

The man on the street has not the education, training or time to deal with questions of this magnitude, and will be generally found to acquire his opinions from the public press. It is a cheering fact that the press of the United States, taken as a whole, is conducted by men of signal ability. It represents the brains, conservatism and judgment of the people at large; and on this important question it has not yet spoken. The men who write for the press are fully alive to the fact that great accumulations of capital are essential to the successful conduct of the gigantic business operations of modern times; that the day of the small manufacturer has passed, never to return; and that the contemplated reduction of the United States tariff, which will bring the American manufacturer, for the first time in fifty years, face to face with the great manufacturers of the world, and will open American markets to the competition of their powerful rivals in England and Germany, renders it more than ever necessary that great accumulations of money should still remain largely in individual hands. The capitalist, the captain of industry, the mill-owner, the money king, may have his faults, but the wage-earner cannot yet, it would seem, subsist without his aid. To drive him out of the country by threats of robbing him of his wealth would leave the country in a sorry plight.

Such hasty action need hardly be apprehended, notwithstanding the grave warning of a man high in political office who knows the American people well, and whose views of their sentiments and purpose are entitled to the deepest respect. To accept it literally would be to suspect a great, free and just people of harbouring an unjust design to drive from its shores its most successful and valuable citizens for no crime other than their success. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes drove to England in thousands the Huguenot hand-workers whose skill in their various crafts established her primacy as a manufacturing nation. No modern State will commit a similar blunder.