

tory, however large, which is under a single government: Napoleon, reactionary in economy as he was, established free trade between the countries included in his vast empire, and in that way made up to them, in a great degree, for the oppressiveness of his Continental system. Enlarge the area from the territory of a single government to the whole world, and the economical principle remains the same. Free Trade among all nations, if it were possible, would be the greatest of blessings to them all. But in the present state of the world it is not possible: every nation is practically compelled to raise revenue by customs; each must have its own tariff, and each will adjust its tariff to its own circumstances, giving its own industries all the advantage in its power. England has her tariff and adjusts it to her own circumstances like the rest. To adapt the Canadian tariff to the requirements of Canada was right; it was right to raise the sum required by increased taxation instead of continuing the fatally seductive policy of loans; it was right, supposing the system of Commercial Separation from the rest of the Continent to be retained, to put the Canadian producer on an equal footing with his competitor over the Line; while the increase of the receipts, combined as it was with an increase of the trade, vindicated the revenue character of the measure. Now it is time to halt and review the situation. Protection, in the ancient sense of the term, that is the imposition of taxes not for the purpose of revenue, but for the purpose of excluding foreign goods and enabling the home manufacturer to sell dear, has been proved by calamitous experience, and is pronounced by every independent authority, to be the most costly and the most objectionable of all ways of enriching a few at the expense of the people; the most costly because it not only takes money out of the pockets of the people but misdirects the investment of capital and perverts the course of industry; the most objectionable because it fills the country with Rings, with smuggling, and with corruption of all kinds. To the argument that internal competition will keep prices down, the answer is that possibly it might in the absence of Rings, and provided the country were not too small. The United States are a Continent producing almost everything except tea and coffee in itself, yet