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SELF-PROTECTION

Under the title of "National Self-Protection" there appears in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September a very able article, which we shall endeavor to place before our readers in a condensed form. The writer, Mr. Wharton, in defence of the United States policy of Protection, says:—

"Protection to home manufactures. The tariff of a free exchange of products as much talked of as a means of enriching the people, is not, either in direction in which her interests lie. Thus, prohibiting the produce of others, according to circumstances, may be a wise or a foolish, a just or an unjust measure. Whether it is the one or the other, we shall not now discuss. We have, however, to do with the assertion, which we hear almost every day, that it is a violation of natural rights, and that it is a violation of natural rights because it is a violation of the rights of property. Now, we do not deny that it is a violation of the rights of property, but we do deny that it is a violation of natural rights. Property is not a natural right, but a creature of law, and the rights of property are the creatures of the laws. Property is the product of labor, and labor is a natural right; but the rights of property are those which the law creates, and they are not the rights which the law should create, but those which it does create. The