

THE CONFLICT.

The day's before me; wondrous gift!
A miracle of light, a well
Of possibility, a height
Surmounted; or a fell
Descent that reaches down to hell.

What victory the setting sun
May at its close this day behold!
What mighty battles fought and won
Against those cunning foes of old,
That lurk as shades in love's stronghold!

A giant conflict, mightier far
Than Homer sang in siege of Troy;
Wherein man's baser passions war
For that which time doth soon destroy—
A woman's smile, a beauty coy.

Aye, far more subtle are the foes
That smite this city of my life;
These walls of consciousness that grow
With strength and beauty with the strife,
Or fall. Today the battle's rife.

Up, craven, up! nor fear the foe,
Nor sigh for ease, nor wealth, nor name;
Thou canst but work while it is day.
Slaves strive for pleasure, fools for fame;
A spirit ruled—thy highest aim.

Arise my soul, a Joshua
Stands, as of old, upon the heights,
Where darkling hosts of evil are,
That threaten to o'erwhelm the right;
No shadow dwells in truth's pure light.

More than all gifts thy love provides.
I thank thee, Father, for this day,
Thy day and mine. What'er betides,
This blest at-one-ment cannot stay
Till time and sense shall flee for aye.
Lost in the light of perfect day.

—Emma Shuman.

February, 1898.

One of the ablest and most vigorous papers coming to our table is THE CONSERVATIVE, published at Nebraska City, Neb., and edited by J. Sterling Morton, the accomplished secretary of agriculture under the second Cleveland administration. THE CONSERVATIVE, which is printed in magazine form and presents an inviting appearance, bristles in each issue with ably written articles on the silver issue. Mr. Morton, it is well known, is a gold democrat; and with admirable force and clearness he gives the reasons for the faith that is in him. William J. Bryan, of our sister state of Nebraska, is a bright young man; but it is a conservative statement to say that he could profitably go to school for a long while yet on the money question to J. Sterling Morton. Mr. Morton, in arguing against fiat money: "Fiat finance is just about as nourishing to trade as fiat food would be to bodily strength and health. If legislation has the power to create value by a mere be-it-enacted, it can by the same necromancy create nutriment. The enchantry which can make forty cents worth of silver bullion equal to a hundred cents' worth of gold bullion, can make a forty pound sack of flour equal in furnishing nutrition to a sack which holds a hundred pounds of flour.—Topeka Democrat.

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THE SECRETARY

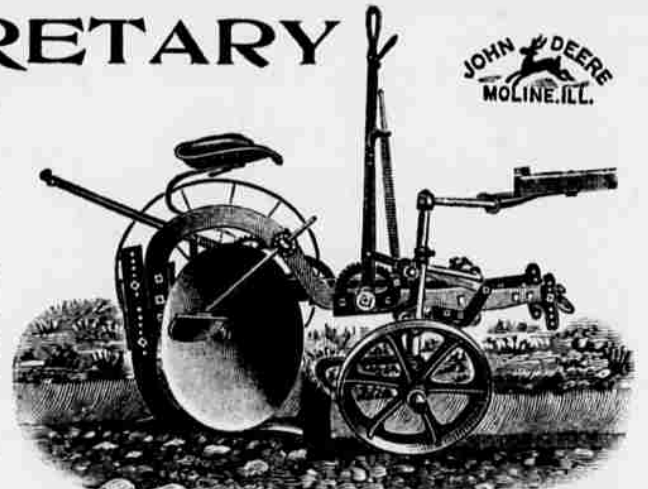
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