us to have all the good things of this life in the greatest abundance, still, without these perfect gifts, we should be miserable and undone. Death would cast its dismal shadow over all our hopes, and the grave would swallow them up. How transcendent, then, must our gifts be, my hearers, since we are not only blessed with a rich abundance of the choicest things of this life, but have added to these, the largest measure of those perfect gifts by which we may so live here, as to be prepared when we go hence, for a life of endless bliss and glory, beyond the grave.

But, secondly, who gave us these good and perfect things? Did they come from Nature, or from some order of beings superior to us. Nature herself, with all her vastness, all her scenes of sublimity, beauty, and grandeur; all her varied and wonderful adaptation to our wants, and her power to produce the good things we have, is nevertheless, but a passive subject of a creating and moulding hand. She has no power to give but what she first receives. She is but an almoner of God. And those orders of beings which are higher than us: those principalities and powers in heavenly places, Angels and Arch-Angels: are just as much creatures as we. They have naught to give of their own originating. They are but ministering spirits, to do Jehovah's high commands. And whether as Guardians they encamp around the dwellings of the just, or as messengers they go on errands of mercy and goodness: or as attendants upon the souls of the departed faithful, they conduct them to Paradise, they have nothing to give but what they have received: nothing to do but to obey the commands of the Father of lights.

And so we must come to the conclusion of St. James, as taught in our text, that "Every good and every perfect gift, is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

But, thirdly, I remark, that these things being really so, seasons of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, are in the highest degree reasonable, wise, and just. It seems to be a dictate of the noblest elements of our nature, to be thankful for favors bestowed upon us by our fellows. And he who is not thus moved to an expression of gratitude, is deemed beneath the level of a man.

But, alas! how commonly, how almost universally is unthankfulness to the Father of every good and perfect gift found, to a greater or less degree, amongst the receivers of these gifts. Human benefactors are frequently requieted with warmest and sincerest gratitude and thanks for giving that which is not theirs to give except as stewards of the Lord—while the Lord himself, who is the real benefactor—who both gave being to the gifts and the good will that bestowed it, is overlooked and almost forgotten. It may be, because He is invisible to our mortal eyes, and intangible by our natural senses. Or it may be because He has gone into a far country and left us to occupy till His return, that we are so insensible of our obligations of Thanksgiving to Him.

But be it what it will, it furnishes no good reason for ingratitude. The hand of our Heavenly Father may be discerned in its benevolent movements, by the eye of faith, and our whole soul should be constantly moved with the deepest feeling of thankfulness for all the good and perfect gifts we receive.—First, to God, as their Author, and, Secondly, to those whom He uses as almoners of His bounty.

And hence, my hearers, so I look upon these days of Thanksgiving as seasons of highest spiritual improvement; since they lead us to reflect upon and perhaps to realize in some degree, the true *source of all our* good and perfect things. They make us humble in view of our dependence, on our Heavenly Father, and thankful in view of the abundance He so freely and so kindly bestows.

But, finally, we have great cause of thankfulness in the unchangeableness of our Father. Whatever else changes, He will remain the same, for "with Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Individuals, Nations and Empires, it is true, have at one time been blessed, and at another been cursed of God. But did God change? Was there a shadow of turning in Him? Nay? Was there not a change in these Individuals, Nations and Empires, which removed them from that high and holy ground, where the benignant gifts of a loving Father are ever being showered down from above, and placed them in that terrible spot where the thunderbolts of an avenging Judge are constantly *hurled*.

My hearers, God is always the same—not willing that any should perish, and if any *do* perish, theirs is the blame, for they destroy themselves. Let us, then, be the willing, and above all, the thankful recipients of our Father's bounty, and let us show our thankfulness in kindly deeds of benevolence to and charity to others as we have the opportunity. Let us, as a people, be careful to occupy that spot where the complacent smile of God may beam upon us. Our Nation has hitherto been greatly prospered. But it may not be always so. We may go beyond that limit of Divine forbearance, where not a single attribute of God can be for us, and if we do, our ruin is sealed. God has not changed to uphold those oppressive thrones and dominions which have passed, and are passing away, and he will not change to favor us in any oppressive law that we may enact. Righteousness exalteth a nation, and righteousness alone—power without it is weakness, and dominion without it, a snare. The inalienable rights of man will make themselves felt and respected, for God is with them and we cannot overthrow them, lest haply we should be found to fight against God. And we should be thankful for this, for it is the harbinger of a day when every yoke of oppression shall be broken, and every oppressed one shall go free. And though some of the barbarous customs which have been entailed upon us, cannot be changed, in a moment, and though our Constitution and laws should be strictly obeyed, while in force, yet if they clash with eternal rights, they will yet be amended, for the principles of eternal justice come down from the Father of lights, "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning," and with such a source and such an Ally, must and will prevail, and for this we should be ever devoutly thankful.

THE TELEGRAPH SUPERSEDED.

According to an article in the last number of the London Literary *Gazette*, a most wonderful and ingenious discovery has been made, and is now in operation at Paris, by which communication between two individuals, separated from each by continents or oceans, may be instantaneously effected without continous lines, as in the electric telegraph! And this marvelous effect is produced by the instrumentality of *snails*.

Yes, it is gravely asserted that M. Benoit, of the Department of Herault in France, and M. Blat, in America, after many years labor and experiment, have ascertained that certain descriptions of snails possess peculiar properties or sympathies, which cause them to feel, no matter at what distance they may be, the same sensation, or commotion, when acted on by galvanic and magnetic influences.—Placed in boxes in such a way that, on being touched, they agitate particular letters, the operator has only to make snail A give a kick, and snail A in corresponding box, which box may be in the backwoods of America or the deserts of Africa, repeats the kick, and so on for every letter of a required word.—The snails must of course previously be put in sympathetic communication, and the boxes, with their apparatus must be alike!

This mode of communication, which ensures secresy and economy, as well as lightning despatch, possesses immense advantages over the electric telegraph, provided the character and habits of the snails, of which we profess to know but little, can be relied on.—Are they a healthy, sober, long lived animal—fond of seclusion—and can they be procured in sufficient quantities? Are they able to resist the constant stimulating action of electricity—or may they not, after receiving one shock, "kick the *bucket*," instead of the *box*.—[*Boston Journal.*

☞ "*Nimrod*, can you tell me who was the first man?" "Adam somebody. His father wasn't, nobody, and he never had no mother, on account of the scarcity of women, and the pressure of the times!"

TERMS OF THE MINERS' JOURNAL.

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION.

Two Dollars per annum, payable semi-annually in advance, to those who reside in the County—and annually in advance to those who reside out of the County. The publisher reserves to himself the right to charge $2 50 per annum, when payment is delayed longer than one year.

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Miners' Journal.

Saturday Morning, Dec. 21.

HOLIDAY.

Christmas is at hand. Kriss Kringle, the sugar-candied essence of jolly spirits, has filled his knapsack, lighted his pipe, and the jingle of the sleigh bells on his "eight tiny rein deer" can already be heard on the way. Every body is preparing for a general jollification. The Stores, the Toy-shops and the Confectionaries—all are supplied with their holiday goods—books, pictures, toys, sweetmeats, dress, and every thing bewitching or funny that can be imagined. Each dealer is hanging out his most attractive—most inviting card. Next Wednesday, what a terrible day upon the biped part of creation generally—ducks, geese, men, women, turkeys, children and chickens! What a terrible day upon the digestive organs! Just to think of the big dinners that *must* be eaten. Well, thanks to old Father Time, "Christmas comes but once a year," so

Away with melancholy
While time is on the wing,
Can we prevent its flying,
Then, mertily, mertily, sing Fa la

THE SEASON.

Winter is surely with us. The grim old gentleman has shaken his hoary locks, and their fleecy curls have clothed mother earth in her appropriate mantle. The faded autumn leaves are fallen to the ground, and the tall trees stretch up their naked branches toward heaven, as if supplicating its interposition from the wintry blast. The cold wind, fitful and gusty, sighs through the dark forest, and rudely whirls away its decaying leaves, the mournful relics of the year's departed beauty.

But the in-door-life how different! Now is the time for festivity and general enjoyment. Balls, parties, and social gatherings become every-day occurrences. The universal torpidity of the lower orders of the animal kingdom is significant of the retirement of man from his more active and business-like capacity! Like Æsop in the fable he consents to unbend the bow of labor for a season that he may use it again with better effect and renewed vigor.

Let not the poor be forgotten. The winter is often a season of sad and bitter suffering to them. Let those who are enjoying both the comforts and luxuries of life remember their less fortunate neighbors who are destitute of its most ordinary blessings.—Such shall not lose their reward. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

GENERAL CAMERON.

The *Pennsylvanian* thinks that General Cameron is a man of too small a calibre to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate. Only think how Mr. Sturgeon must have *bounced* when he read that. But to be serious we agree with the *Pennsylvanian* on that point. He is one of your small, cunning, tricky politicians, who makes up in industry what he lacks in talents. He however posesses one redeeming trait, which gives him all the popularity he posesses in this State—and that is, his advocacy of protection to American Industry. If the Whigs cannot elect a man of our own, the opposition must bring forward a man of superior ability, pledged to sustain the Protective Policy of the Country if they desire to defeat Gen. Cameron. The Whig party are willing to overlook many defects in an opposition candidate, whom they know will favor the Protective Policy. On this platform they stand as firm as a rock, and never will abandon it under prosperity or adversity, until it becomes the established Policy of the Country. Mark that.

FREE TRADE

It was sometime ago announced by the N. York papers that a Free Trade association was formed in that city to carry out the principles of Free Trade without impost or any restriction whatever, and to promote the malicious desires of its presuming advocates.

The *Tribune* tells us that another and more formidable movement has recently been commenced, which has leading tendencies in common with the foregoing, but which is rather more practical in its aims. It is in effect a secret organization for the free trade importers, shippers, agents of foreign manufactures, &c., to accomplish the nomination of Hon. ROBERT J. WALKER, of Mississippi, (Mr. POLK'S Secretary of the Treasury, and the main architect of the present tariff,) as the next "Democratic" candidate for President, at the same time placing "the party" on distinct and unequivocal "Free Trade" grounds, and then securing its *triumph* in the election of 1852.—This movement, the *Tribune* says, has been backed by a subscription of over $200,000, payable half on demand and the balance in six months.

GROWTH OF THE U. STATES.

The Census returns, already received from seventeen States of the Union, show an increase of population since 1840 of 3,130,898, which, added to the aggregate population ten years ago of 17,093,363, would alone make now 20,224,261. Estimating the increase in other States by the same ratio, the aggregate population of the nation in June last, may be put down at not less than twenty-four millions, or an increase of nearly seven millions in the last ten years.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

The Telegraph from Danville to Northumberland, Lewisburg and Milton, is to cost $4,600. Lewisburg subscribes $1,800—Northumberland and Milton the balance. Proposals have also been made to extend the line to Muncy, Williamsport, Jerseyshore, Lock Haven, Bellefonte and Erie; and also from Northumberland to Harrisburg, Columbia and Havre-de-grace, where it will connect with Baltimore, Washington City and other lines.

☞ *The First Court*, for Montour County, was held on Monday last.

A Union Meeting was held at Danville on the same day.

☞ *Senators Foote and Downs*, were last week tendered the compliment of a public dinner by their friends in Philadelphia, which they politely declined.

Local Affairs.

☞ *Examination.*—An examination of the pupils of the Academy, commenced yesterday, under the direction of Mr. Schneider, the Principal. It will be resumed again on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, and continue till Tuesday afternoon. The Teachers in the different departments have been assiduous in their efforts to prepare the young gentlemen of the Institution for this ordeal, and the exercises will no doubt be found interesting. A cordial invitation is extended to the parents, and the public generally, to be present on the occasion. It is hoped they will not neglect the opportunity. Their presence becomes a stimulus to both Teachers and Scholars to perform their respective duties in a satisfactory manner. We are glad to see the Academy in so flourishing a condition. It is well conducted. The Teachers are men of talent and liberal education, and admirably adapted to impart instruction in the various departments of their profession.

☞ *American House.*—This fine Hotel is now under the charge of Mrs. JOHN WEAVER. This lady is well known in her former connection with one of the best public houses in the Borough. She is now engaged making some very important changes in the internal arrangement of the American, and in a few weeks, we understand, it will be opened with new Furniture, and every necessary accommodation for Boarders and the travelling community.

In the item of Hotels, (by no means an inconsiderable one,) Pottsville, we imagine, is hard to beat. The excellent Table and comfortable arrangements at the Pennsylvania Hall, by Col. JOHNSON, are strong temptations to a life membership. Col. LESSIG, of the Exchange, too, has always a hearty welcome and a bountiful supply of the good things of this life ready for every guest. Visiters need be at no loss for comfortable quarters and good fare, while these establishments can be found.

☞ *Fire at Port Carbon.*—The following notice has been sent us for publication. We hope Pottsville gallantry will give it the attention it deserves:—The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church, Port Carbon, will hold a *Festival* on Tuesday next, 24th inst., and on the afternoon and evening of the following day, in the large yellow house in Port Carbon, lately occupied by A. Bolton. In connection with the Festival, there will be a sale of useful and fancy articles. As this is the first effort of the kind made in Port Carbon—and as the object is a good one, we hope it will be liberally encouraged. The Ladies who have prepared the entertainment, will be pleased to see and wait on their Pottsville friends.

☞ *Masonic.*—At an election held on Monday evening last, at Pulaski Lodge, No. 216, of Ancient York Masons, the following gentlemen were chosen as officers for the ensuing year.

COL. C. B. JACKSON, W. M.
J. F. WHITNEY, S. W.
J. G. CONRAD, J. W.
J. G. BROWN, Treasurer.
J. S. C. MARTIN, Secretary.

The members of the Order intend celebrating St. John's Festival at the Exchange Hotel, on the evening of the 27th inst.

☞ *Suspicious.*—A man was discovered in the Academy on Wednesday last. He gave chase down the stairway to the boy who came into the building early in the morning to attend to the fire. He afterwards effected his escape through a window, while search was being made for him by some persons the boy had called to his assistance. It is difficult to imagine his object, as nothing was taken, though it was evident that by false keys he had access to every part of the house. The books were left in confusion over the floors of the different rooms.

☞ *Accident.*—Mr. JOSEPH HALEY, a fireman on the Reading Railroad, unfortunately had one of his legs severely bruised on Friday night of last week, near Schuylkill Haven, by the bumping of two Engines. He was at first considered dangerously injured, but we are happy to learn that he is since recovering.

☞ *Accident.*—We learn that the house of the Hon. C. W. PENNIS, in Market street, barely escaped destruction on Wednesday evening last. Fire, by accident, was communicated to one of the chambers, and the bed and other furniture entirely destroyed before it was discovered. Fortunately, it was suppressed without any further damage.

☞ *Trinity Church.*—The improvement we lately mentioned, is now completed. Gas fixtures have been introduced, and the church will be lighted accordingly for Divine service, to-morrow evening.

TAMAQUA AFFAIRS.

There has very little of interest occurred here during the past few weeks. Every department of business continues brisk.

The Wabash Railroad, a continuation of the Little Schuylkill Railroad, which was put under contract about two month ago, is rapidly approaching completion. The Company expects to ship coal over this road from their new tunnel near Tuscarora by the 1st of May next.

The result of the trial between Battin and several of our operators *in relation to the* use of their coal breakers, has caused some of our citizens to exercise their ingenuity in getting up new breakers. Two have already been invented, one by Mr. John H. Smith, and another by Mr. Albert H. Dewel: they have caused models to be constructed, and have also applied for patents.

As a knowledge of the population of our Schuylkill County villages may not be uninteresting to your readers, we furnish you with the following in addition to what you have already published:

Newkirk, a suburb of Tamaqua,	230
Tuscarora,	496
Brockville,	130
Patterson,	346

At the time of making the enume ration, 1st of last June, great depression prevailed in the coal trade, and in consequence the population of the above villages was unusually small.

MINERSVILLE AFFAIRS

At an adjourned meeting of the Merchants and others of the Borough of Minersville, held on Friday December 13, 1850, to take into consideration the present system of charging and collecting toll and freight on merchandise, by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, B. C. Christ was called to the chair, and S. Straub was appointed Secretary, when the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Legislature of Pennsylvania, in granting a charter to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, clearly provided that a list of the Classification of all merchandise, passing over said road should be published annually, and

Whereas, We believe no such list has been published for the present year, in accordance with the provision of said Charter, therefore,

Resolved, That we deem it due to the public, that a list of the classification of goods in connection with the rates, of toll be published by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company in order to let them know what will be charged for the transportation of merchandise over their road, and not compel them as is at present the case to take the statement of their agents.

Resolved, That the practice of presenting Bills for freight in the sum total, without stating either items, weight, or prices, is calculated to open avenue to fraud and imposition and meets with our condemnation and that hereafter we will pay no freight bills unless the items, weight, and prices, are clearly and distinctly stated.

Resolved, That the proceedings be published, and a copy thereof be forwarded to the President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY'S REPORT.

The following extract will be read with general interest by the friends of the Tariff. The different systems of ad valorem and specific duties, are treated of ably and at length, and the report will be found, in every respect, good:

The system of ad valorem duties, however well adapted to many articles of trade, when applied to all, without discrimination, restriction, or safeguard, has been proved by the experience of this Department, to be subject to many serious objections. Its tendency is to cherish a spirit of overtrading greatly injurious to the industry of our own country in all its departments, and, in its final results, fatal to the revenue. Considering this system only in its operation upon revenue, it is believed that the experience of the most enlightened commercial nations of Europe has proved it to be impolitic and unsafe. Under the operation of the British Tariff, revised in 1816, the whole revenue derived from articles paying *ad valorem* duties has taken only an average of about £38,000 ($184,000) per annum, in a gross receipt from customs of £23,000,000 ($105,000,000) being less than *one-fifth of one percent*, of this immense income from imports, and the evident design of Parliament was to make *specific* duties the source of revenue from imports, so far as it possibly could be effected. A like policy has also always been pursued by the other commercial nations of Europe.

The primary object to be kept in view in levying duties upon imports is admitted to be revenue. It is equally well established as the policy and duty of the Government so to discriminate in the levying of duties, as, without falling below the necessary amount of revenue, to give the greatest encouragement possible to all the industrial pursuits of our own people.—One feature of the law of 1846, in the opinion of this Department, is opposed to both the controlling principles just stated. I have reference to an equal, or higher rate of duty on the raw material, than on the manufactured article of which it is composed. Such provisions certainly take from the manufacturer and artisan, that encouragement which the present law doubtless, to some extent, was intended to afford, and also check the importation of the raw material to a degree detrimental to the revenue. The constant fluctuations in prices, and consequently in the duties, under any unrestricted ad valorem tariff, give to the act of 1846 that most object-onable feature, instability. These variations, giving a high duty when less required, and low duties when prices are unusually low, lead to an excess of importations, and subject all the products of labor in our own country to the frequent and enormous fluctuations in the markets abroad, arising from the disturbed condition of those nations, with whom our foreign commerce is chiefly carried on.

Under the present system, duties are highest when the article is imported in higher prices, and when the purchaser and consumer can least afford to pay the duty, and lowest when the price of the article wanted would allow a higher valuational duty to be levied on it. Thus, if an article cost $10, a duty of 30 per cent. would compel an addition of $3; if that article falls in value to $2, then is the duty reduced one half.

That cannot be a wholesome system of taxation which follows the consumer in his purchases, increasing his burden when prices are high and taking it off as prices fall and his ability to bear it increases. If applied to articles imported in higher prices, it would operate as a heavy tax upon bread in a year of famine, increasing with the intensity of the evil, and gradually disappearing with the return of abundance.

The objection to the present system, from commercial fluctuations in prices, is constantly forced upon the attention of the Department, by instances of extreme importations and speculative operations. The European price of iron was in 1846, greatly above that which has prevailed for the last two years. If the duties upon bar iron have been levied in strict accordance with foreign cost, they would now be but little more than one-half of what they were in 1846. By this process, besides the immense injury inflicted upon domestic industry, our revenue is made to fluctuate with the accidents of foreign commerce, and these accidents and fluctuations, which originate abroad, are imported with their attendant mischiefs.

Our revenue, as already stated, should be mainly dependent on duties on imports. Imports from abroad can only be paid for by exports made up of the products of our labor in all its varieties, or in the precious metals. If our exports exceed the value of our exports abroad in any given year, to the extent of such excess do we create a foreign debt. If this operation be repeated for only a few years, it is obvious that it will deet us so far from us of a quantity of the precious metals equal, or nearly so, to the amount of the accumulated debt, bringing with it bankruptcy and all the disarrangements of business, consequent upon the exportation of the precious metals, at a time, for the time, causing a ruinous depression in the receipts into the treasury. It then becomes equally the duty of Congress and the interests of the people (if possible) so to regulate imports as to confine the importations into this country, to an amount about equal to such exports of our own as can find a market at remunerating prices abroad. The loss and embarrassment which going well established laws of trade would seem to furnish a safe guide in all legislation on the subject of importations should be averted in an amount sufficient at a practicable rate of duties to supply the wants of the treasury, such duties should be adjusted in a manner to affect favorably all industrial pursuits at home. If duties on necessary importations should have the effect to impair the ability of the mass of the people to purchase and pay for foreign products, a disproportionate revenue would be derived, and by consequence the revenue to an equivalent amount would be diminished

It is believed that our own experience has shown that our exports cannot be greatly extended as some have supposed, by low duties on foreign goods in our ports. It is a fact, within the observation of all, that merchants and ship masters are vigilant and alert with all the knowledge which interest can impart, and all the skill which experience can supply, to send abroad any and every product of this country which can anywhere find a profitable market. These agencies, which are always active, extend our export trade at all times to the utmost limit of advantage to the producer or carrier. If at any time a certain article of export should be carried beyond the foreign demand, reduced prices, the invariable result of over-supply, bring loss upon all concerned. If a foreign article is in like manner forced upon our own market beyond the required supply, the effect of reduced prices, while it inflicts often ruinous losses upon the importer from abroad, it is felt by the consumer at home, in the cheap article at home, in consequences ten-fold more injurious, as the reduction of price in our own market extends to and affects the entire labor of the whole country, which such a low price of manufactures of productions. Thus, while the injury is temporary and limited in its effect upon the importer, it is often lasting and widely extended upon the labor of our own people. We see and feel it in the sudden breaking up of establishments not yet sustained by an amount of capital which can afford to encounter temporary adversity, or even reduced prices, or not yet worked with that skill and economy which long experience alone can impart. In such instances, labor is suddenly withdrawn from a diversity of pursuits, and the production in the United States, of the articles which the latter furnish to foreign nations, consists of articles of necessity, the consumption of which is limited to actual wants, and cannot be forced beyond that demand, by adventitious circumstances. When a high degree of prosperity exists in the United States, and a large increase in the consumption of most foreign productions, which can by be generally classed under the head of luxuries, but we have not such class of articles to tempt foreign nations in like manner to extend their purchases from us, in reciprocation for extended supplies from them.

No nation will purchase from us, no matter how prosperous may be her condition, a larger amount of articles she can produce at the lowest cost, than her ability to supply will require, even though we buy from her double or treble the amount of her productions. So, in like manner, when her crops fail, she not only will, but must, take from other countries, what the wants of her population require, even though it be three or ten-fold what they take from her.

This principle was fitly exemplified in the famine year of 1847, when our immense supply of breadstuffs to Europe turned such a heavy balance in our favor, even though it did increase our imports from the very cause already alluded to, of creating such a degree of prosperity in the country as to extend our desire and ability for the consumption of such articles of foreign luxuries as we could not supply ourselves, and the opposite result is exhibited at the present time, when we, are making excessive importations, not only without an equivalent extra demand, but, on the contrary, with a diminished one from Europe, far below what she took from us, when our importations were so much less than they now are.

The foregoing statements show that the farming population of the country, without any extraordinary stimulus, can produce a supply equal to $68,701,121 to meet any urgent demand of a foreign market, an amount more than equal to the average value of the export of cotton from this country.

But we find this sum of nearly sixty-nine millions, which rewarded the toil of the farmer of the country in 1847, dwarfed down in 1850 to the comparatively insignificant amount of $20,051,573—a falling off in the rewards of labor of the farmer alone in two years of $42,650,548.

When it is remembered that a large proportion of the citizens of this country are engaged in the business of farming, and that now, more than ever, the permanent wealth and true glory of the republic depends on their well being and prosperity, it would seem to be the dictate of enlightened selfishness, as a duty of patriotism so to modify, if possible, the laws regulating trade and revenue, as to furnish for them a permanent home market, with remunerating prices. As much market can be found abroad, it may well suggest the inquiry whether legislation in providing, of necessity, for revenue, should not, by encouraging a diversity of employment in our own country, secure the only safe and sure market for our farming productions which can be obtained.

The policy here suggested is strengthened by a comparison of the value and amount of the home, as compared with the foreign market. It has been estimated that our consumption of food, raiment, furniture, &c., is about $100 for each individual. Of this sum from $6 to $7, as shown by statement, are of foreign productions, which say at $6 50 per head, would require an importation of about $150,000,000. It will at once appear how insignificant this amount is when compared with the amount of home products consumed. Upon the basis of $100 per head, the foreign production furnishes $6 50 per head, or, in the aggregate, $150,000,000; the residue, or $93 50 each, requires annually the sum of about $2,100,000,000 to be supplied by our own industry. By reference in table it will be seen that our average consumption of imports, per head, for 30 years has been $5 91. Any material excess over that average, as in the years 1835-6 and 1839, has been surely followed by the most disastrous results. The imports of the past year have been exceeded in amount only by the year 1836; and, if the official figures could be made to represent the true cost of the imports of the former year, even 1836 would, it is believed, not be an exception. The imports of the first quarter of the present year show an increase of More than $18,000,000 over the corresponding quarter of last year, indicating an importation for the current year, greater by many millions, than the imports of any previous one, and a consumption per head proportionably larger; while the markets abroad indicate no prospect of an increased demand for our exports.

These exports, as already stated, consist principally of articles of necessity, and nearly all of them raw materials in their crudest state. If we have the means wish to occupy the place among commercial nations that our advantageous position and our vast resources warrant, we must greatly increase the amount of these exports. This can only be done by an increase of manufactures

During the past year our exports of cotton have amounted to	$71,981,616
While of domestic cotton manufactures we have exported only to the extent of	4,731,424
And during the same period the importations of cotton manufactures entered for consumption, have amounted at the foreign valuation to	$10,686,956

The exports of cotton from the United States exceed in importance those of any raw material exported from any other country, and at the present time it is our only export that is essential to any other nation; but it is believed to be a mistaken policy for any nation to send its raw materials to any distant countries, to be manufactured into fabrics for its own use.

Possessing this most useful staple in abundance, and of the best quality, we ought rather to increase its manufacture and to secure to ourselves a portion of the profits which other countries enjoy therefrom. In order to improve our people with the value of this production of the United States, we mean that it affords of extending our internal and foreign commerce, I subjoin several tables exhibiting in some degree its importance. Table No.—shows the value of exports raw cotton and *cotton manufacturis* from the United States for the last five years, and the countries to which the same were sent. From which it will be seen that we exported in

	Raw Cotton.	Cotton Manufac.
1846	$42,767,341	$3,545,481
1847	53,415,848	4,062,522
1848	61,998,294	5,718,205
1849	66,390,907	4,933,129
1850	74,974,616	4,734,424
	$296,563,066	$23,013,762

The countries which take the largest quantity of our raw cotton are Great Britain and France, and by reference to table No. —, it will be seen that our exports of cotton and cotton manufactures during those years to these countries were as follows;

	To Great Britain.		To France.	
	Cot. Wool.	Cot Man.	Cot. Wool.	Cot. Man.
1846	$27,707,717	$9,607	$10,060,465	none.
1847	35,841,925	6 765	10,381,317	9,600
1848	41,925,258	28	11,429,525	2,274
1849	47,444,899	2,551	10,185,718	none.
1850	48,881,453	50	14,395,449	529
	$201,803,592	$18,041	$56,471,795	$3,129

Table No.—shows the value of the exports of *cotton manufactures* from the United States and Great Britain in the year 1848, and the countries to which the same were sent.

From this table it will be seen that the value of cotton manufactures exported from the United States during that year was $5,718,205; and that from Great Britain, the value was $109,777,008.—That of the former amounts the United States received from Great Britain, per British vessels, for 1848, to the extent of $8,291,030.

Our records for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1848, show an importation of cotton manufactures from Great Britain, amounting to $14,477,978; which, above our home product, Britain is dependent upon this manufacture for her commercial prosperity.

The United States should share in the profits of manufacturing her own great staple; and in proportion as we increase the manufacture of this and other materials of which we have an abundant supply, shall we be enabled to command the produce, manufactures, and coin of other nations.

Table No.—exhibits the exports of *cotton* from the United States and Great Britain for five years from 1841 to 1848 inclusive.

By a reference to the table, it will be seen, that the exports of raw cotton to several countries from Great Britain, exceed those from the United States to the same countries, and that the value of such exports of American raw cotton from Great Britain, to the continent of Europe, exceeds the entire exports of American cotton manufactures to the whole world.

Our entire export of breadstuffs and provisions to all parts of the world during the past year, will scarcely amount to the value of the cotton goods imported and the duties thereon

These tabular statements are intended to show how important an article in the commerce of the world, is the cotton of the United States, and if manufactured by our own citizens, how widely our commerce might be extended. Instead of an *importation* of nearly $20,000,000 in value of cotton manufactures in a single year, the *exports* of these manufactures should be $100,000,000.

The warehouses of the United States will not be filled with the products and manufactures of other nations, so long as we are content to export our cotton and other raw materials in their crude state, and import the most common articles of clothing.

Our policy should be by every constitutional means, to encourage the manufacture of our own materials, and, so far as their product may be necessary for other nations, exchange them in their most valuable form, for under the present system the gold obtained from our mines, will soon be exhausted in paying for excessive importations.

With a profound conviction of their truth, I repeat the opinion and words of my predecessor on this vital subject in his annual communication to Congress at the last session: "All history shows that where are the workshops of the world, there must be the marts of the world, and the heart of wealth, commerce and power."

It has been shown by the experience of several years, that the average rate of duties imposed by the present revenue laws is about twenty-three per cent upon the foreign value of our imports, including free as well as dutiable goods.

During the last fiscal year we imported of foreign merchandize, including specie, $178,136,318; and we exported of domestic products, foreign goods, and specie, $151,888,720, leaving a balance against us of $26,247,598.

A large proportion of this balance has doubtless been paid by our domestic stocks, which find a ready sale at this time in European markets.—These last, however, as they only postpone a present payment in coin, cannot be expected to liquidate similar balances for coming years, even if it were the wish of the Government to create a foreign debt of this kind. The impolicy of such a measure will not be questioned, and it is doubtless the true interest of the country to avoid it.

In regulating our commerce with foreign nations, we are therefore compelled to take, as the true basis of safe importation from all countries, the amount of our own products, which we may reasonably calculate may find a market abroad.

It is certain that the increased ability of this country to consume foreign goods, will at this time safely admit a larger importation than in former years, yet the experience of the last year has shown that our imports have been greatly beyond our exports, which last must be regarded as the true measures of our ability to consume, for any given number of years.

If upon the large importations of the past year, the increase should continue at the same ratio as that of the past quarter, which as already stated, is $18,000,000, the aggregate amount for the current fiscal year, ending 30th June, 1851, will not fall much short of $250,000,000. A survey of the markets of the world, it is believed, furnishes no reason to expect that our exportations will exceed those of the last year, which we have seen were a fraction less than 152 millions. This would leave on the trade of the current fiscal year, with foreign countries, an adverse balance, which could not fail to be felt in results fatal to all branches of business at home, and highly injurious to the revenue of succeeding years.

These considerations, forced by the existing state of things upon the earnest attention of this Department, are submitted to the wisdom of Congress in the belief that they present reasons of the most imperative character for a modification of the present revenue laws. The largest prospective importations should be checked by a higher rate of duties, so as to bring their aggregate amount within the limit of capability to pay. If the exports of the last year define that limit, then our imports for the ensuing year should not greatly exceed $152,000,000. It is believed, however, that we may calculate safely upon an export of gold for several years to come, of at least from ten to fifteen millions annually, exclusive of what goes abroad, direct from California, without any detrimental effect upon the currency or business of our people. The supply of this metal from our own mines may at present be estimated at $50,000,000 annually, including that sent directly from California to other countries, and this supply, it is believed, will not be likely to diminish in amount for the next two or three years.

If, then, we can afford to spare the above amount of the precious metals, in payment of foreign merchandize, it may be fairly assumed that our exports, including all articles, will be equal to about one hundred and sixty-five millions, supposing always the trade of the world to remain unaffected by any disturbing causes. In the opinion of this Department it would be unsafe to assume an amount of imports as a basis upon which to levy duties for revenue beyond the latter sum.

If the present rates of duties be applied to that amount, we should receive from customs, only $37,050,000, and the amount of revenue required for the present and succeeding years would fall short of the estimates for the current year, by a fraction over seven millions.

It cannot be doubted that a rate of duty higher on many articles than that paid by the present law might be established without affecting injuriously the revenue. The extraordinary influx of foreign merchandize for the last year, and the first quarter of the present one must be regarded as conclusive proof that an increase of duties, so as to advance the amount of revenue seven millions on the same amount of imports, is entirely practicable.

That such increase will be found necessary to the demands of the Treasury, is believed to be beyond doubt, unless Congress should discontinue many of the objects of expenditure which originated in our recent territorial acquisition, and this, in the opinion of the Department, would be equally impolitic and unjust.

From the foregoing considerations, the Department would submit to the following modifications of of our present revenue laws:

I. A change in the present ad valorem system, which shall impose specific duties upon all articles, to which such duties may be safely applied, with home valuations upon all such as are necessarily subject to ad valorem rates.

II. If the principle of specific duties shall not be adopted, that the home valuation, instead of foreign, should then be applied to all imports subject to ad valorem duties.

III. If neither of the foregoing changes shall be thought proper, then it is deemed highly necessary that the present rates of duties shall be increased on a great variety of articles which it will be found could bear such increase with the most salutary effects upon both trade and revenue.

Either of the two first modifications suggested above, would undoubtedly correct many of the inequalities of the present system, place all importers, whether purchasers or manufacturers, on equal grounds in respect to valuations for duty, guard the revenue against the flagrant frauds which are so easily perpetrated under existing laws, and insure stability and permanent increase of the revenue. They are therefore earnestly commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

In any system it is believed that experience has settled the true policy to be pursued in several particulars which enter into our system of revenue laws. Among these are that all raw material should be admitted at a moderate rate of duty, when assessed at all, that non-enumerated articles should be assessed at higher rates of duty than the average of manufactured articles, and that all articles composed of the same material should pay in general the same rates of duty.

In order to insure uniformity in the business of the custom-houses, and equality in the valuations under any system, I earnestly recommend the creation of a corps of appraisers at large, whose duty it shall be to visit the principal ports of entry in the United States from time to time, with power to correct improper valuations and prescribe rules for the local appraisers.

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☞ NOTICE.—THE GAS HAVING BEEN introduced into Trinity Church of this Borough, there will be Divine service held in the same on Sunday Evening, 22d inst., commencing at 7 o'clock. A collection will be taken up on the occasion.

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