

may produce in England the revolutionary effect, wrought in France by the return of LaFayette's army.

The value of Canada to England, is a value which is both absolute and relative; which cannot readily be estimated and which can only be proved by its loss; *by that fell and mournful experiment, the severance of connection between the mother country and the Colony.*

England has, in protecting Canada, not merely to count upon a commercial monopoly, a field for emigration, relieving her of her surplus population, an exclusive market for her manufactures, and to estimate the value of a loyal subject, which will one day become a powerful ally; but to consider the avoidance of precisely opposite results, the loss of customers, the increase of rival manufactures, and the accession of strength to a rival and hostile power.

So much for general conjecture. Let us see if the anticipations of the future are born out by the experience of the past. When we look to the rapid advance of the British Provinces, in population, wealth and importance, when we look to the increased trade of Lower Canada, when we look to the rapid settlement of Upper Canada, when we reflect that such prosperity has arisen under a system of protective duties, has sprung not from the natural capabilities of the Colonies, but their artificial advantages, we must allow that the experience of the past is the most powerful of protectionist argument.—It is under the system of protection that Canada has made the most rapid strides in the race of improvement; that the trade, population and wealth of Lower Canada has so greatly increased; that Upper Canada has grown from the wilderness; that the British Provinces annually afford a prosperous home to thousands of British emigrants and that England has gained an almost exclusive market of nearly two millions of people. If such are the results of protection an opposite system of commercial policy will produce opposite results; and it is but fair to conclude that benefits arising from the protective system, and being dependent upon it, will, should it be abolished, be destroyed with it.

But, whatever may be the consequences of the withdrawal of protection from Canadian agriculture, and however heavy those consequences may actually be, they are but slight and trifling when compared with the