

MORNING GLORIES.

O children dear, awake betimes
To hear the morning glory chimes!
At break of day
They ring for play,
And sweetly call, "Come, don't be late
When all the joys of morning wait."
Up, ever upward towards the sun
The morning glories swiftly run.
They climb and fling
Their bells to swing
Far over all the lovely heads
Of flowers in the garden beds.
They've trailed their leaves beyond the
ground
And twined the old rail fence around.
They've covered all
The gate post tall,
And hung the broken tree with green
Until its bark can scarce be seen.
All dressed in colors like the sky
They've crept above the lattice high.
"The world is bright
With golden light;
O come and see its shining hue!"
Ring out the bells of palest blue.
O listen, while the faint chimes steal
Above us in a sunrise peal!
"The dew drops here
Are fresh and clear,"
Call bells that swing in robes of pink,
"Come out and see the flowers drink!"
"A silver web the spider weaves
And fastens it among my leaves.
It hangs in air
And looks so fair.
The pretty lace was made last night,"
Sing swaying bells of snowy white.
The fairies say, I've understood,
That only children who are good
And sweet and dear
This chiming hear.
For them alone the blossoms sing:
And bells of morning glories ring.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

TARIFF SCHEDULES.

MILTON, Mass., June 15, 1899.

EDITOR THE CONSERVATIVE,
Nebraska City, Neb.

Dear Sir: I judge from reading some copies of THE CONSERVATIVE that you are a free trader, or at any rate hospitable to any honest discussion of the question. It has always seemed to me that one of the most important features of a tariff was its great simplicity, "so that he who runs may read." When I was a boy, more than sixty years ago, I knew the British tariff by heart, it was so simple. I do not think this could be said of the so-called Dingley tariff. I doubt if any merchant, or lawyer, could interpret it without cavil. Let us make a little comparison between the British and the Dingley tariff in this point of simplicity. In the British tariff there are twenty articles and seven items. In the Dingley 2,669 articles and 4,941 items. Really, I believe this matter of items would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer (supposed to be the most able in the country) which must lead to endless law suits, and discourage an honest reporter.

To illustrate what is meant by articles and items let us take the article of

knives. The tariff then proceeds to give what they call items, thus:

Beam.	Bowie, as hunting.
Curriers.	Budding, as pocket-knives.
Drawing.	Carving, see table-knives.
Farrier.	Chopping or cleavers, as
Fleshing.	cooks' knives.
	Hay.

All of these at 45 % ad valorem.

Miniatures, as charms, 60%.

Pen, or pocket knives with spoon or forks, as pen knives; clasp-knives; pruning-knives; budding knives of all kinds, or parts thereof; erasers; manicure knives, or parts thereof, wholly or partly manufactured, valued at not over 40¢ per dozen.

These at 40% per cent ad valorem.

If valued at over 40¢ per dozen—1 cent each and 40%.

If valued at over 50¢ per dozen and not over \$1.25 per dozen—5¢ each and 40%.

If valued over \$1.25 and not over \$3 per dozen—10¢ each and 40%.

If valued at over \$3 per dozen, 20¢ each and 40%.

Provided that blades, handles, or other parts of any or either of the above articles imported in any other manner than assembled in finished knives, or erasers, shall be subject to no less rate of duty than provided for pen-knives, clasp-knives, pocket-knives, and pruning-knives, manicure knives and erasers, valued at more than 50¢ and not over \$1.50 per dozen; putty, as painters' knives; straw knives.

All these, 45% ad valorem.

Table, butchers', carving, cooks' hunting, kitchen, bread, butter, vegetable, fruit, cheese, plumbers', painters', palette, artists', shoe, forks, steels, finished or unfinished, with handles of mother of pearl, or ivory—16¢ each and 15%; but not less than 45%; with handles of deer-horn—12¢ each and 15% but not less than 45%; with handles of hard rubber, solid bone, celluloid or other material—5¢ each and 15%, but not less than 45%; with handles of any other material 1½¢ and 15%, but not less than 45%; tanners' knives, 45%; toy knives, 35%; knife sharpeners, 45%. Handles, horn, except for knives mentioned in paragraph 153, 30%; knife-handles, or slabs for, of mother of pearl, except for knives mentioned in paragraph 153, 35%.

It seems to me that our good friends, the cutlers, must have their choice of two things: To cheat the government, or be liable to a congestion of the brain.

JAMES M. BARNARD.

IRONY.

Whipple said: "Irony is an insult conveyed in the form of a compliment." But John Weiss remarked: "Irony is jesting hidden behind gravity."

And a few weeks ago THE CONSERVATIVE—in a moment of lamentation brought on by observing the inefficiency of certain tax-assessors in Nebraska who

always have been and, perhaps, ever will remain innocent of ownership either in personal or real property—declared that all assessors should be non-property holders.

THE CONSERVATIVE might have then also said: "Never fail to get a blacksmith to repair your watch!" Or: "When you are sick call in a lawyer. When you are in litigation get a physician."

In view of results THE CONSERVATIVE abjures irony. Upon the attempt alluded to The Indianapolis Journal, with oppressive solemnity, comments thus:

"Ex-Secretary of Agriculture Morton publishes an article on taxation in which he expresses the opinion that assessors should always be carefully selected from non-property holders. He contends that persons who own neither real estate nor personal property are best qualified for valuing the property of others. This contention seems to be fanciful. The best qualifications for an assessor are intelligence, honesty and nerve, without regard to whether he owns property or not."

The Journal gives the essentials for a good assessor. The citizen who has them has also, as a rule, property both real and personal. A blind man can criticize colorings in a picture about as well as a man who has never acquired property can value property. However, The Fremont Tribune takes another view of the matter and asserts that:

"In a characteristic vein of sarcasm J. Sterling Morton declares the ideal assessor to be a man who has no property of his own. He, Mr. Morton says, is the one to fix the value of other people's property. This suggestion may not be far amiss, after all. Such a man ought to be unbiased as to property, having none of his own to influence him."

By a parity of reasoning the confirmed invalid would be unbiased in estimating the blessings of perfect health and a fellow in hell could best describe, depict, portray and elucidate the delights of Paradise.

NEBRASKA CITY'S RAILROAD
BRIDGE.

In this number of THE CONSERVATIVE may be found the origin of the beautiful and enduring railroad bridge which spans the Missouri River at Nebraska City. The organization of the Nebraska City Bridge Company and the securing of a charter—authorizing the construction of the bridge—from congress required some energy, tact and persistency. At last after much vexatious delay and many letters and trips to Washington by the secretary of the original company the right to build the bridge was granted by the government of the United States.

But not until 1886 could capital be induced to undertake its construction. That year under the direction and super-