

**NEEDS OF THE NATION.**  
Discussed by Senator Vance.

(Written for the Baltimore Sun, March 19, 1888.)  
VIII.

The fact that the protectionist claim that high tariffs are chiefly beneficial to labor will justify a little further notice of that fallacy. It is about the only pretense they have left to appeal to popular sympathy and catch vote, yet it is the baldest ever advanced by the "slave-traders" against the freedom of commerce. But because it so readily appeals to the prejudices of the unthinking multitude, it is made their principal stock in trade and is relied upon when every other prop is knocked from under their feet.

In my last article I endeavored to show that under no circumstances could protection benefit even that portion of our labor which was employed in the protected industries, but placed it at a positive disadvantage; whilst as to the remainder, constituting six-sevenths of all American laborers, it was an unmitigated evil. A further elaboration of that subject will not be amiss here. The only possible way by which protection could increase wages, if at all, is by raising or maintaining the prices of manufactured articles. This last it does artificially, in defiance of the law of supply and demand. The law says that the supply shall not be increased from without unless by the payment of a heavy tax, and that is protection to the products. Common sense teaches that labor can only be protected in the same way in providing that the supply shall not be increased from without also.

To say that this purpose can be as well accomplished by giving the increased price of products to the manufacturers on their promise that if we will thus enable them to do so they will voluntarily pay the workman higher wages has neither reason nor truth in it. We know that he will and does buy his labor at the cheapest figure in the market, and that in our market the supply is constantly and freely increased from without. With quite as much reason we might as well impose a heavy tax on every foreign laborer who comes to our shores, in order to raise wages in the home market, and tell the manufacturer with equal truth that it was all for his benefit; that the laborer would be enabled to pay him higher prices for his goods. In short, we could turn the advantage around and apply it all to the manufacturer just as it is now applied to the laborer. It is true, as every man who is acquainted with human nature knows, that so soon as he got the money the workman would naturally buy his supplies wherever he could get them cheapest, if permitted to do so, and the manufacturer might, whilst for his share of the protection. Well, that is precisely what the manufacturer does now with his products protected and his labor free.

Now, the "slave-traders" claim that protection not only raises directly the prices of manufactured products, but indirectly the prices of all other articles as well. Of course this is absurd, but it is necessary for them to say something in answer to the charge that if protection does not go all round it is the taxing of one man to support another, and is, therefore, unequal and unjust. It is the old dilemma of the falsifier; the telling of one falsehood forces the telling of others to cover it up. So, having started out with the untrue assertion that protection raises the wages of the factory hands by reason of the increase in price of the goods they make, they advance without a blush to the supporting absurdity that it also advances the wages of all other labor whatsoever for the same reason. If it does not do this, there is not a slave-trader in America but will admit it is not just or fair.

A second consideration is that

even the factory hand. If his wages are increased, as they say, because prices of products are increased, then the price of labor is dependent on the price of products, and the amount of the one must be in proportion to the other. It follows, then, as clear as day, that the increased price of everything on which the laborer lives will precisely keep pace with the increase in his wages, and his condition is not a whit improved. There is no escape from this on the theory that protection is just and raises all prices in the same proportion.

In this case it would be no protection at all, for a tax levied equally on every man for the support of every man would do no man any good, would be simply a nuisance. The only conceivable way in which protective taxation can benefit anybody is to levy it on and collect it from one set of men and pay it over to another. This is precisely what protection does, and that is why the manufacturer clamors for it and the consumer does not. Again, if wages were regulated by the prices of products, it would follow inevitably that the normal ratio between them would be preserved under similar conditions. Yet, as I have before said, for many years past, with more or less of fluctuation, prices have steadily fallen and wages have risen with equal steadiness. Sir Lyon Playfair estimates that even during the depression of the past fifteen years the average wages of Great Britain increased 9.74 per cent., whilst they did not quite hold their own in our country.

Prices, on the other hand, according to the same testimony, (and that also of Sir Lothian Bell before the royal commission,) fell as follows: Food, 25 per cent.; metals 35; textiles, 45; hides, leather, indigo, &c., 26.50 per cent. At the same time the hours of labor in Great Britain were shortened 2 1/2 per week, in view of these facts, how is it possible to make good the claim that protection keeps up wages when it is not able to keep up the prices on which they say the wages depend? The impossibility is made still more apparent by the fact wages have risen more and been better maintained in free-trade England than in slave-trade America. In truth, all economic history shows that wages have always been lowest when prices have been highest, and furnishing most conclusive proof that the working-man's reward has been increased as his intelligence and freedom has stagnated his energies by all of which his products have been multiplied and cheapened.

These important truths are so evident and so simple I cannot cease to wonder that my intelligent working countrymen will continue to disregard them and suffer themselves and their sacred cause to become the chief promoters of the greed and selfishness of a class which is drawing to itself all the wealth of our country by their aid. If they would loose from their thralldom to the manufacturers they would soon have the game in their own hands. Protection is always demanded in their name, but in nine cases out of ten the increased duty goes to the manufacturers and not to the workmen. Just at this time, pending the tariff-reform agitating in the House, in common with other Congressmen, I am daily deluged with slave-trade pamphlets, all more or less distressed to death over the horrible fate of the workman, and appealing to the humane to save him. One pamphlet, which is now before me, is headed as follows: "The Foreign Raid Begun! Preparing for the Onslaught on American Industry!" Then following the startling information that a lot of Belgian iron-masters are preparing to flood this country with cheap iron, and that they will build a new factory in America, they say: "I think it is worth your consideration, and the hand of the author

of the possible action of the free-trade Congress." The writer then says that a Tariff League representative got a list of their prices on beam iron, and found that they offered them at \$25.91 per ton, plus \$2.44 charges and \$28 duty—total \$56.35; and adds that American manufacturers cannot make such beams for less than \$70. Of course, he says, "The labor cost, more than anything else, makes this difference!" It so happens, however, that the census of 1880 gives us statistics, furnished by the manufacturers themselves, of the percentage of labor in the working of iron in America; that percentage is 16.77. At this rate the labor in a ton of such iron in Belgium is about \$5.50, in America \$16.20; but the duty is \$28 and ocean freight \$2.44 more—total \$30.44, against the Belgian. Now, what becomes of the \$13.94 which remains after paying the American iron worker three times the wages of the Belgian? No man with common sense can doubt for a moment that it goes into the pocket of the manufacturer. He shouts himself hoarse for the money to be given to the American laborer; he hires men like this scribbler to falsify the truth in the name of the American laborer; his tears roll down his cheeks in copious and piteous streams for his beloved American laborer, but, suppressing his grief as best he may, he wipes them away and pockets the money. Surely this is affliction surpassing the love of woman. And so the falsehood may be detected in a hundred leading articles of prime necessity.

It is not surprising that fallacies so often and so completely exposed should be so persistently and so shamelessly reasserted. Whenever these assertions are examined they have shared the fate of the priests of Babel. The story of quinine always gives a protectionist the chills instead of curing him. They said when a repeal of the duty was agitated that it would destroy utterly its manufactory in the United States, discharge all the labor engaged, and raise the price. At that time there were five establishments in this country making it, employing 500 hands, and the price was \$6.75 per ounce. A poor man could not afford to have cents at such a price for quinine. But with much hesitation Congress took the risk and repealed the duty and put it in the hands of every protectionist. There are now twelve quinine factories in the United States, employing 1,000 hands, and the price is 50 cents per ounce, whilst the workmen receive as good wages as before! Yet it would almost appear that they ask us to believe their predictions to day because they lied to us yesterday. A young candidate for the ministry was put up to preach his trial sermon. In the midst of his discourse he lost his feet, barked, and lapped out his tongue in a manner so ridiculous that the unregenerate snickered and the pious were scandalized. A grave brother rebuked him and demanded indignantly why, of all things, he put his tongue out. "Well, brother," he replied, "I know I must put out something, and that was all I could get out. So it is with those who enslave commerce. They are pushed to the wall by the demand for revenue reform; the spirit of intelligent inquiry into the methods and the necessity for this enormous taxation, which is overflowing the treasury, enriching thousands by grinding millions into the earth and preparing for the utter destruction of foreign commerce. They know that their infamous combination with the system which supports them are threatened with exposure to the light which means death, and they are obliged to put out something."

The sick, faithful, well-worn lie about the benefit of protection to the workman, when they have with an indignant countenance the efforts of Deans and dentists by the name of "Dental Protection" and most eminent medical experts, but they have not to put out anything.

# Paine's Celery Compound

**WEAK NERVES**  
Paine's Celery Compound is a Nervine Tonic which never fails. Containing Celery and Coca, these wonderful nerve stimulants, it speedily cures all nervous disorders.

**RHEUMATISM**  
Paine's Celery Compound purifies the blood, it drives out the acids which cause Rheumatism, and restores the blood-making organs to a healthy condition. It is the true remedy for Rheumatism.

**KIDNEY COMPLAINTS**  
Paine's Celery Compound quickly restores the liver and kidneys to perfect health. The citric power, combined with its nerve tonic, makes it the best remedy for all kidney complaints.

**DYSPEPSIA**  
Paine's Celery Compound strengthens the stomach, and quiets the nerves of the digestive organs. This is why it cures even the worst cases of Dyspepsia.

**CONSTIPATION**  
Paine's Celery Compound is not a cathartic. It is a laxative, acting on the natural action to the bowels. Regularity surely follows its use.

Recommended by professional and business men. Send for book. Price \$1.00. Sold by Druggists.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO. Prop's  
BURLINGTON, VT.

M. MERSON, Pres. D. W. SHULER, Cash. J. N. JONES, Ass't Cash

## BANK OF HICKORY, HICKORY, N. C.

RECEIVES DEPOSITS SUBJECT TO PAYMENT ON DEMAND DISCOUNT NOTES.

SELL EXCHANGE ON UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

ALSO DO AN INSURANCE and COLLECTING BUSINESS.

Have one of the best Burglar-Proof Safes in Western North Carolina.

Safety Deposit Vaults for Customers protected by the Gross Double Co. Solidated Time Locks.

## FIRE INSURANCE!

Having associated Mr. John E. Hathcock with me in the Insurance Business, the business hereafter will be conducted under the style of firm,

### SHULER & HATHCOCK.

Thanking my friends and the public for past favors, I solicit a continuation of the same to the new firm. Any Insurance business given a rate at the Bank or to Mr. Hathcock at his office will be promptly attended to.

**D. W. SHULER, CA. HIER,**  
Bank of Hickory

Hickory, N. C., May 9, 1888.

## HALL'S CATARRH CURE

IS RECOMMENDED BY PHYSICIANS! \$100 REWARD FOR A CASE IT FAILS TO CURE.

We manufacture and sell it with a positive guarantee that it will cure any case, and we will forfeit the above amount if it fails in a single instance. It is unlike any other Catarrh remedy, as it is taken internally, acting upon the blood. If you are troubled with this distressing disease, you are invited to try it and accept no imitation or substitute. If he has not got it, send to us and we will forward immediately. Price, 75 cents per bottle. Testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.



**Terry's Family Shears and Scissors.**

UNLIMITED WARRANTY. 4 inch Shear, Detached Handles and Plated Blades, 50 cents. Complete Button-hole Scissors, \$1.00. Embroidery Scissors, 50 cents. TERRY'S SILVER STEEL RAZORS, Full Convex, Round, Stripped and Ready for Use, \$2.00. Sent postpaid on receipt of price. Illustrated catalogue free.

TERRY & CO., 115 Adams Street, TOLEDO, OHIO.

## GRANITE IRONWARE.

FOR BOILING, BAKING, FRYING, PRESERVING, LIGHT, HANDSOME, WHOLESALE, DURABLE.

The Best Ware Made for the Kitchen. Manufactured only by the

### St. Louis Stamping Co. St. Louis

For Sale by all Stove, Hardware and House Furnishing Dealers.

Cook Book and Price List Free on Application. Be Sure to Mention this Paper.

ESTABLISHED 1859 FORTY YEARS AGO.

## CARPENTER RELIABLE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

# ORGANS

FOR HOME, CHURCH, SCHOOL, and CHAPEL.

Only \$3 A MONTH.

Installments. We are selling our perfect organs to recommended families, churches, Sunday Schools, societies, etc., on the very easiest terms of payment. Write for particulars.

5,000 Churches, 75,000 Homes of Christians.

An Honest Organ.

E. P. CARPENTER & CO.