

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 inoperative; 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 enabled it, with proper encouragement, to furnish all the necessaries and comforts of life. This is the policy which the friends of domestic industry so earnestly recommend. If it were adopted, and could possibly be carried into effect, our exports and imports would cease; our navy and shipping would be destroyed; the principal source of federal revenue would be cut off; the canals and rail roads leading to the Atlantic cities would be rendered unprofitable and useless; agriculture, commerce, and manufactures would perish from want of support; the southern states would become a desert, and our eastern brethren might set out on a new pilgrimage, and retire into some wilderness where the littleness of man had not been striving against the providence of God.

But it may be said that the advocates of a home market and domestic supplies only wish to apply their doctrines to particular branches of our foreign trade, and do not intend to destroy it altogether. They consider it especially desirable to provide a home market for the immense amount of cotton which is exported to other countries, and to employ our own citizens in manufacturing such articles as are now received in return for it. It would then be found, that in getting rid of one difficulty, we should encounter another, for instead of exporting the raw material, we should be obliged to depend on foreign markets for the sale of it in a new form; and whether our exports consisted of manufactures or