

latter is the policy of the past, while the former is the policy of the future. Protectionists, it is said, are "old fogies," men of worn-out and obsolete ideas, which are being discarded by the advancing intelligence of our day. Between sheer intellectual indolence and the actual want of leisure to examine, in our pushing business age, men get into the habit of taking upon trust their opinions on many subjects which are either difficult, or have been made to seem so. How many are there in Canada this day who, if mental processes could be daguerretyped to our view, would be found deciding in favour of Free Trade for no other reason than because public opinion in England has decided for it? They will profess to give other reasons, but this is the principal one, could the truth be known. Such men of mark as Mr. Cobden and Sir Robert Peel were Free Traders; Mr. Gladstone and Mr. John Stuart Mill are the same, while the English periodical press has, by its scathing exposures of the fallacies of the old and absurd system of restrictions on imports of foreign food and raw material, made a belief in Protection in England almost an accredited mark of mental imbecility. And little wonder either that it is so, for the Protection from which England has lately been emancipated was one of the most stupendous structures of national folly ever reared. It is not that sort of protection, by any means, which we should desire in Canada: but to this point we will come further on. National conviction on the subject has now in England so matured itself, fortified by experience, that Conservative Governments no longer dream of reversing the new policy. Indeed, Lord Derby and Mr. D'Israeli are now probably Free Traders, not merely from motives of policy or expediency, but from actual conviction. It is a hasty taking up of these facts, with a disregard, meanwhile, of certain other facts, which makes so many people jump to the conclusion that Free Trade is the "policy of the future," without doubt. And it is through a process of this kind, combined with the *fear* of being classed among the obtuse and thick-headed representatives of old foggydom, that so many well-informed people amongst us declare themselves to be Free Traders. Among commercial men, especially, it is deemed "not the thing" to be a Protectionist. It may do for the class of small country storekeepers and their clerks, but would be ridiculous in any one holding a position in a wholesale house. The