

of its policy, have been, heretofore, so fully expressed in our communications to the general assembly, that we do not deem it necessary, at this time, to add any thing further upon it. The other subject, the protection of domestic manufactures, being the principal cause of the extraordinary excitement we have noticed and occupying at this time, so large a share of the public attention, seems to claim from us a more particular exposition of our views in relation to it.

That differences of opinion should be entertained and expressed of the policy and expediency of affording such protection, and that fears should be entertained of its burdening one section of the country, for the benefit of another, and of its operating injuriously upon the other great interests of the country, is, we frankly admit, not at all surprising. It has been the common error of the early periods of every country, to imagine an opposition between the interests of agriculture and manufactures, and for such error to prevail until it is corrected by experience. Particular circumstances have existed, almost from the establishment of our government, until a recent period, tending to continue such error of thinking.

A system of policy very proper at one period in the history of a country, may, by changes in its internal condition, and by its relative position as it regards other nations, become highly injurious, and require to be modified, so as to conform its interests and pursuits, to the altered situation of its affairs. Such changes, it seems to us, in the circumstances and position of our country have occurred.

Whilst nearly all those portions of the world with which our commerce was carried on, were engaged in war, and consequently in need of the agricultural productions of our country, which, from that cause, commanded high prices; and whilst our population was, comparatively sparse and small; the cultivation of the earth, and the transportation of its productions to foreign markets, afforded such profitable employment for our labour, that we had no need further to diversify it. But those long continued and desolating wars ceased several years since, and the labouring population of Europe, have, consequently, been turned from the shedding of each others blood to the cultivation of the soil, and other pursuits for supplying the wants of their respective countries. And all the productions of ours, with which they are able to supply themselves with similar articles, by their own labour and industry, have been either greatly burdened with protecting duties, or entirely prohibited from entering into the consumption of their respective countries, and consequent competition with their own labour. The foreign market for the productions of our agriculture, has been from these causes, and by these means, in great part cut off, and so limited and curtailed as to reduce the prices below a remuneration for the labour and capital employed.

Under these, materially different circumstances, it seems to us, that a diversity of the pursuits and labours of our population,