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EDITORIAL

## HALF TRUTHS.

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**T**HE “Tariff Chamber of Horrors,” which the Democratic party has opened in this city for the campaign, is an exhibit from which the visitor will carry many bits of information.

It is interesting to see the articles of American manufacture which can be bought abroad cheaper than at home—sewing machines at 40 per cent. less in Mexico; Massachusetts shoes at 30 per cent. less in Calcutta; New York 15-cent cigars at 7 cents in Gibraltar; dotted Swiss muslin at 50 per cent. less in Armenia; typewriters at 45 per cent. less in Dresden; Waltham watches at 20 per cent. less in Tokyo; etc.; etc.; etc.

The ruminating mind, as it leaves the exhibition, will ponder:—

Some will ponder, Is the tariff intended to keep out foreign-made goods, or is it not really intended to keep American-made goods from re-entering “their own, their native lan”?

Others will ponder, Is there anything to equal the altruism of our “Protected Interests”? Who can match them in Christian love? Pelicans are not in it with them. They give their very hearts away to the foreigner, whom Jingos would induce the people to hate!

Others, again, will ponder, How even-handed the retribution that American Capitalism deals out! Foreign Labor, from Calcutta eastward to Armenia, deserts its capitalist master and comes to our shores. This is an act of treason. The deserted countries deserve being re-couped; they deserve some salve poured on their wounds. American Capitalism does the good Samaritan act. It sells, from Armenia westward to Calcutta more cheaply than it does in its own markets.

In this way many other varieties of ponderings will be done, along the anti-tariff line, by other ruminating minds, while another set of ruminators will rumi-

nate as follows, to wit, that is to say:

“This free trade move beats all that the tariff folks have ever schemed. How plausible it looks and sounds that, if American goods can be sold so cheaply abroad, then they could be sold still cheaper at home; if the workers need to pay less than 50 per cent. for what they now pay full 100, then they will be more than 50 per cent. in pocket. How very plausible! How deftly do these tariff reforms conceal the other half of the truth, to wit, that, if goods go down in price, the worker will not profit seeing that the Law of Wages will proportionally depress his earnings; and the employer only will be in clover, seeing that the Law of Profits will proportionally increase the surplus wealth produced by labor, and thus proportionally swell the swag swagged by the tariff reforming employers.”}

The final rumination will bring up and uppermost the thought:—Capitalism is a Chamber of Horrors, with two vestibules, Protection the one; Free Trade 'tother.

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