

THE WILMINGTON POST.

W. P. CANADAY, Proprietor.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1888.

TARIFF AGAIN.

Our neighbor, the Star, is about to be left again. This time it seems as if Vance, the Star and all the other English free traders are about to be left in the back ground together.

THE VIRGINIA DUEL.

The duel between W. O. Elam, editor of the Whig (Readjuster), and R. F. Beirne, editor of the State (Democrat), came off on Saturday morning last at 6 o'clock, at a place near New Hope, in Augusta county, Va.

THE TARIFF.

We published on the 15th of June a paper prepared by Hon. James M. Swank, on the tariff, and on the 22d we commenced the publication of an address delivered by Hon. Thomas H. Dudley of New Jersey, and finished it in our last issue.

ANOTHER "RICHMOND" IN THE FIELD.

We are informed by a private communication from another part of the district that the friends of Hon. S. H. Fishblate, of this city are working quietly, but actively to start a "boom" very soon, for him, in the congressional race in 1888.

THE AMERICAN PROTECTIONIST MANUEL.

We have received from the publisher, Mr. Giles B. Stebbins, of Detroit, Michigan, a very excellent book with the above title. Every laboring man, as well as professional and business man, should have a copy of the book. Price 75 cents.

A SCIENCE BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS.

A Paper in the International Review for March, 1882. BY HON. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.

In using the term "Free Trade" I will be understood as referring not to an ideal theory fit for Plato's Republic or More's Utopia, but to that system of trade advocated by the Cobden Club, and which has its place in the political economy promulgated by the Manchester school of economists.

The methods of the schools are as irreconcilable as their objects. Free traders not only claim that their methods are scientific, but deny that the Protective system has a scientific basis, and denounce it as selfish, immoral, dishonest.

John Stuart Mill declared political economy to be a "science based on assumption." In the methods of a system based on assumptions, statistics and the facts of history can have no place; it must be a system of pure dialectic, and Professor Sommer logically protests against "the heaping together

of statistics, historical facts, and authorities in economic discussions." Its methods are purely a priori, as contradistinguished from the inductive system pursued by Bacon, Newton, Locke, Priestly, Franklin; by List, Colwell, and Carey, the perfection of which is attested by the marvelous progress the world has made by the application to the arts of life of nature's subtle and potent forces disclosed by this system of investigation.

It is this adherence to superannated methods that constrains practical men to disregard the economic teachings of our schools. Professors of political economy in American colleges boast that their unanimity is almost absolute. This claim may to a great extent be admitted, though Bowen, of Harvard, and Thompson, of the University of Pennsylvania are noteworthy exceptions.

National economy, of which the protective system is a vital part, rests on other foundations than assumptions. Its method, the inductive, requires the most careful study of statistics and the facts of history. Its adherents have great respect for authority until experience demonstrates the excellence of their teaching.

Prior to the establishment of American independence Parliament had, by successive statutes, restricted the right of the colonists to employ their own skill in the conversion of native raw materials into wares and fabrics. Referring to some of these laws, Henry C. Cary said:

The first attempt at manufacturing any species of cloth in the North American provinces produced a resolution on the part of the House of Commons (1709) that the erection of manufacturing in the colonies had a tendency to lessen their dependence on Great Britain. Soon afterward complaints were made to parliament that the colonists were establishing manufactories for themselves, and the House of Commons ordered the Board of Trade to report on the subject, which was done at great length in 1732.

Under the effect of the protective tariffs referred to, the last installment of the national debt was paid in 1831. But in 1840, thanks to a tariff for revenue only, conceded by Mr. Clay and the Whig party to a disciple of the science based on assumptions, the financial condition of the Government was deplorable.

Seven years of war, by establishing the political independence of the United States, repealed these characteristic British statutes. But British capitalists, under the auspices of their government, resorted to a more subtle, but no less effective, process for the subjugation of the American people. It was more costly than the Parliamentary process, but experience has often demonstrated that money invested in its execution brings good returns.

From Colbert, who elaborated and established the protective policy in France, to Carey, these practical men have recognized the fact that national and individual life is not governed by a system of equations, but influenced by cupidity, ambition, and all human emotions and passions. They regarded

it as the duty of nations to maintain each its autonomy, and to add to its wealth and power by engaging the faculties and aptitudes of its people in the development and conversions of its native materials into articles of use or beauty. They regarded the nations of the world as a family, and inculcated the theory that, when each member of the family could supply its wants and gratify its desires, the greatest degree of happiness would prevail, and the peace and prosperity of the world would be best assured.

Against what, I am asked, would you protect American industry? Is it an infant? Are not our resources superior in extent, and diversity and value to those of any other nation? Are not that aggregation of enterprising emigrants and their descendants, known as the American people, as ingenious, industrious, and thrifty as the people of any other country?

The process was thoroughly effective in the United States. Our workshops were closed; our proprietors were bankrupt; our skilled laborers were without employment, and there was open to them no refuge but the almshouse or work to which they were unaccustomed.

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