

Annual Message soon begin to be embarrassed; and then it is found that a new tariff is required to remedy the defects of the old. The tariff of 1824 was followed by the tariff of 1828; and the effect of these measures, upon various interests of the country, may be inferred from the encouragement then given to ship-building; a branch of business, which gave employment and support to a greater number of mechanics, tradesmen, and labourers than all the manufacturing companies of the United States. Previously to 1824, copper, iron, sail duck, and other materials for ship building were charged with oppressive duties; which were raised by the tariff of that year to so enormous a rate, that it seemed to be the determination of the Government to drive our ships from the ocean. According to the statement, made by Mr Webster in his speech on the tariff bill, the duties on the materials used in the construction and equipment of a ship of 395 tons, with copper fastenings, but not with coppered bottom, amounted to fourteen hundred dollars - this tax of nearly four dollars a ton did not afford sufficient encouragement to other branches of American industry; and it was raised to the proper scale of protection by the tariff of 1828.

It has been seriously contended, that the extensive cultivation of cotton in the Southern States is the effect of the American system; though no explanation is given why a duty at home should create a foreign demand for it. The sugar of Louisiana has certainly been protected by the tariff because the quantity produced was not sufficient to supply the home demand. It is doubtful however, whether the sugar planters have gained as much by the enhanced value of their crops as they have lost by the higher prices, which they have been compelled to pay for other protected articles. It is hardly necessary to show that the duty on cotton is entirely unoperative; and that no article, which is cheaper at home than elsewhere and is sent abroad to find better markets, can receive the least protection from duties and restrictions. Cotton might be brought into the United States from Texas or Egypt, without affecting the interests of the Southern States; because it would only be making a circuitous voyage to France or England, instead of being exported directly to those countries from the place of its growth.

The main principle of the protective policy is, that every country ought to produce at home, whatever is required for the use of its inhabitants; and to provide a home market for the products of its own industry. If this principle were carried into practice, all commercial intercourse between nations would cease; the great cities of the world would be converted into ruins; ships would no longer be seen traversing the ocean; and ignorance and barbarism would cover the face of the globe. It may be supposed however that a policy, which would not admit of universal application might be beneficial to the United States, or any other country whose diversity of climate and resources matched it with proper