

Visit of Grover Cleveland to Help Unveil the Morton Monument

Sidelights on the Notable Gathering at Nebraska City Last Week to Honor the Memory of the Sage of Arbor Lodge



MONUMENT ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF J. STERLING MORTON AT ARBOR LODGE, NEAR NEBRASKA CITY, NEB.—Photo Taken at Time of Unveiling by Our Staff Artist.



GROVER CLEVELAND DELIVERING HIS ADDRESS.



PAUL MORTON. MRS. GROVER CLEVELAND.



Grover Cleveland. Hilary A. Herbert. David R. Francis. Adlai Stevenson. DISTINGUISHED GROUP AT THE MORTON UNVEILING.

THE unveiling of the Morton monument a week ago Saturday was brief and simple. The three stalwart sons of J. Sterling Morton, Paul, Joy and Mark, all splendid types of physical manhood, stepped up beside the statue and bared their heads. Beside them stood Sterling Morton, son of Joy, the eldest grandson living. He seized the cords which held the shroud and, as a band played a dirge, he drew the cords and exposed to view the portrait-statue of his illustrious grandfather. During this brief ceremony, President and Mrs. Cleveland and the remainder of the distinguished party stood, perhaps, fifty feet distant, beside a cedar tree, the gentlemen with bared heads. All eyes were fixed on the statue. When the shroud was removed the ex-president, with his party, joined the Morton family in a closer study of the masterly piece of art. But there was more than mere art in it, and Mr. Cleveland was one of the first to give expression to this fact, for he pronounced it a most characteristic and lifelike representation. Paul Morton voiced the sentiments of the family in pronouncing it "simply fine."

The next afternoon, Sunday, Mr. Cleveland, his two former cabinet officers, Messrs. Francis and Herbert, and former Vice President Stevenson, dug a hole in the ground near the monument and planted a tree—planted it in recognition of the motto of the man they had come to honor, "Plant Trees," and as a token to his great work and memory. The monument to J. Sterling Morton is of commanding appearance. The figure itself is eight feet in height and shows the late statesman in a characteristic attitude. He stands erect with a rough cane, such as he used to carry during the declining years of his life, in his left hand and his hat swung at his side, in his right. He is gazing in front of him. He seems to be looking toward a certain fixed goal off in the distance. David R. Francis, in his eulogy, said Morton was a man who looked far into the future, possessing a keen vision and a far reaching discernment, which enabled him to interpret events with a facility of few men. The attitude is decidedly aggressive, and in this the mute image is heroically true to life.

Description of the Statue

The statue surmounts a granite base of greater height than the figure. It came from Rhode Island, while the bronze was cast in Paris. The statue alone cost \$15,000 and the remainder of the monument cost about an equal amount.

The monument stands in the center of Morton park, a beautiful wooded tract, donated to Nebraska City by Mr. Morton. This park adjoins the corporate limits of Nebraska City on the west and forms the connecting link between the city and Arbor Lodge. The park comprises some twenty acres. The monument stands amid the native forest trees which the man it commemorates loved so well. The plot of ground devoted to the monument is 100 by 85 feet in dimensions. It is sodded and elevated and surrounded by a low brick wall, covered with roses and ivy. Three terraced landings of brick and stone lead up to the pedestal of the statue. The statue faces south, inclining slightly toward the east. At the top of the pedestal is a bronze garland of fruit and foliage, typifying the Arbor Day sentiment. On the face of the pedestal is this inscription:

J. STERLING MORTON.
1832-1902.
AUTHOR OF ARBOR DAY.

To the rear of the monument is an elliptical stone bench or palisade some fifty feet across the segment it describes. On this structure are two pictorial bronze bas-reliefs, significant of Arbor Day. Two inscriptions run across the upright part of this bench: "Love of Home is Primary Patriotism," "Other Holidays Rest Upon the Past, Arbor Day Proposes for the Future."

The sculptor of the Arbor Day monument is a young man of less than 30 years, Rudolph Evans, of New York. He was born in Washington, D. C., in 1878. He is a son of Frank L. Evans, disbursing officer of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, over which the famous man whose image he has made, presided. He is a friend of Paul Morton, who, it is said, has taken even a greater personal interest in him since his marked success in this undertaking. This young sculptor has had the advantage of superior training in America and Europe, having spent many years in Paris, where, in fact, this statue was carved. He has done work for other famous people.

The monument stands as the result entirely of public spirit crystallized in the Morton Memorial Monument association, formed soon after the death of Mr. Morton for the one purpose of securing a fund through public donation for and the erection of the monument. John W. Steinhart was president of this association. It is a matter of pride that Nebraska City gave more than any other city and Nebraska more than any other state toward the monument fund.

Popular Character of Gathering

The people of Nebraska City did not fail to comprehend the full significance of this notable event, October 28. It really seemed as if they had entered into a concerted plan to do everything, individually and collectively, in their power, for the success of the day, and then had gone through regular rehearsals, for their method of handling the affair was faultless. The day was about as ill suited as could have been. It was cold and dark and dreary, yet even this did not seem to mar the zeal or courage which characterized the affair.

From not only the address of Mr. Cleveland, but that of every other orator on this notable occasion, the conviction could not be escaped that the keynote to Mr. Morton's whole life was sincerity of purpose and integrity of character.

And yet, as Mr. Cleveland paused on the threshold of his oration

to observe, the people of Nebraska needed not to be reminded of these virtues by others from afar in order to know and appreciate them.

"I have not come to the surviving family of J. Sterling Morton and to those who were his intimate friends and neighbors for the purpose of bringing from afar superfluous recital of his virtues and mental endowments," said the former president. "You, who within the sacred precincts of his home, knew the warmth of his love; you, who daily found cheer and delight in the sunlight of his steady, constant friendship, and you, his immediate fellow citizens, who have been trained to admiration and attachment of his unselfish and effective labor in behalf of those with whom his lot was cast, need no words of mine to arouse in your minds sentiments which befit this commemorative occasion."

Grover Cleveland's Sentiments

Yet of the thousands of admiring friends and fellow citizens present none was there but felt his love and pride swell as he listened to these plaudits from men with whom the late statesman and benefactor had stood in the forefront of his nation's affairs. "I was what they knew; 'twas what they oft had heard, but like love's old sweet song, they wanted to hear it 'told over again.' Everyone felt the truth and meaning of Mr. Cleveland's assertion that eulogies at this time were not necessary to enshrine Morton in the affections and esteem of his own people, nor to secure to his memory the permanence of this exalted station. But the former chief executive of the nation gave, eloquently, the significance of the occasion.

"But I am not here without a mission," said he. "I would fain interpret this monument's message to me, as it recalls my close companionship and co-operation in the discharge of the highest public duty, with the man we honor, I am here to give evidence concerning the things he revealed to me in the light of that companionship and co-operation. This is but to testify to his lofty civic righteousness, his simple and sure standards of public morality, his stern insistence on official honesty, his sturdy adherence to opinions deliberately adopted, his generous concession to others of every result

of their efforts, and the passionate desire to serve the best interests of his fellow countrymen."

It may well be doubted if, in this state, a more representative body of Nebraskans ever assembled on one occasion than was this which had gathered at the famous old homestead of J. Sterling Morton. Men from the various walks of life, prominent in the affairs of the state; democrat and republican, populist and prohibition, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, had come alike to pay their token of love and gratitude to the memory of a man who had done imperishable good for their state and nation; men who differed and men who agreed with the lamented Morton in many of his public policies were there with their tribute; the gray-haired pioneer, who, with him that was gone, had helped blaze the way of progress in Nebraska, faltered in uncertain tread, and the youth of the state, standing with sure footing upon the threshold of vigorous manhood, stepped to the shaft and at its foot laid their laurel leaf of love. But in this large assembly of prominent men, men of lowly, but honorable station, stood, and, too, paid their debt of homage and gave their token of love. Beside the governor and ex-governors, senators and ex-senators, representatives and ex-representatives, and other men of distinction and fame, wage earners and

farmers and small business men, of other spheres, stood in large numbers and mingled with their more noted neighbors their meed of praise. Women and children largely helped to swell the concourse.

The photographs presented here show something, but not all, of the crowds that gathered. But the best artist could not give to his picture the one element which would make it more interesting. A large platform from which the orations were delivered held seats for as many prominent men and women as could be accommodated, but it was worthy of notice that a much larger number of prominent men and women had to take seats elsewhere. Out in front of the speakers' stand there were many long rows of low wooden seats, provided for the occasion. In the front rows of these could be seen men whose names are far more than state-wide. There sat the youthful looking James H. Eckels of Chicago, who was comptroller of the currency under President Cleveland; E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska; Elmer J. Burkett, United States senator from Nebraska, and James E. Boyd, the "only democrat ever elected governor of Nebraska."

What the Photographs Show

But several thousand people did not sit at all; they stood, for the simple reason that seats could not have been so arranged as to have brought them in hearing of the speakers' voices.

A good view of the speakers' stand is given. Mr. Cleveland can be distinguished in the group, sitting with his hat and overcoat on and his hands thrust in his pockets—that was the place for hands that day, for it was keenly cold. Mr. Cleveland appeared to enjoy every speech to which he listened. He was a very attentive auditor and not as undemonstrative as one might suppose, judging from his unemotional character. During the course of Governor Mickey's address the former president led more than once in the applause, and while former Vice President Stevenson and former Secretaries Francis and Herbert were relating incidents of the old associations at Washington, he displayed keen interest and often amusement. When there was occasion for laughter he joined heartily in the merriment. He seemed particularly amused when former Secretary of the Navy Herbert told of some of Mr. Morton's jokes and repartee at cabinet meetings.

"A cabinet meeting, at least during Mr. Cleveland's last administration, was delightfully informal, more informal than that of a congressional committee," said Mr. Herbert. "There was no formal call to order, never that I now remember, even a rap while business was proceeding."

Here Mr. Cleveland smiled broadly and his eyes twinkled as they met those of Mr. Herbert.

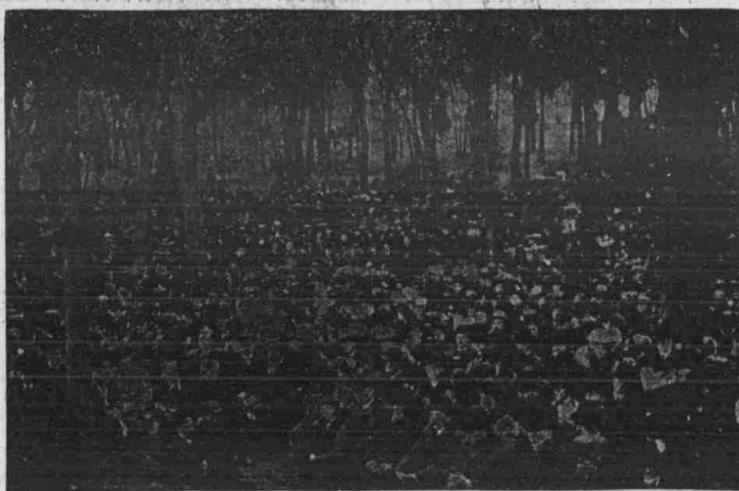
"Usually if business was not pressing the first ten or twenty minutes were devoted to a general conversation. All participated in the talk around the table, and in this no one who was present can fail to remember Mr. Morton's bright sallies, his overflowing humor, apposite anecdotes and his wit, that never failed to hit the mark. Usually his wit was genial, but sometimes it was pungent, even peppery, for with all his soul he hated shams, above all, political shams. Into these he penetrated with an insight that never failed and he was always ready to puncture them."

The former president exhibited a deep feeling of tender sympathy with the reminiscent words of Dr. George L. Miller, who had been an intimate friend of Mr. Morton for over forty years, and who paid him a most magnificent tribute. The history of the Morton Memorial Monument association, as related by John W. Steinhart of Nebraska City, president of the association and chairman of the day, appeared to be particularly interesting to Mr. Cleveland.

Humorous Side of the Unveiling

During the course of the day many jocular remarks were made in reference to the well known sentiments of Mr. Cleveland on the woman question—the place for a woman and her proper sphere. Mr. Cleveland, as people who read know pretty well, thinks a woman may attain her highest state of usefulness at home minding her own business, in this, of course, being forced to take issue with some other Americans of similar prominence, though dissimilar sex. Possibly some of those at Arbor lodge that day really were serious in wondering if some apostle of the anti-Cleveland doctrine might not approach the ex-president on this popular subject. But she didn't. The ex-president was not once molested, nor was there the slightest evidence at any stage of the proceedings that an eruption might occur, despite the fact that all these women seemed to bear a most cordial feeling for the fact is all these women seemed to bear a most cordial feeling for the distinguished sage of Princeton, and those who had the opportunity to shake his hand and exchange a word with him, apparently did so with considerable eagerness. So that, for the time being at least, Mr. Cleveland and the women—those women, anyway—were on peaceable terms.

Doubtless there was more truth than fiction, though, in the assertion, frequently heard, that after all Mr. Cleveland was not near the magnet that was his beautiful and popular wife. With the men no less than the women, Mrs. Cleveland was the cynosure for all eyes. One might easily have believed her still enthroned in the White House as the "first lady of the land," for she seemed to have lost none of that charm of beauty or character which made her beloved of the American people as few other women have been or perhaps ever will be. The photograph showing Mrs. Cleveland, with Mr. Paul Morton, standing upon one of the broad verandas of the magnificent old Arbor Lodge, is typical indeed. She had come out in the penetrating air at the request of the photographers and stood for two pictures.



PORTION OF THE CROWD LISTENING TO ADDRESSES AT UNVEILING OF MORTON MONUMENT.—Photo by Staff Artist.

Rapidly Increasing Wealth of the United States

THIS is the story of national progress in material things, told by J. C. Monaghan, statistician of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

Half a century ago the wealth of the United States was estimated at a little more than \$7,000,000,000. At the present time it is placed at \$110,000,000,000. During this half century the population of the country multiplied by less than three and one-half, while the wealth multiplied by a little more than thirteen. During this period every person's share in the total wealth was multiplied by four.

The census of fifty years ago showed that the United States in point of wealth stood below half a dozen nations of the old world. Today all those nations have been entirely outdistanced.

C. M. Harvey gives some startling figures. He says: "Although the United States comprised only 5 per cent of the world's population, it produced, according to the last census, 22 per cent of the world's wheat, 30 per cent of its gold, 32 per cent of its coal, 33 per cent of its silver, 34 per cent of its manufactures, 35 per cent of its iron, 36 per cent of its cattle, 50 per cent of its petroleum, 54 per cent of its copper, 75 per cent of its cotton, and 84 per cent of its corn."

"Though the United States has only a twentieth of the world's inhabitants, it has a fifth of the world's stock of money and a fourth of its gold coin and bullion. The United States has two-thirds—\$14,000,000,000—of the world's banking power—capital, surplus, deposits and circulation. Between 1890 and 1904 the banking strength of the world grew 105 per cent, and that of New York City 190 per cent."

"The farmers and planters of the country received last year more than \$6,000,000,000 for their products. This equals the wealth of the entire country in 1845. The product of the country's mines for 1904 amounted to \$1,500,000,000. The United States has a third of all the money deposited in the savings banks of the world. At the beginning of 1905 there were in the United States 212,000 miles of railroad, as compared with 300,000 miles for the entire world outside. The railroads earned \$2,000,000,000 in 1904, and have in their employ 1,300,000 persons."

"Compared with the principal countries of the world the United States ranks high. Here are the relative positions:

United States	\$110,000,000,000
United Kingdom	\$5,000,000,000

France	50,000,000,000
Germany	48,000,000,000
Russia	35,000,000,000
Austro-Hungary	30,000,000,000
Italy	18,000,000,000
Spain	12,000,000,000

"Now, while these phenomenal figures are for the United States, one must not forget that vast wealth is awaiting workmen in Canada, Mexico, Central and South America. How vast it all is can hardly be conjectured. To say that it is fully four or five times that of the United States is to paint the possibilities of the continent in safe if not modest colors.

"Long before the discovery of gold in California Europe, particularly Spain, had received billions in bullion gold and silver from the mines of South and Central America. Estimates put the amount for Spain alone at from two to three billions. The gold mines of California surpass anything in the history of mining till the gold deposits of Australia, South Africa and Alaska were discovered. But all these, rich as they are, are incomparably inferior to the wonderful wealth of the western world's iron, coal and copper."

"Whereas, we were long dependent on Europe for the capital necessary to exploit our mines, our farms and factories, we are rapidly reaching out into other countries with our own capital. The Rockefellers, Ryans, Morgans, Carnegies and Westinghouses are the wonder workers in the financial world. Page after page would have to be written before it would be possible to tell the financial story of the last fifty years. It reads like romance. In and out of the golden gates of trade our merchants, manufacturers and financiers have been going, scattering around them streams of gold and silver more bountiful than ever were conjured up by Aladdin's lamp, or in the dreams of Midas. "Reich wie ein Amerikaner" (rich as an American), is a proverb in Germany, and Germany is the home of the Rothschilds, and Bleichroeders, and Ladenburgs. We have more than \$500,000,000 invested in Mexico; more than \$250,000,000 in Canada. I have seen estimates of our investments in Europe that ran as high as \$1,000,000,000. My own belief extends beyond those figures. By and by we will have a better basis on which to rely for facts and figures. In the east we have millions. Even South Africa and Australia are not beyond the influence of our financiers."