

nature has denied. We may assist nature, but not bid her defiance, for this would be an expensive job to all parties. It is quite possible to expend protection unwisely in vain efforts to overcome natural disadvantages, but, with this exception, protection is necessary to all infant communities and branches of industry, in order to guard them from foreign competition.

In reply to this, it has been said that the English cotton manufacture grew up without protection. It did, and for a very good reason; it had no competition, and therefore needed no protection. The cotton manufacturers had none to oppose them. There was not a yard of cotton made in Europe but by themselves.—There was a little imported from the East, but too little to affect them. They could from the beginning charge their own prices, and thus protect themselves. In this case all that they required was to be let alone. But how does it happen that those who refer to the cotton manufacture have entirely forgotten how the woollen manufacture was established? It is well known that in the early ages English wool was exported to the continent of Europe, there manufactured into cloth, and then returned to the English market; and the English woollen manufacture was established solely by being protected from this foreign competition by a duty of 20 per cent on foreign cloth, and afterwards by its being prohibited altogether. In 1338 (Edward III.) it was enacted that no wool of English growth should be for the future transported beyond sea, and that all cloth-workers should be received, from whatever foreign parts they came, and encouraged. It was also ordained, that none should wear any clothes made beyond sea, except the king, queen, and their children; also that none should wear foreign furs and silks, unless he was worth £100 per annum. In consequence of this encouragement, in 1340, Thomas Blanket, and some other inhabitants of Bristol, set up looms in their own houses for weaving those woollen cloths which yet bear that name. In 1463, (Edward IV.) the importation of woollen cloths, laces, and ribbons, and other articles manufactured in England, was strictly forbidden. In 1668, (Charles II.) one Brewer, with about fifty Walloons, who wrought and dyed fine woollen cloths, came into England, and instructed the English in their manufactory, which enabled them to sell forty per cent cheaper than they could be-

fore. The English woollen manufacture, then, was fostered by protection and prohibition, without which it could not have been established at all, having from the first to contend with a matured foreign competition; but the cotton manufacture, on the contrary, had to encounter no competition. The opposite circumstances required opposite treatment.

If any country in the world can safely abandon all protection to its domestic industry, that country is England; for her manufactures are so matured, and her capital and skill so great, that she might safely proclaim free trade with all nations, were it not for the drawback of heavy taxation. If she had no national debt, and her taxes were confined to meet the current expenses of her government, her other advantages would enable her to compete with every other nation to profit. And even as it is, many political economists believe that she can do so, and should abolish all protecting duties. If this opinion be correct, still, there is a vast difference between an old country full of capital, and a young land destitute of it. What may be sound policy in the one case, may be the very reverse in the other. An indiscriminate application of general rules or principles, often produces much mischief.

The principle of protection being, then, required for every infant community or process that has to encounter foreign competition, the case of the Canadian agriculturist we conceive to be this. Settled in a new country, nearly destitute of capital, and having to contend with numerous difficulties, the full power of which none can know but those who endure them, he requires protection from foreign competition in the chief produce of his labour. How that protection may be best afforded admits of doubt. The most general desire is for a duty on American produce imported into Canada. How that would operate we have already explained. The next desire is, if the duty here would militate against Imperial interests, to have Canadian produce admitted into England duty free. This we formerly remarked, appears reasonable, and the Canadian farmer deserves the boon. A third plan is, that an Imperial duty shall be levied and collected in Canada on produce imported from the States. This also would be just, as it would secure to the Canadian farmer the full benefit of his country's markets, and his country's capital, instead of having that divert-