

to exchange with the wheat grower of Virginia, through the medium of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh; yet such is precisely the object of the colonial system. The wheat of Michigan travels to Liverpool with the wool of Michigan, and the exchanges between the wheat grower and the wool grower are effected through the market of Leeds, three-fourths of the wool and the wheat being lost on the road. The rice of South Carolina goes to Manchester in company with the cotton of South Carolina; and the corn and the cotton of Tennessee cross the ocean together; and this long journey is performed under the idea that the planter can obtain more cloth for his rice, or the farmer more iron for his corn, by this circuitous mode of exchange, than he would do if the exchanges were made on the spot. There are many who doubt the truth of this, yet all English politico-economical writers assure us that such is the fact; and every measure now adopted by the British Government is directed towards the maintenance of the monopoly of machinery, by aid of which the people of the world have been compelled to make their exchanges in her factories.

If such a course would, under any circumstances, be absurd, how much more absurd is it in a case like the one under consideration, where the power of purchase is so small, and so little capable of increase. Whatever goes to England must be there consumed, unless it can be forced off by means of low prices; and for what she consumes, be it much or little, she has \$4.32 per head of her population to distribute, in the form of cloth and iron, among the farmers and planters of the world. It is a procrustean bed; and the misfortune of the poor farmers and planters is, that whatever she cuts off from the portion sent to her is, as a consequence of the system, cut off from all the crop.

The producers of the world have been, and they are now being sacrificed to the exchangers of the world; and therefore it is that agriculture makes so little progress, and that the cultivators of the earth, producers of all we consume, are so universally poor, and so generally uninstructed as to their true interests. The day, however, cannot be far distant, when our farmers and planters, at least, will be satisfied that their interests cannot be promoted by a system that separates the consumers from the producers, and renders cloth and iron so costly as to cause the average amount of the consumption of either to be utterly insignificant.

The object of protection is that of diminishing the distance and the waste between the producer and the consumer; thereby enabling the producer to grow rich, and to become a large consumer of cloth and iron. That it did

produce that effect is obvious from the immense increase in the consumption of both in the period between 1843 and 1847. That the facility of obtaining iron enabled the farmer to improve his mode of production, and obtain large returns, is obvious from the fact, that the supply of food increased so rapidly. That the free trade system produces the reverse effect, is obvious from the great reduction now going on; the whole consumption of this year not equalling that of 1847, notwithstanding the vast increase of population.

The producers of food throughout the world have one common interest, and that is to be promoted by the abolition of the existing monopoly system, which tends to destroy themselves and their customers.

The farmer is also a producer of wool; and, therefore, I will briefly allude to that interest.

If we secure evidence of the truth of what has been said in relation to food, it may be found in the condition of the wool market for several years past. Our production is less than our ordinary consumption, and the consequence, that the price is higher than in any country of the world, by the whole amount of the cost of transportation.* Close the woollen mills, and the price must fall to the level of the markets of Europe, minus the cost of exportation. The increased supply then would, as a matter of course, produce a fall of prices; and then the sheep grower would be ruined. The changes of policy, of the last twenty years, have several times ruined the wool manufacturers; and the sheep growers have as often exterminated their flocks; the consequence of which is, that we have less than 30,000,000, when, if the policy adopted in 1828 had been maintained, we should now have 100,000,000, and a market for their whole products, at higher prices than now; for the prosperous labourers, miners and mechanics, cotton growers and food growers, would then consume six pounds where now they consume but three; and the number of our population would be greater by 7,000,000 than at present. The discord that now exists is the result of the "war upon the labour and capital of the world" maintained by England; and when peace shall have been restored, by the abolition of the monopoly, it will be found, that, between the interests of the sheep grower, the producer of food, the miner and the mechanic, there is perfect harmony.

* Much of the wool that was sent to Europe was returned, the price abroad being less than the price at home, by more than the cost of transportation. Such will be the case with food, when the farmer shall make a market on the land for all the products of the land.