

United States there is a growing movement, especially among the artisans, in favour of free trade, and there is a corresponding state of alarm and of nervous uncertainty in the camp of Protection. The Presidential election was not won; it was bought: the manufacturers put up the money to purchase New York, Indiana, and Connecticut; some of them avow it with cynical frankness. They are now desperately striving by the McKinley Bill to make the farmer, upon whose dull eyes the light is slowly dawning, believe that he has an interest in Protection. Like those who practice to deceive, those who practice to plunder the community under the guise of Protection have a tangled web to weave. In that vast and diversified area of production rivalries are springing up among the protected interests themselves; what is or what is fancied to be Protection to one is ruin to another; and the monopolists in Congress are at their wits' end to devise a tariff which shall suit all. The duty on hides was put on and taken off again half a dozen times, not because legislators had changed their minds about fiscal policy, but because New England and the West were pulling against each other. The position of New England as a centre of protected manufactures and a focus of Protectionist opinion is being greatly affected by the rise of competing manufactures in different parts of the Union; it is not unlikely even that the large contingent of force which she sends to the Protectionist camp will presently be withdrawn. When "native" industries thus fall out, honest industry has a chance of coming by its own. We should not be surprised to see the whole edifice of folly and iniquity, with its lobbies, Red Parlours, and the whole apparatus of fraud and corruption, fall to the ground. It is in fact merely the fear of a sudden crash that prevents a great number of Americans from declaring at once for Free Trade. It would be curious to trace the growth of the system from the time when Protection was sought for infant industries just to enable them to grow, with an assurance that when grown they would resign it, to the present time when having grown to giant bulk they demand Protection in