

OUR CAPTAIN.

To Theodore Ledyard Cuyler. Read at a celebration of his eightieth anniversary.

BY CHARLES LEMUEL THOMPSON.

Fill—fill up your glasses—with Croton!
Fill full to the brim, I say,
For the dearest old boy among us,
Who is ten times eight today.

It is three times three and a tiger—
It is hand to your caps, O men!
For our Captain of captains rejoices
In his counting of eight times ten.

Foot square on the bridge and gripping
As steady as fate the wheel,
He has taken the storms to his forehead,
And cheered in the tempest's reel.

He has seen the green sea monsters
Go writhing down the gale,
But never a hand to slacken,
And never a heart to fail.

So it's—Ho!—to our Captain dauntless,
Trumpet-tongued and eagle-eyed,
With the spray of the voyage behind him,
And the Pilot by his side.

Together they sail into sunset—
Slow down for the harbor bell,
For the flash of the port, and the message
"Well done"—It is well—It is well.

So it's three times three and a tiger!
Breathe deep for the man we love;
His heart is the heart of a lion,
His soul is the soul of a dove.

It is—Ho!—to the Captain we honor,
Salute we the man and the day,
On his brow are the snows of December,
In his heart are the bird songs of May.

—Brooklyn Eagle.

PLANT TREES.

J. Sterling Morton, one of the most eminent citizens of Nebraska, formerly secretary of agriculture in the cabinet of Grover Cleveland, has been instrumental in the planting of more trees in his state than any other man. Not only has he done this, but he has been influential in creating a sentiment for tree-planting that has extended all over the United States. This influence is lasting, and the hope is that it may save and restore the forests that were once the pride of the middle and western states. Mr. Morton is editor of The Conservative newspaper at Nebraska City, and not a week goes by without several excellent articles being published in this paper of forestry and the importance it bears to a successful agriculture. In a recent number of this paper there is a reference to an interview with John P. Brown, who has just completed an inspection of the Panhandle country in Texas, at the instance of the Fort Worth & Denver railroad, and it is possible as a result of his examination, that that railroad will fall in line with several other transportation lines which already have adopted the plan, and go in extensively for tree planting.

Mr. Brown has made a life study of forestry, climate and kindred topics, and he supports his conclusions with

evidence which is most convincing, that forests bring rain.

He traces historical facts, showing that the mountains of Canaan and of Palestine proper, were denuded of forest trees, and instead of being fruitful, the lands became arid on account of the absence of rain. He also alludes to the Ohio valley, which at one time was noted for its extensive forests and its fruitful hills and valleys, but has degenerated since the forests disappeared. The lands have become rocky and require expensive fertilizing in order to maintain the population.

These instances could be multiplied, but it is sufficient now to say that the world has come to the conclusion that the forests must be restored, in a measure, in order to preserve the fertility of the soil. The reasons why the great prairies of Iowa and Illinois remained fertile so long is on account of the great depth of soil, but each year there is an increased tendency toward drouth, and the time will come when even these plains, once so fruitful, will become like the great plains of western Kansas, eastern Colorado and western Nebraska, arid and subject each year to hot winds and drouth.

All these observations are preliminary to the main object, which is to call the attention of the people of Iowa to the necessity of planting trees—to the observance of Arbor Day, or Tree Day, when each owner of land is to plant trees. It is a profitable business. As an example, the son of a distinguished citizen of Iowa, (recently deceased) is reported to have said that among other valuable legacies left by his father was a body of several thousand walnut trees, planted by his father over thirty years ago, that are now over eight inches in diameter. The value of such a legacy within a few years can scarcely be overestimated.

Iowa has already groves of trees in the prairie country that are of inestimable value, but there are not enough of them. It would be better for the farmer who owns 160 acres of land to devote forty acres of it to trees than to risk drouth and no crop in the years that are to come.

In contrast with the true economical spirit of the Iowa statesman who planted thousands of walnut trees, we have here in Wapello county, and especially in the southern part thereof, the opposite policy. Thousands of trees have been cut down simply for railroad ties, and the ground is left idle because very little of value will grow upon it. Since the trees have been sacrificed, the soil washes down into the ravine, and is then carried to the river. Thousands of acres have also been denuded of trees for the purpose of fuel, and this has been hauled to town and sold at \$3 a cord. It is,

of course, necessary to use wood for economic purposes, but there should be some system that will preserve enough of growing trees to equalize and temper the climate.

Finally, and in the language of the dying laird of Scotland, (immortalized by Sir Walter Scott,) to the son who was to succeed to his estate:

"Plant trees, Jock; they will be growin' when you are dyin'!"—Ottumwa Courier.

AN EXTRACT FROM HER LETTER.

"If you could only be here this winter morning and see for yourself, you would no longer doubt me. Roses are blooming in our front yard, and all nature is as far advanced in this lovely American summerland as it will be in your cold eastern home in June.

"We made the trip from Omaha to California via the Union Pacific to avoid the detour routes.

"As less time is consumed on The Union Pacific in reaching your destination, there are fewer incidental expenses en route.

"If you want to reach California without suffering any of the inconveniences of winter travel, be sure that your ticket reads over the Union Pacific. It is the only line running through trains from Omaha, (competing roads have just one car, going over four or five different lines once a day, only). We rode on that great California train, 'The Overland Limited,' which surpasses any train traversing the American continent."

For further information call on or address E. L. LOMAX, G. P. & T. A., Omaha, Neb.

EXCURSION TO FLORIDA.

The Burlington Route is organizing a personally conducted excursion to Florida and Cuba, to leave Nebraska points, Wednesday, January 29. The route will be via St. Louis, thence to Jacksonville, Fla., through scenes which have been forever made historic by the dramatic events of the civil war.

An exceedingly low rate has been made, and members of the excursion have choice of several attractive trips after they arrive at Jacksonville.

This opportunity of escaping the most unpleasant portion of winter and enjoying in its stead the delights of a semi-tropical country will appeal to every one who has the money and can spare the time to make an extended pleasure trip.

J. FRANCIS,
General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.



This signature is on every box of the genuine
Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets
the remedy that cures a cold in one day