

forms of trade in the United States." If Mr. Blaine means in the first clause of this statement that the export of English and French manufactured goods to the United States was checked, I challenge the truth of the statement. The allied forces landed in the Crimea in September, 1854. They retired in July, 1856. Our imported dutiable goods, largely manufactures from England and France, amounted in 1851 to \$210,000,000; in 1852 to \$207,000,000; in 1853 to \$203,000,000. These were the three years before the war. In 1854 they amounted to \$297,000,000; in 1855 to \$257,000,000; in 1856 to \$310,000,000. These were the three years of the war. These figures show that we imported during the three years of the war \$180,000,000 more of dutiable goods than we did in the preceding three years. It cannot be claimed that there was such an arrest in the importation of goods as to cause an increase of price in those manufactured here. The importation kept down the price of home made goods to the low point of protection afforded by the tariff. Like the Irish famine, the sole direct effect of the war was to enhance somewhat for two or three years the prices of our breadstuffs. But Mr. Blaine says that "an extraordinary stimulus was given to all forms of trade in the United States." Manufacturing, I take it, is a branch of "trade." If the fact be, as Mr. Blaine states it, that an extraordinary stimulus was given to manufacturing, under the very low tariff then in force, the explanation of it is to be found in the fact that the manufacturing interest partook fully, as it always will under natural conditions, and without artificial aids, of the general prosperity of the great agricultural interests.

People who remove to the new States of the West from the older portions of the country, as a rule, always do so in the hope and expectation of thereby improving their circumstances. In order to do that they are willing to deprive themselves and their families of the comforts and conveniences of old settlements. In order to do that they are willing to break up old and fond associations with kindred and friends. In order to do that they accept all the hard conditions incident to life in a new and unimproved country. For that purpose they struggle and toil and pinch themselves and families through long years.

This being the case, it would only be reasonable to expect that property should accumulate more rapidly, in proportion to population, in the Western than in the Eastern States. Under natural conditions that ought to be true; under the low tariff, between 1846 and 1860 it was true. Every figure we have conclusively proves it was true. But since 1860, under the high tariff, every fact and every figure demonstrates that the natural and just order of things is changed, and that, in proportion to population, the wealth of the manufacturing States of the East is far outgrowing that of the agricultural States of the West. With all of his ingenuity Mr. Blaine cannot hide this open, palpable fact. The very figures he gives us proves it is true, and testifies to the monstrous injustice the protective tariff is to the farmers of the West.

Mr. Blaine is evidently greatly worried over the marked prosperity following the enactment of the law of 1846. This prosperity was so general and satisfactory that all talk of an increase of tariff rates had long since ceased. The country for the first time since 1816 was at peace on the vexed question. Nay, in 1857 the representatives of the manufacturing interests of New England joined hands with the planters of the South to cut the rates of duty still lower. By a combination of old Whigs, Republicans, Know-Nothings, and Democrats, the bill was passed through both houses of Congress by great majorities. The best evidence that a law is a good law is that for many years it gives to every section of the Union, and to every interest and class of men entire satisfaction. That is the glory of the law of 1846, as it was the glory of the low tariff of 1789, which gave such universal satisfaction for twenty-three years, that, when it was necessary to raise the duties on the breaking out of the war of 1812, Congress took care to provide that on the restoration of peace the old duties should be restored.

But how has it been under every protective law we have ever had? The period of their existence has always been marked by exhibitions of selfishness, exhibitions of greedy and disgusting avarice. The halls of Congress have been thronged, at nearly every session, with impudent, mendacious beggars for Government interference in favor of private interests. As the result of the continuance of this system through a long series of years, and after hundreds of large and undeserved fortunes have been created by Governmental favoritism, we see the recipients of the favor of the Government exhausting human wit and ingenuity, by the machinery of "combinations," "understandings," "pools," and "Trusts" in sucking the last possible drop of blood from the people whom the Tariff Law has placed at their mercy.

Of course a protective tariff law always has produced and always will produce debate, contention, dispute, and bitter controversy. The whole theory of protection is founded on the desire to take one man's money and give it to another who has not earned it. Of course, there can be no peace, no quiet, no content under such a law, because every well-informed, conscientious man feels and knows that it is an intolerable outrage. It is idle to expect, in a free country, millions of intelligent men to submit to this legalized robbery (Mr. Gladstone gives it its right name), without violent outcry and fierce resistance.