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REMARKS ON THE NEW TARIFF.



S the duties imposed on foreign manufactures by the new Tariff will so much affect the industries of the Dominion, for either weal or woe, and as the advantages, or disadvantages, of protective legislation are still as hotly debated, *pro* and *con*, by the press, as they were on the eve of the last general election, we feel, however much we desire to refrain from touching on political topics, that as the tariff so particularly concerns the welfare of the manufacturing interests of the Dominion, we cannot

altogether remain silent. Our duty, however, is not to advocate the political opinions of either party, but simply to offer a few words of advice to those whose interests are most nearly concerned in the change that has been made. In the leading article which appeared in the last November number of this Magazine, the views taken by this journal on the subject were so different to those ultra opinions of strong political partisans, that we have, in several instances, received the approbation of the manufacturers on either side of politics, for the new light in which we reasoned out the question. The reason for this was simply because we discussed the question unbiassed by either political or pecuniary interests. We reviewed the whole question of Protection or Free Trade calmly and unprejudiced; we wish we could say the same of the press in general. We cannot but deeply deprecate the rancour that fills the columns of the leading papers on each side of the political arena, and we deeply regret that all calm reasoning should have been entirely lost sight of, and that the arguments of the press and of members of the House on one side, and the personal aspersions on the character of public men should be answered by a *tu quoque* reply by the other party, and that debate should have resolved itself into a wordy

war of political enmity. This should not be. It is the first duty of every representative, when he takes his seat in the House of Commons, to sink all political rancour, when great subjects come before the House that are intended for the public weal, and they should debate the subject free from any disturbing influences contrary to their own rational judgment. Our statesmen should bear in mind the friendly and parting advice given to us all by the Earl of Dufferin; but we fear the admonition of our late esteemed Governor has already been forgotten, when we see the press, on one side of politics, leading the country on to increase their manufactories, by their glowing prophecies of coming prosperity, which as yet are only imaginary, on the supposition that the effect of the tariff is already having a most beneficial effect—which is a premature conclusion—and thereby creating a false impression, which is likely to lead us into still greater trouble; and the press on the Opposition side is doing all that it possibly can to create a want of confidence in this measure of the Government, and to make depression still more depressed. Indeed, it would appear from a review of the past politics of the country, that, no matter what party is in power, it is the creed of the other to oppose and impede, in every possible way, their opponents actions, and to besmear each other's characters with the greatest amount of abuse and calumny, to damage their opponents in the eyes of their constituents—all true patriotism is sunk in these unnatural party conflicts.

The effect of this selfish rivalry must be ever prejudicial to the interests of the country, and it is high time that a more enlightened form of government and useful legislation should be adopted by our representatives and the press.

The country has decided in favour of protection by a very large majority. There is no use, therefore, in the Opposition saying that the people were deluded into voting for protection by false representations. Unfortunately, the people are always deluded; the victory is generally gained by that party which, on the eve of an election, can display the most attractive delusive colours. The fact of the case was simply this: that from the depressed state of our manufactures, and the number of manufactories closed up, and mechanics and labourers