, thus enabling a larger portion to be taken when the tree is dug.

## "NEBRASKA."

BEATRICE, Neb., March 30, 1899.

Editor THE CONSERVATIVE:

In your issue of March 30, noticing a book of Mr. Edward Everett Hale, you say:

"The Nebraska river mentioned is the Platte. One was the Indian word, as the other was the French word, for *flat* or *shallow*."

Knowing the interest you feel in these matters I venture a statement in regard to the word "Nebraska." The geographical dictionaries and other authorities say "Nebraska" or "Platte" means "running water."

When I was among the Sioux in the year 1875, I labored very hard to learn all I could of their dialect. One day as the cool autumn began to come the air in the White river valley was filled with what had the appearance of smoke; but which was in reality an impalpable dust.

It is the same as constitutes the quicksands in the Platte and Cheyenne rivers. I was trying disjointedly to carry on a conversation with an old Sioux Indian and he was complaining that his eyes were sore caused as he said by the "Nebra." I had never heard the word before and suggested the Sioux word for smoke as the cause. Spreading out his hands upward he said, "No; nebra, nebra." With this he called my attention to the fine, white impalpable sand floating in the air and which he called "nebra." Now the word "ska" is Sioux Indian for "white." "Nebra-ska" is the Sioux name for the Platte river. Whoever stands upon its banks and gazes upon its miles of "fine white sand" will see how appropriate is that name.

WM. ASHBY.

Persons who visited the World's fair at Chicago, and, more recently, the Trans-Mississippi exposition at Omaha, will remember the handsome train exhibited by the Pullman company. More than \$150,000 is invested in it. After having been used solely for show purposes for several years it has been placed in service on an excursion from Philadelphia to California. The excursion was a notable one, covering thirty-five days, while the distance traveled is 9,509 miles. The party went out by a southern route and returned over the Rio Grande, Burlington and Pennsylvania railroads.