

burdensome discriminations. These principles were avowed while they were yet struggling for their independence, are recorded in their first treaty, and have been adhered to with the most scrupulous fidelity.

The exceptional character of our natural commercial relations with Canada has also been duly observed by some of the most eminent advocates of what is termed a "protective" policy. One of the chief arguments in its favor is that against admitting the products of "pauper labor" to compete with those of our own citizens. It has no force in reference to a contiguous country, from which people can pass to the United States in a few moments or at most a few hours. The other argument of the same class of theorists is derived from the importance of a "home market." But a "home market" is the market nearest home, and this is furnished by the respective countries to each other at every point of their coterminous territory.

Mr. Clay, who was called the father of the "protective" system, duly appreciated these facts, and from his stand-point added valuable testimony to the uniformity of opinion among American statesmen in his time, and his conviction as to the policy by which he desired our country to be guided.

The Government of the United States—

He said—

has always been anxious that the trade between them and the British colonies should be placed on a liberal and equitable basis. There has not been a moment since the adoption of the present Constitution when they have not been willing to apply to it principles of fair reciprocity and equal competition.

As time has passed and the country on both sides of the frontier has become more closely inhabited, farms, villages, and cities taking the place of the primeval wilderness, the value of the intercourse of the people has immensely increased. When Mr. Clay and Mr. Van Buren deemed it important the population of Canada was insignificant. It is now larger than that of all the six New England States added together.

The interests involved and the benefits each country can confer upon itself by due emancipation of its industry are so many and obvious that they will continually demand discussion until they are fully settled on the basis of perfect freedom and our trade with Canada is as unrestricted as that of our different States among themselves. It is our duty to regard these questions practically, avoiding alike on one side the inconsiderate haste which might result from political sentimentality, and on the other the influence of the absurd and pernicious dogma which carried to its logical results would put an end to all trade, individual as well as national, that whatever is profitable to others must be injurious to ourselves.

THE MAGNITUDE OF CANADIAN TRADE.

The modern increase of facilities of communication by canals, rail-