

compels six millions of American farmers to buy high and sell cheap, thus robbing them twice at once. And the scale upon which this robbery is effected, is one of gigantic magnitude. No Roman pro-consul, no Verres in the height of his power and in the fullest exercise of his unbridled rapacity, ever plundered subject provinces to anything like the extent to which the privileged manufacturers of the Atlantic States have been authorized by Congress to pillage the cultivators of the soil in all parts of the American Union. As regards the South alone, it has been stated, on excellent authority, that the planters paid tribute to the North between 1821 and 1850, to the extent of \$375,000,000; this representing the proceeds of the sale of their produce abroad, which were confiscated in the shape of customs duties on the commodities received in return; duties levied under the authority of the protective tariffs at the various ports of entry, and paid into the Treasury at Washington.

Some estimate may be formed of the magnitude of the present confiscation by the American Government of the agriculturists' produce, on glancing at the chief items of export under this head in 1874. They were these:—

|                            | VALUE.           |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Live animals.....          | \$3,310,388 00   |
| Breadstuffs .....          | 161,198,864 00   |
| Raw cotton.....            | 221,223,580 00   |
| Fruits.....                | 994,162 00       |
| Furs .....                 | 3,334,365 00     |
| Hides and skins .....      | 2,560,382 00     |
| Oils.....                  | 43,121,607 00    |
| Oil cake.....              | 4,099,360 00     |
| Provisions .....           | 78,229,010 00    |
| Resin and turpentine ..... | 3,046,431 00     |
| Seeds .....                | 675,357 00       |
| Sugar.....                 | 1,057,334 00     |
| Molasses.....              | 569,972 00       |
| Hops.....                  | 27,973 00        |
| Tallow .....               | 8,135,320 00     |
| Tobacco leaf .....         | 30,399,181 00    |
| Total .....                | \$561,983,286 00 |

Here we have a total of \$561,983,286, or say, £112,000,000 sterling representing the value of the agricultural produce sent abroad in a single year, and paid for by foreign commodities. But when these reach an American port, the Government steps in, and in the name of protection confiscates at least one-third of them. For this is what it amounts to when *ad valorem* duties averaging something like 50 per cent. are imposed. Supposing these duties were paid in kind, and that a western farmer imported two bales of blankets in exchange for a given quantity of wheat, he would have to export so much additional grain as would procure him a third bale of blankets, which would be handed over to the Custom-house officer in compliance with the provisions of a tariff enacted at the instance, and in the interest, of certain wealthy woollen manufacturers in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and elsewhere. To exhibit this more clearly, I have appended the prices of a few articles of agricultural produce in 1860 and 1870 respectively, as these