

quarter millions of dollars came in each year under the 17½ per cent. list. Many of the articles we could and ought to manufacture here in Canada; nearly all of them represented skilled labour and capital profitably employed. In return, the United States took from us products valued at twenty-five millions, one half of which was farm product, and a fifth was the product of the forest. It all represented the least remunerative form of labour, and the smallest return for capital. For the privilege of paying for half of our annual imports in this costly way, we paid an average duty on the American frontier of at least twenty-five per cent., and the resulting balance of twenty-three millions or more, we must pay in hard cash. It was estimated that on the articles imported from the United States, paying 17½ per cent. and over *ad valorem*, the invoices and valuations actually reduced the duty to 10 per cent. or less; but most of the kind of products we sent across the border could not be so undervalued. The great shrinkage in values also, on the general list of manufactures, rendered it certain that, in quantity, our imports from the United States had constantly and largely increased to an extent far beyond the figures in our annual returns. Now, from Great Britain, our free imports had declined from \$15,287,217, in 1874, to \$5,291,397 in 1878, while the 17½ per cent. list had fallen from \$39,572,596, in 1874, to the startling figure of \$24,245,295 in 1878; and upon this list, except in two or three leading articles, our neighbours across the line had been steadily supplanting their trade under the policy so vehemently persisted in by the hon. gentlemen opposite. If they questioned this state of things, forsooth, the loyalty ory was raised among gentlemen, many of whom subscribed to a certain party platform in Quebec, a few years ago, having annexation as one of the planks; gentlemen who did not hesitate to place in a most responsible position in the Ministry one who had threatened to tear down the British flag from the citadel of Halifax, and who instilled into the ears of the people of Canada everywhere the insidious teachings of David A. Wells and his school, the tendency of which had been clearly shown, and was frankly and openly acknowledged by those earnest Free-

traders. He (Mr. Plumb) was not speaking in hostility to those gentlemen, or to the people of the United States generally. They were shrewd enough to know the advantages of their legislation. He had no idea that this tariff would be received as hostile. It was unworthy of our statesmen to say they were afraid that our legislation might be met with opposition by our American neighbours. There were gentlemen in the House who were too blind to see the benefits that accrued from Protection. There were others who did see it, but wilfully hoodwinked themselves.

"They know the right, and they approve it too;

They see the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue."

Hon. gentlemen, by the course they pursued last Session, sealed their death-warrants. They disregarded the plainly-expressed wishes of the people, and the result was shown on the 17th of September. It was not by false promises, as hon. gentlemen had been pleased to assert, that the present Government had succeeded at the late elections. The people had had experience of the value of the promises of hon. gentlemen opposite, and they measured them on September 17th at their true value. Hon. gentlemen need not lay the flattering unction to their souls that there was likely to be any reaction in their favour, or that the National Policy was unpopular with the masses. They need not try to believe, for a moment, that what they said about the pending ruin to the manufacturer and the labourer, and the other interests, was going to be accepted by the people. The people had declared that they would sustain this policy. The argument had been exhausted during the campaign. The issue was a direct one. The people fully understood what this policy meant. It meant that they were not only to have cheap food, but something to buy it with; not only cheap clothing, but the wherewith to procure it. The legislation here to-day was for the poor man, and not for the rich man. The idea of the Grit party, that his hon. friends were blind to their interest, and that they were legislating for privileged classes, was absurd. Hon. gentlemen opposite knew very well the policy the Government had adopted, was the policy the country