

amount of unoccupied fertile land, the population of the western states did continue to increase in a rather rapid ratio. But it is distinctly untrue that the population of any of the older States, in spite of protection, has increased one whit more rapidly than that of the Dominion of Canada under its present tariff. The United States returns show that the population of Maine in 1860, was 628,279; in 1870, 626,915. The population of Vermont was 315,098, in 1860; and in 1870, 330,551. The population of New Hampshire was 326,073 in 1860; and 316,330 in 1870. The population of New York was 3,880,733, in 1860; and 4,387,646 in 1870; while even in Massachusetts it was 1,231,066 in 1860, and 1,457,351 in 1870. In other words, the population of all these States collectively increased much more slowly than that of the Province of Ontario, or even the Province of Quebec. And even in Massachusetts the population does not appear to have increased one whit more rapidly than in the case of Nova Scotia, where it rose from 330,857 in 1861, to 387,000 in 1871. Truth to tell, the only thing which appears to have increased with unexampled rapidity in the United States, was the amount of municipal taxation, which rose so rapidly under the operation of protective laws, that in one hundred and thirty-one cities of which we have authentic records, the taxation for municipal purposes had risen from \$66,000,000 in 1865, to \$112,000,000 in 1875; and in which about one quarter of their population had been reduced to a condition of abject destitution. While as to the statement that England had prospered under a highly protective system, nothing could be more utterly at variance with the actual facts of the case, as depicted by English writers of the highest authority.

England Depressed under Protection.

All parties, no matter in what else they differ, agree in this—that the period preceding the introduction of a Free Trade policy in England, was one of the most terrible distress. Mr. Noble, a writer of great eminence on these subjects, says expressly:—

Mr. Noble's Testimony.

"Every interest in the country was alike depressed. In the manufacturing districts, mills and workshops were closed, and all property depreciated in value. In the seaports, shipping was laid up useless in the harbours. Agricultural labourers were eking out a miserable existence upon starvation wages and parochial relief. The revenue was insufficient to meet the national expenditure, and the country was brought to the verge of national and universal bankruptcy."

Lord Macaulay gives a Similar Picture.

In a speech delivered at Edinburgh in 1845, Lord Macaulay says: "So visible was the misery of the manufacturing towns, that a man of sensibility could hardly bear to pass through them. Everywhere he found filth, and nakedness, and plaintive voices, and wasted forms, and haggard faces. Politicians who had never been thought alarmists began to tremble for the very foundations of society. First the mills were put on short time. Then they ceased to work at all. Then went to pledge the scanty property of the artisan; first his little luxuries then his comforts, then his necessities. The hovels were stripped till they were as bare as the hovel of a dog-ribbed Indian. Alone, amidst the general misery, the shop with the three golden balls pres-