

The Conservative **READ ABROAD.** has just received a letter from Mr. F. Giertsen, of Christiana, Norway, relative to an article which appeared in its issue of July 25, 1901, respecting Professor Giertsen and a monument which he had just erected to the memory of his grandfather, because that ancestor had planted, one hundred years before, a splendid forest of spruce and Norway pine as a legacy and inheritance of great value to his descendants. The tree planter who labors for other generations than his own is a benefactor to all mankind.

Arbor Day was **JANUARY 4th 1872.** brought into being thirty years ago on the 4th day of next January. The following is from the official proceedings of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture:

"At the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, held in the city of Lincoln, January 4th, 1872, J. Sterling Morton introduced the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, after some little debate as to the name, some present contending for the term "Sylvan" instead of Arbor.

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 to urge upon the people of the state the vital importance of tree-planting, hereby offer a special premium of one hundred dollars 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 twenty-five dollars worth of books to that person who, on that day shall properly plant in Nebraska the greatest number of trees."

BOASTING.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters." 2. Tim. 3:1-2.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Rev. 3:16.

"As braggarts the American people have no superiors. For generations national vanity and conceitedness have found overflow in Fourth of July orations. Each year we have vaunted our education, our Christianity, our charity and our morals, as the perfection of concrete character—with a massive unanimity of egotism."—The Conservative.

However, The Conservative and the Bible may be at war upon the subject of the value of praying for rain, they are perfectly agreed upon the value of

self-vaunting, boasting—as the above texts show. I have been in the active work of the gospel ministry for more than a quarter of a century, and would be now, did my health permit; in common with thousands of others I have been praying for a great revival to move this nation—as aforetime. And I believe that God will do it, but there are hindrances, some of them it may be in myself.

Hindrances to God.

First, this spirit of pride and self-vaunting, boasting. Go into any of the big church conventions, and how often do you hear about "the great Methodist church" or the "great Presbyterian church" or whatever church the speaker happens to represent.

And then an egotistical speech on what the church has done; and thus it goes through press and pulpit. How can God lift up a people who are already by far too high? (Is God not omnipotent?—Editor.) Said Jesus: "Whosoever shall exalt himself, shall be abased: and he that shall humble himself, shall be exalted."

Second, the anxiety of the ministry, at least such a number of them, to be known as "doctors," to have pompous titles to their names as D. D., LL. D., etc.; their failure to "preach the word," the very thing God sent us to do, the anxiety of ministers to be known as star performers on lecture platforms, while their flocks are perishing for lack of a tender shepherd's care, the restless ambition of the clergy to get "calls" to greater fields of labor and churches, the willingness to leave the ministry, if fields be poor, to go into other callings where salary is better—these things must be changed or God cannot revive his work. Ezekiel says: "The word of the Lord came unto me saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel.'"

The 23d of Matthew is filled with the bitterest denunciations of the false teachers of that day in which Christ, He of the great heart, likens them to "serpents and vipers" and asks: "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" We doubtless have many true ministers today; and also with many there is urgent need of repentance and reformation.

They Only Profess Religion.

The disposition shown almost everywhere to count men as "converted" who have given no evidence of such change, is a very grievous sin.

Third, the lack of Bible study on the part of the laity, the absence of home religion, the feeble prayer meetings, the lack of disposition to do personal work, the worldliness of the laity, their willingness to have their ministers lecture upon popular

themes, instead of preach the gospel. Here are some of the sins of the laity, and they must be repented of and forsaken, or, Mr. Editor, how can the good Lord use us in converting sinners?

Old Style Revivals.

Now I expect I have grumbled enough for once, but when you and I were boys things were often as bad, I presume, as now; but, brother, you will remember that now and then we had an old-fashioned pentecostal revival that seemed to shake heaven and earth; sinners instead of signing a card or holding up their hands to signify a desire to "go to heaven," came weeping to an altar, and often for hours together they prayed and were prayed for, until after a while they "got through," and then, Mr. Editor, you remember the shouts of victory. I want to see these old times, at least in substance, repeated. And we will see it if we keep praying and at work. I am not stickling, sir, for the form in which this thing comes, so that we get the substance of it.

More Prayers.

I wish all editors and preachers were Christian men, who would begin the day with prayer and end it with thanksgiving; what a beginning this would be to a great revival that would shake all Nebraska.

Now I propose that you do all that you can down at Nebraska City, your end of the line, speak to Dr. Shepherd the Methodist minister; he is like Barnabas, "A good man full of faith and the Holy Ghost;" get him to stir things up, and if you can get him going on the right line he is a power.

You thunder the truth at them through a column of The Conservative, while up here at Lincoln I will pray for the work, and then see Brother Bryan and Doc Bixby and Rev. Hindman and others, and something will happen. You know the promise, I am going to keep quoting it, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

BYRON BEALL.

Few residences in America have been built from the proceeds of crops of wind and words fertilized with check.

"Any attempt to broaden the scope of reciprocity treaties must be along lines laid down by the Dingley bill, or the result will be an abandonment of protection," argues the Milwaukee Sentinel (Rep.). "If protection is to be abandoned, it should be done with a distinct understanding that the time has come for the adoption of practical free trade."