

delphia cannot maintain their ground against foreign competition with a protection of 30 per cent, is not that the best argument that can be used against the establishment of such manufactures? Or supposing the people to be content at this time to pay this advance on their iron, will they always be content to do so? At present, in consequence of there being little competition, both wages and prices are high in these establishments, but that will not always be the case. With increased competition, the manufacturer will find himself compelled to economise, and he will do so, in the only way he can, by reducing the price of wages; the public, however, will still pay the 30 per cent on their iron for the privilege of having it made at home, whilst neither labourer nor maker will grow rich. This is shewn by the fact that at the present moment a number of iron-foundries are on the eve of being closed because they cannot compete with foreign iron entered at an *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent. And yet it is to preserve these manufactures that a vicious system is sought to be kept up.

Not one of the least bad effects produced by these high duties is to raise wages above the natural level by the unnatural fostering of a non-conventional trade. Thus it is, that in order to get persons to work in factories and coal mines in a country where, from the field of production being large and labour always required in large quantities, wages are naturally high, very advanced rates have to be given; the consequence is, that those who remain engaged in agriculture demand and receive more, and the farmer is thus made to pay in the shape of wages, as well as in a hundred other ways, for the support of the manufacturer, and that he may boast that his clothes were made in Lowell instead of being brought from abroad.

We mention these things not with much hope that they will influence the public mind in the United States, but in order to show what we believe to be the natural working of the present system. Whether that system will long be maintained, we will not express an opinion. As far as the late Bill is concerned, our opinion is decided. It is a very feeble indication of better things, exhibiting little statesmanship, and likely to prove a perfect failure as a revenue measure. The fact that it should have created so much alarm shows on what an unstable foundation American manufactures stand, and must be highly encouraging to the British people, for if it be true that in the face of the present duties they can go into American markets and beat the native manufacturer, two things are certain—1st, That no protection will shut them out, and, 2ndly, That for the next hundred years at least they need entertain no fear of American competition in the other markets of the world.

The articles annexed are from two papers favourable to the New Tariff, and we give them, as showing that, with a portion of the community at least, there is a reliance on native industry and skill, which must eventually lead to a more liberal policy on the part of the Government:—

[From the Washington Union.]

The two principal species of manufacture in New England are cotton and woollen cloths; in Pennsylvania coal and iron are considered staple commodities. Now as regards the manufacture of cotton, it is well known that our plain goods, from the superiority of the material employed (no refuse being worked up in them,) and the round thread which distinguishes them from the English, and renders them much more durable, are not only preferred at home to any foreign competitors, but also in our own markets, especially in China, the East Indies, and on the shores of the Mediterranean. American cotton goods have been imported into England in bond and for re-exportation. If the British calico printers have still some little advantage over our own, it is only in price, not in the quality of goods; and this will be corrected by a very small duty, to which must be added about eleven per cent., the amount of freight, commission, insurance, &c., according to the best English writers on the subject. Besides, calico printing in our country is not a special business as it is in England, but connected with other branches of manufactures, as our cotton spinners are, for the most part, also cotton-weavers. Thus one branch supports the other, and the diminution of the profits of one does not necessarily curtail the profits on the rest. Moreover the diminution of the profits on a particular article is not equivalent to its ruin, and often acts only as an additional stimulus to renewed and more successful exertion. Sir Robert Peel's father gave up the cotton business, because it was, in his opinion, no longer worth pursuing, the profits amounting to no more than a guinea a piece. Yet, notwithstanding this partial retirement, the business has multiplied, and thousands have since been glad to make a shilling a piece, and have grown rich in the bargain. So much for ruin!

As regards the second great branch of New England manufactures—woolens—the profits realized on them for the last ten years, are enormous. We understand that one Boston house alone has realized from \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year. The coarser articles in use in our country are nearly altogether of domestic manufacture, and may, in quality and cheapness, compete with those of Europe. Nothing but the finer qualities are now imported, principally from France and Belgium. English broadcloths are fast going out of use in all our Atlantic cities. The new tariff, therefore, will not seriously affect our woollen manufactures. They are in the hands of men of large capital, commanding ample means, and having already acquired great experience, those manufacturers will be able to continue their business, and with common prudence and economy multiply it, in spite of the small reduction in their profits for the benefit of their numerous consumers. Let us not forget that our people are the most ingenious and inventive people under the sun; born, as it were, with mechanical genius, and a slate-pencil in their hands. Manu-

factures with them are not a hothouse plant; but of healthy, natural growth, which an artificial stimulus, by creating excessive home competition, may rather spoil than improve. One half the improvements in machinery in Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, &c., are American inventions. And some of the most ingenious labour-saving machines which have been invented in this country, have been made before the high protective tariffs were established; such as Whitney's machine for ginning cotton, and Whittemore's beautiful machine for making cotton and wool-len cards. In fact, our machines are generally better than those in England, and it is to those advantages more than to any other that we are indebted for a large variety of the cheaper and better goods.

As regards the Pennsylvania ironmasters, we trust that their apprehensions at present are extravagant and really ill-founded in fact. The demand for iron, owing to the great number of railroads simultaneously in process of construction, is excessive all over Europe, and the price of coal has also risen in consequence. The opening of a new market will not have a tendency to repress prices, but rather to enhance them. Besides, freight, insurance, commission, &c., on so heavy an article as iron or coal is more than eleven—it is said by some to be fifteen or twenty per cent, and these, added to the thirty per cent *ad valorem* duty, will enable the ironmaster to live, and to live well we trust, comfortably and profitably. Moreover, all the arrangements in our Atlantic cities are for anthracite coal; our grates, cooking-stoves, furnaces, &c., are constructed for the use of that coal; and our Pennsylvania iron possesses qualities for the manufacture of farming implements and machinery, which, in time, will even cause its exportation to Europe. We would most respectfully recommend to the ironmasters of Pennsylvania, instead of pining over lost profits, in reality or anticipation, to improve their machinery, and the means of communication, and, above all things, to practise strict economy, and all will yet go right. Nobody is seriously injured yet, and we hope that none are likely to be so; and if harm were to come, there is nothing in the principle of 1846 that precludes a proper remedy.

[From the Hartford Daily Times]

There is an aversion in the public mind against a high tariff. Medium, stable rates are desired; they are demanded, not from a desire to injure the manufacturers, but with the knowledge that they can prosper under such rates, and with a view to promote other great and controlling interests. Agriculture and commerce should not be strangled in a hot zeal to make special laws for the benefit of the manufacturers. This is not called for, and should not be. Commerce enlightens, expands, enriches. It builds your vast cities of wealth, and here agriculture finds a market. It would not become our people, who bring wealth from the remotest seas, to build Chinese walls around our borders and shut themselves up upon their own resources. It would not make them a great nor a happy people. Already the more liberal policy of England is felt by our agriculturists. The beef, pork, cheese, lard, wool, and butter trade with England is becoming important, though yet in its infancy. If we should in coming years import something more than formerly, we shall assuredly export a great deal more. We should not allow ourselves to fall back behind the tide of the age, and paddle on in the wake of those who reap riches in our front. But as a country with great and growing interests, and interests newly developed, we shall act the wiser part by casting about and taking advantage of the improvements and the spirit of the age. We cannot with propriety shut ourselves up within one interest, and look to that alone, but we must, as a government, regard with favour all the great interests of the country.

## OUR POSITION, AND THE COURSE TO BE ADOPTED.

What steps must now be taken to obtain such a decided manifestation of public opinion on the fitting course to be adopted, to enable this province to guard against any evils, and reap any advantages, which may result from the new commercial policy of Great Britain?

This is the question! and on the practical answer which shall be given to it, depends in a great degree the future destiny of this country. Every individual throughout the length and breadth of the land should lay it to heart, because every one is deeply interested in its solution. The statesman who guides the helm of government, the legislator who frames and adjusts our fiscal system, the merchant, the agriculturist, the fisherman, the mechanic, are alike called on to exercise their judgments, and bring into the common stock all the information which they can supply. From the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the western extremity of Lake Superior, the inhabitants of the borders of the lakes and rivers of Canada, and of the back country, are bound by the ties of one common interest to assist in the establishment of a commercial system adapted to the changed policy of Great Britain towards this province. In the formation of such a system it is essential that all distinctions of race or origin, all consideration of sectional or individual interests, all divisions of party, should be merged in the one object to be consummated,—the public welfare. We must resemble the ancient Romans, who when the enemy was at the gates, forget for the time all their dissensions "*ne quid respublica detrimenti caperet*," and cordially united to expel the invader.

And now the enemy is at our gates! We are threatened with dangers the most imminent to our commerce, the citadel of our prosperity! Our only reliance is in ourselves; our only hope in our united exertions!