

“ can successfully compete with us. The producers of these, as well
 “ as the vast army of our mechanics and manufacturers, are consumers
 “ of our ordinary agricultural staples, and form their chief market.
 “ There is such a manifold diversity in our firmly-rooted and competi-
 “ tion defying industries, that we need to nurse no sickly exotics
 “ not suited to our country or circumstances. The prices of agricul-
 “ tural products are, in all reason, high enough, without attempt-
 “ ing by legislation to divert more of our people from agriculture.”

The reason why some kinds of manufactures possible are not profitable in the United States is that the home market is not extensive enough to support them. To encourage such manufactures by a high tariff is supremely foolish. If the statesmen of the neighbouring republic were wise they would repeal all that part of their tariff designed to be protective, and seek to increase the national wealth by extending the foreign demand for the things they can produce as cheap or perhaps cheaper, than the rest of the world. England sustains her enormous debt and doubles her wealth every two or three decades by the immense profits she makes in selling her products in a wide range of foreign markets. It is not by trading with highly-civilised nations that she acquires her gains, but with peoples whose industry is yet undeveloped. The coarser manufactures adapted to such markets the United States could produce as cheaply as England, in establishments on the same extensive scale. America is nearer than Great Britain to both coasts of South America, yet the South American market is to the latter country a mine of wealth. The true policy of our neighbours is to buy the things which other nations can produce more cheaply than itself, and to compete with them in all foreign markets in such things as they can produce with equal or greater advantages. But it is simple nonsense to think of sending to foreign markets products which cannot stand their ground without protection at home. With its diversified industries, with its great mineral wealth and never-ceasing stream of labour supply, it ought to be able to compete with all the countries in the world for the command of foreign markets. No doubt it could have done so in many articles if a proper system had been adopted at the first. A ruinous national policy has, however, been entered upon. In spite of a 50 per cent. tariff the people of the United States imported last year over \$400,000,000 of foreign manufactures. What was the extent of their exported manufactures? Comparatively nothing, with plenty of markets open in which they ought to have been successful competitors. Had they pursued a proper commercial system they would to-day have been a creditor instead of a debtor nation, and branches of industry, now languishing for progress in which the country is peculiarly adapted, would be flourishing. Provisions