

Eastern-Shore Whig

AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

EASTON, MD.

TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 29, 1851.

Our readers will find in this day's paper such a view of principles and arguments of the address of the Tariff convention...

While they here admit, that our bread stuffs in Europe would find a ready market, at advanced prices, and that our people cannot compete with European artisans in the cheapness of their manufactures...

This is a pitiful boon to the farming interest which they cannot and will not be satisfied. They wish access to the European market for their grain...

Mr. Clay.—We have seen the announcement of Mr. Clay's election to the U. S. Senate, with some regret; not that we have any objection to his holding a seat in that body...

Mr. Clay's talents we have never questioned, and under different circumstances, his holding a seat in the Senate of the U. States, would be rather a source of gratification than otherwise...

It, however, as we are now much disposed to think, will be the fact, Mr. Clay should rally his forces under the Anti Masonic flag, and fight for Mr. Wirt, as he once did for Mr. Adams...

Tempest.—The extraordinary wind experienced here on the night of Monday of last week, and on the succeeding day, extended very generally over the whole country...

TARIFF CONVENTION ADDRESS.

We now give to our readers such a view of the address of the Tariff convention, as we are able to afford them in the limited extent of a weekly paper.

We have given, entire, many of what we esteemed, the most important views of the convention. Others, we have merely noticed, without expressing our own opinions in any way.

Proceeding, in the first place, to view the constitutionality of the question, the Convention attempt its support by the fact, stated by them, that the power has been contended by every Congress, every President, and by the Supreme Court, since the adoption of the Constitution...

Before we leave this branch of our inquiry we are anxious to present the constitutional question in one more point of view. The most expeditious of the constitution is that instrument itself.

The tenth section of the first article of the constitution provides that "no state shall without the consent of Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws."

The convention now come to the examination of the expediency and importance of the subject—and here we must extract pretty liberally as this portion of the address is to be regarded as the answer to the address of the Free Trade Convention, this latter body not having touched the constitutional question.

All the means of human enjoyment, and all the accumulations of wealth, are the product of human labour. National happiness and national wealth are, in proportion, promoted in proportion to the active industry of the community, and that industry is in proportion to the inducements to labour, arising from the amount and certainty of its remuneration.

The purpose of the protective system being thus directed to the utmost expansion of the industry of the nation into every channel of domestic competition, it would seem to be manifestly erroneous to establish a system of restrictive, inasmuch as the advocates of the system...

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of its previous straitened condition, and is seen rapidly diversifying its pursuits until they finally cover the whole space that was originally divided between itself and the people that supplied it with manufactures.

The address now, after a chain of arguments, intended to show, that capital, the great stimulus to labour and industry, is not by the law, diverted from one pursuit to benefit another, but actually generated and increased, by the protection thus afforded, repudiates the idea of Free Trade among nations, as mistaken and preposterous.

Nations are adversary to each other, their commercial intercourse is regulated by treaties always made with a view to relative advantages, and to provide for those hostilities which are of perpetual recurrence. The extant provincial tariffs which formerly entered into the interior of nations, suggested the idea of that free trade which has since been understood and egregiously misapplied by speculative writers.

For us to attempt while they reject it would be a complete surrender of ourselves as a voluntary sacrifice to the policy and equality of foreign governments; to create a government for the benefit of others, and not for ourselves.

The free trade, in agriculture, but a chartered libertine. The United States could not share their coasting trade with England and without disadvantage;—the most extravagant advocates of free trade (it is believed) have never dreamed of sharing our river trade with foreigners.

In 1825 some slight and cautious reductions were accordingly made, but in nothing to affect the commercial monopoly and maritime ascendancy of Great Britain. Her colonial commerce is most exclusive. The freedom of the trade of the Susquehanna river is now in dispute between the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York.

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continue to act and to legislate upon the system of protecting their own industry, though some of their writers and orators recommend to all other nations to abandon it.

A reference to our own experience is, however, the best criterion, by which to test the correctness of the system which we support. It is not new; the principle was applied, as we have already stated, to our navigation, from the establishment of the Federal constitution, prohibiting foreign shipping from the coasting trade together, and imposing a high discriminating duty on foreign tonnage.

Some interruptions have occurred in the march of this policy, but these interruptions owe their origin to accidental circumstances which dictated the necessity of relaxing the system for the benefit of other interests that were more immediately concerned in availing themselves of the advantages of foreign trade.

Amongst the advantages which have resulted to us from this state of our customs is a forced even at this day. Accounted for twelve or 14 years to commercial speculations of unparalleled activity and success, we were taught to think that our national prosperity was inseparably connected with the prosecution of that kind of trade in which our citizens had been engaged.

There was another circumstance that gave great authority to this delusion. The cotton manufacture of Great Britain was rapidly rising into the greatest activity and vigour. It was in process of time discovered that the raw material for this manufacture could be produced in the United States under more favorable circumstances than in any other part of the world.

It persuaded our planters to believe that they possessed an almost inexhaustible source of means to be unfitted them for sober calculations upon the effects that would follow the extension of the culture of cotton over the fertile regions that yet lay in wilderness behind them; and it equally disinclined them to foresee the possibility of the manufacture itself reaching a term at which it might become stationary and which was, therefore, eventually to set a limit upon the demand, at the period when the supply would be increased in an almost infinite ratio by the speed of population over other states of our union, even more prodigious than their own to the production of the plant.

Troubles soon afterwards broke out at home. A war threatened and our citizens were suddenly called to meet a tremendous emergency. Our commerce was put in jeopardy by non importation acts and embargoes; and the crisis that ensued found us without the most ordinary resources of an independent people.

When it pleased Heaven to rescue us from the eminent hazards of this doubtful and disproportionate conflict, we saw around us a nation of eight millions of people possessed of a

territory nearly equal to the continent of Europe, rich in the ungathered resources of every kind of wealth—just emerging from a war of two years and a half, with an enemy who had never assembled an army of more than thirty thousand men—and yet deranged in all its channels of industry, exhausted, and on the verge of bankruptcy. Nothing but the most persevering neglect of the fundamental precept connected with the proper administration of the concerns of a commonwealth could have produced such a result.

These disasters opened our eyes to some important facts. They demonstrated to us the necessity of extending more efficient protection, at least, to those manufactures which were essential to the defence of the nation.

All these matters came into review before Congress at the close of the war. A proper occasion for their discussion arose when the question was submitted as to the reduction of the war duties. The return of peace made it necessary for the legislature to take off the taxes that had been imposed for defraying the expenses of the war; and in this reduction of duty to what was considered should be a permanent standard, the cotton planting interest urged with great force and propriety, the necessity of retaining such a duty as should exclude from the American market all fabrics made from the cotton of the East Indies.

The duty was retained, and it is important to know that, being designed for the protection of the cotton grower, it was graduated to a scale precisely adequate to that purpose.

The Tariff of 1816, it may be remarked, was a measure that met the approbation of the large majority of the people in every section of the union. No partial nor local considerations were embodied against the operation of either its principles or policy.

We ask the attention to another topic. Revolution in trade are unavoidable; the balance of supply and demand cannot always be regulated with precision. There is a tendency, growing out of a prosperous commerce, to push success to an extreme which produces reaction.

We believe that the system which furnishes a nation with manufactures, essential to its daily wants, from its own industry, is the best possible security against violent changes in its currency;—changes which paralyze all industry, and disturb all trade; and we therefore submit it to the experience and judgment of the American people, whether the protective system is not, in this particular, more advantageous to the country than that which, after deluging our markets with foreign manufactures, draws from us, in return, not a useless commodity, but the instrument by which our bank circulation, the essential principle of commercial confidence.

Mistaken opinions in regard to the effect of the tariff upon the prices of commodities used in the United States, and upon which the protective system has been brought to bear, have furnished some popular objections against the wisdom of the policy. It has been said that the effect of a duty is necessarily to increase the price of any article upon which it is laid to show, by a minute survey of the whole field of American industry, that so far from this being the case, the invariable operation of the tariff has been to lower the price to the consumer of every article that has been successfully manufactured under the protection. Such a survey would require more detail than the purpose of this address allows.

In the article of cotton it is admitted that our manufacture has arrived at such perfection in the production of the coarse fabrics, that they are not only furnished at little more than one half of the cost which the imported articles of the same kind bore a few years ago,

but they are produced as cheaply at the present times as foreign rivals, under all the exigencies of American competition, are able to furnish them. They have had a constant and increasing demand for several years past, which a little if at all affected by the minimum duty. The price of raw cotton has fallen but about a cent a pound within the last four years, whilst the price of cotton goods—of sheetings, for instance, of more than three yards to the pound,—has fallen nearly four cents a yard within the same period; Satinet, of wool and cotton, are made at less than one half the price of cassimeres, and are more durable. Cotton fabrics formerly imported from China at from fifty to sixty cents a yard, are now made, at a better quality, here, at from fifteen to twenty cents. Indeed, we might enumerate every species of manufacture in which this material enters as a component part, to show that both in the character of the article and the cheapness of its price, the country has been a great gainer since the enactment of the system that has promoted its fabrication.

To the cotton planters of the United States, the system has undoubtedly yielded the most decisive advantages. It has created a certain and valuable market for about one fifth of their crop, and it has encouraged the consumption of large quantities of their staple in fabrics to which it never would have been applied, if the manufacture had not been carried on in our own country. The establishment of cotton mills amongst us has had the most visible tendency to induce our manufacturers to apply cotton to uses which both the policy and the position of foreign manufactures would have forever forbidden them from adopting. This fact is conspicuously seen in the application of cotton to suit cloth, and to all those articles of heavy clothing in which it has lately been substituted for wool. It is now manufactured into carpets, blankets, cordage, twine, net work, and a variety of other commodities, that may be said to be exclusively of American origin.

The convention notice the article of Iron, showing its price at various times, and endeavour to prove that the price has been lessened by the protection given to it. They speak of the benefit which is resulted to the farming states from the protection of wool and say they are not aware that it has injured the plantation states. They speak in strong terms of the interest which farmers have in the protection of this article, and assert that in three years, that interest will equal that of the southern planters in cotton.

The convention do not believe, as it has been often asserted, that the high duties have had the demoralizing effect of creating a system of smuggling, nor that the interests of commerce and navigation have been materially affected by the tariff.

By a special resolution of this convention, an inquiry was directed into the moral influence of our manufactures;—in compliance with which we felt authorized to say, in a word, that the imputations sometimes cast upon the morals of manufacturing communities have proved, according to the experience of this country, to be without the slightest foundation.

In concluding this address we would take occasion to observe that the present posture of the affairs of the United States impresses upon us the necessity of declaring what we believe to be the sentiment of the friends of American industry, in reference to a great question which must, in a short time, occupy the attention of Congress. Up to this period, the revenue of the government has not exceeded its wants. The debt has required a system of duties that would supply at least ten millions of dollars every year towards its extinguishment. That debt, under the present mode of liquidation, will soon cease to exist. The nation will then naturally expect some reduction of duties. Participating in the common feeling on this subject, we cannot close this address without respectfully submitting to public consideration the expediency of applying that reduction to such commodities as are incapable of being brought within the scope of the protective system; holding it, as we do, to be indispensable to the best interest of the American people that that system should be sustained and preserved, without diminution, in its application to every branch of domestic industry that may be benefited by its influence.

The Rev. GEORGE A. BAXTER, D. D. pastor of the Presbyterian church in Rocky Hill, Md. has been appointed by the Synods of North Carolina and Virginia, to the professorship of Christian Theology in the Union Theological Seminary, vacated by the decease of the late Rev. Dr. Rice.

The following article from the Political Examiner (Frederick, Md.) gives with precision, and we presume with accuracy, the effect of the late Decision of the Chancellor of Maryland, and the actual state of the controversy between the Canal and Rail Road Companies.

It will be perceived, from the decree, that the Chancellor of this State has decided the controversy between the Rail Road and Canal Companies, in favor of the former. This decision is not final, as we understand the case will be carried before the Court of Appeals, now in session at Annapolis, and from thence, by an appeal, to the Supreme Court of the United States. In order that our readers may understand the force of the decree, it is necessary to state that the injunction, which is now made perpetual by him against the application of the Rail Road Company, and which prohibits the former from prosecuting their works at the disputed point. A similar injunction was granted by Washington County Court, restraining the Rail Road Company from proceeding, which is yet in force, and will continue so until dissolved by the same or a higher Court. The Chancellor of this State, wielding only a concurrent jurisdiction with the County Courts, does not possess the power to annul an injunction issued by one of them, and, of consequence, his decision goes no further than to confirm, after a deliberate consideration of the arguments of counsel, his own act. We understand that the costs of the suit and survey will amount to a very considerable sum.