

WHAT WOULD I DO WITH THE TARIFF? 331

duties were raised upon articles of general consumption used by the masses, because one article could be substituted for another and the cost is always carefully considered. But this does not apply strongly to luxuries, which are chiefly matters of taste and fashion and are purchased solely by the rich, to whom price is not the first consideration. To double the tax upon champagne, for instance, or upon fine foreign china, woollens, silks, linens, laces, embroideries, etc., would not greatly deter the rich class from purchasing. The reduction in the amount consumed would probably not much more than equal the ordinary increase arising from the increase of population and wealth. The amount of additional duty received, therefore, would soon be substantially the amount imposed. But even if the higher taxes reduced the use of the foreign products one-fourth for a time, the revenues would still be one-fourth more were the taxes doubled. Should, however, a considerable reduction in consumption take place, so much the better. There is a silver lining to that cloud, for so much more of the wealth of the country would be used for the purchase of home products, or, at least, not spent in luxurious living. It might be claimed that the home manufacturer would finally produce the finest qualities of textile goods if the foreign goods were highly taxed. So be it, and so much the better for the country if he did; but it would