HOW ARBOR DAY WAS SPENT IN MONTANA.

On May 13, 1901, the teachers and pupils of the public schools of Butte, Montana, celebrated Arbor Day by special exercises. Mr. T. W. Kelly, editor of the Inter-Mountain, in a very pleasing address, among other things, said:

"J. Sterling Morton was the founder and editor of the first paper ever established in Nebraska. He entered into the work of building up a great commonwealth upon the treeless plains of the new territory with enthusiasm. His paper championed whatever he considered best adapted to advance the newly-formed community on its way toward the higher levels of statehood, and he was aggressive and fearless in the expression of his views. Mr. Morton has seen many years of public service, and he looks back with pride upon the long campaign he made to have one day of the year set aside for tree planting. To him and to us the history of that time cannot fail to be of interest.

"Mr. Morton began the agitation for the annual observance of Arbor Day under the same circumstances that attend all new movements. It was a novelty at first, his advocacy of the plan excited nothing but curiosity. Then the promoter of the novel scheme came in for a share of derision that all public-spirited men receive in a large measure. He was made to feel the cudgel of the editorial critic and the keen lance of the paragrapher. Mr. Morton's home is known as Arbor Lodge, and many a pointed joke was turned upon this circumstance. Mr. Morton was a conspicuous figure in Nebraska politics at the time he made his famous campaign for Arbor Day, and he was considered fair game for the opposition press. One envious rival in the newspaper business spoke of Mr. Morton as having branched out in the business of planting trees, and another sarcastic contemporary of a rival political party, suggested that the trees would at least leave every spring, while Mr. Morton never appeared to know when to leave."

In speaking of the beneficial results of a day set aside for tree-planting, and the fostering of forestry generally, Mr. Kelly said:

"It has been said that in view of the growing scarcity of trees, it will not be many years before the forest monarchs are put to new uses. It has been suggested that wealthy men who wish to perpetuate their memory, and raise an enduring memorial to remind the world that they have lived, would do well to select a mighty tree as their monument, and provide for its protection. It does not require a long look into the future to see the time when this custom may obtain. If it does, nothing will be more beautiful in the history of the burial services of the world. Well may the man who consigns his remains to the guardianship of the silent trees, exclaim, as he prepares for his demise:

'I've built a monument, my own, more durable than brass.
Yea, kingly pyramids of stone in height it will surpass.
Rain shall not wreck, nor driving blast disturb its settled base,
Nor countless ages rolling past, its symmetry deface.'

Tennyson gave expression to the beauty of this sentiment, when he called to the graveyard yew in 'In Memoriam:'

'Old yew, that grasping at the stones, that name the underlying dead.
Thy fibers knit the dreamless head, thy roots are clasped about the bones,
And gazing on thee, sullen tree, sick from thy stubborn hardihood,
I seem to fail from out my blood, and grow insensate into thee.'

"I believe that the mystic soul of the universe has implanted in the heart of man a deep reverence for the evidence of that mysterious force, that in the springtime beautifies the world. When the world was young the races worshipped the sun; the changes of day and night, and of the seasons are still mighty problems, to which science has addressed itself in its search for the key to the mysteries of life. There has always been something hidden behind the veil; there always will be; it is delightful not to know everything; to be charmed with a mystery that is enveloping the world, and is yet unrevealed."—Butte (Mont.) Miner, May 14.

The Anaconda Standard, speaking of the same event, in its issue of May 12, said:

"J. Sterling Morton, the author of Arbor Day, is one of the pioneers of Nebraska, and has for forty-six years been one of the foremost citizens of that state, always closely identified with the social, political, and material life of the commonwealth. He was one of the territorial governors of the state, and was frequently honored by the democratic party with nominations for important offices. During Cleveland's second term as president, Mr. Morton was his secretary of agriculture. In Nebraska Mr. Morton is familiarly known as 'the sage of Arbor Lodge,' his beautiful country home near Nebraska City, being named Arbor Lodge. Mr. Morton is a farmer, a lawyer, and a journalist. He has been in the newspaper business, in one way or another, ever since he arrived in the west, in 1854, and has edited a number of papers. He is now publishing THE CONSERVATIVE, a weekly paper, devoted to discusssions of political, economic, and sociological questions.

"In some of the states, legislatures have appointed a bird day in connection with their Arbor Day. Children in the schools are taught the value of birds, and the necessity for their protection, as well as the need of forests. The forests afford shelter for the birds, and the insect life furnishes them food. With the disappearance of forests their food becomes insufficient, and they are driven into the fields, where they become easy prey to their enemies. With the disappearance of the birds, destructive insects increase, and they find their way into the orchards, domestic trees, and gardens. Half a century ago such fruit pests as the San Jose scale, the Codling moth, Woolly-aphis, and hosts of others that are now so common, were practically unknown, or gave very little trouble. Their harmful numbers now are generally recognized as due to the disappearance of the birds that had kept them in subjection. It is rightly argued, therefore, that by protecting the birds, and increasing the forests, the insect pests will gradually cease."

The Anaconda Standard, of Tuesday, May 14, 1901, in speaking of Arbor Day and its author, said:

"Mr. Kelly described the manner in which Arbor Day had its origin, and related the humorous incidents in connection with the campaign made by J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, in his newspaper, to secure a tree-planting day for the state, The speaker said it must be extremely gratifying to Mr. Morton, as the founder of Arbor Day, to observe the wide influence that is now wielded by the idea he originated and championed, while opposed by indifference and ridicule. The speaker quoted an appropriate verse of poetry to give Mr. Morton a suitable send-off and deserved praise in establishing such a beautiful custom.

"The speaker said that the wide-spread attention given to Arbor Day proved that the youth of America were alive to the delights of sylvan beauty. It showed that a love for the beautiful had a place in the thoughts of the student. 'They tell us that this is a prosaic age,' said the speaker; 'deny it! They say the scramble for wealth is shutting out all freedom of thought, and narrowing the sentiments of humankind. Prove it to be false! Prove that the young men and women, who have received the beautiful custom of Arbor Day into the schools of Montana are free to climb the heights of ambition, and are not held back by the burden of commonplace things.'"

BOOK LEARNING AND CHARACTER.

Prof. George Edward Woodberry of the Department of Comparative Literature in the Columbia University is evidently a gentleman who does his thinking for himself. He does not rely on the wisdom of the past for all his inspiration. He interested and entertained one of his classes the other day with a talk on the importance of athletics in the development of the college man, and incidentally expressed some opinions as to the importance of book learning. He said: "The college man is fed with intellectual life for four years, and is trained so much in books that he is apt to have a tendency to overestimate book learning. If he succeeds in after life, it is rather on account of a peculiar and personal genius than on account of what he has learned in books." Later in the same speech he added: "It is perhaps easier to study, as far as the strain on character is concerned, than to train for athletics." These are the reported words of the professor, and though the report may not have been absolutely accurate, it no doubt reproduces the sense of the remarks.

And very sensible they were. Book learning, when viewed in the light of a mere accumulation of facts, is of very little value in the struggle of life. The peculiar and personal genius, of which the professor spoke, is in the character of the man who has the book learning to use. There is probably no occupation to which the lessons to be drawn from college book learning cannot be applied, but the men who see the application are few. On the other hand, it is perfectly true that the young man just out of college greatly overestimates the value of his scholarship. As a business man recently said, "The college man is unwilling to subordinate his education to his experience." He enters the battle of life in about the same condition as a trained