

A gush of bird song, a patter of dew,
A cloud, and a rainbow's warning,
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue—
An April day in the morning. —Selected.

The Sower.

"Come, wild Wind," said the Catkin folks,
"Loiter not on the way.
It is time for us to plant our seeds;
We need your help to-day."

The jolly wild Wind whisked merrily by,
And never a word did he say;
But birch and willow and alder trees
He planted by scores that day.

—The Youth's Companion.

For the Blackboard.

1. The groves were God's first temples.
2. Man counts his age by years, the oak by centuries.
3. The courteous tree bows to all who seek its shade.
4. As thou sowest so shalt thou reap.
5. How delightful to linger 'mid the shady bowers.
6. Tiny seeds make plenteous harvests.
7. The tree is a nobler object than a king in his coronation robes.
8. A thing of beauty is a joy forever.
9. A father's hand hath reared these venerable columns.
10. Earth with her thousand voices praises God.
11. Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the happy soil.
12. God the first garden made, man the first city.

Planting Song (after the planting).

Air, "America."

Grow there and flourish well
Ever the story tell
Of this glad day.

Long may thy branches raise
To heaven our grateful praise,
Waft them on sunlight rays,
To God away.

Deep in the earth to-day
Safely thy roots we lay,
(Tree of our love;
Grow thou and flourish long;
Ever our grateful song
Shall its glad love prolong
To God above.

—Normal Instructor.

Arbor Day Questions.

Are you sure that you realize the importance of Arbor Day?

Do you know these things: That forests determine to a great extent the mean temperature of a country, making air currents cooler by day and warmer by night?

That destructive floods are caused by cutting down forests near the course of a river?

That forests act as reservoirs, holding in their vast network of roots moisture that in time of

drought will be drawn upon to prevent lasting injury to vegetation?

That in countries where there are large forests, the evaporation from the surface of the earth is only one-fifth as great as in open countries?

That six per cent more rain falls yearly in forests than in open fields?

That land may be reclaimed by tree-planting?

That trees perform a valuable service to health in setting free so much oxygen by action on carbon dioxide in the air?

That we draw every year \$700,000,000 worth of products from trees?

That \$300,000,000 of trees are destroyed by fire every year in the United States?

That at the end of each day we have 30,000 acres less of lumber than at the end of the previous day?

That if we continue to destroy trees as rapidly in the next two or three hundred years as in the past, the welfare of country will be seriously endangered?

If you know these things, you are ready to make your Arbor Day programme strong and helpful.—Selected.

Language of the Birds.

The poets have now found a language for the birds, which they translate into human speech. What they say is not the same to each listening ear. Dr. Van Dyke, a true bird-lover, in one of his many delightful poems about them, confesses which is his favorite, and says:

"That if but one of all the birds
Could be my comrade everywhere,
My little brother of the air,
I'd choose the song sparrow, my dear,
Because he'd bless me every year,
With 'Sweet—sweet—sweet—very merry cheer.'"

Professor Walton, Leeds, in his new work, *The Principles of Teaching*, expresses the opinion that the oral lesson has a mischievous tendency to produce idleness on the part of the pupils of all but the youngest classes, which tendency, he considers, may be corrected by teaching them how to make use of books the main instruments of their after-culture.

Corporal punishment in a public school in Japan is unknown; the very thought of it to the Japanese mind signifies barbarous vulgarity and piteous lack of self-control on the part of teacher and pupil, mainly that of the teacher.