

The squirrels

Highland Falls on Hudson, New York.

August 23, 1909.

Lawrence F. Abbott Esq.,

Dear Sir:

Being a subscriber of the Outlook, your paragraphs in the July number were not likely to escape my attention. I gratefully appreciated the generous tone with which my own name and doings were mentioned. In fact I was so sensibly affected by it that I forebore a reply which was at the very end of my pen to the last paragraph about reciprocal free trade between New York and New Jersey. I wanted to ask the Outlook, if its neighbor were to steal its apples, it would be warranted in stealing his pears? But your taffy disarmed me.

I am obliged to you for the proffer of the Outlook's hospitality, and if I were, like so many of our tariff-ridden countrymen, out of work, I should be most happy to avail myself of it; but at present and for a month or two to come, I am a slave of the De Vinnea.

I shall put your note among my Agenda, to be re-perused when I hope to recover a little time that I can call my own.

Meantime I wish you would say to your father when you have the opportunity that I regret very much that the successor of Henry Ward Beecher to the Brooklyn pulpit should not see as clearly as he did the wickedness, - not merely the impolicy, but the flagrant unrighteousness - of any tariff whatever upon imports, unless it were for the exclusion of vicious and Black Hand immigrants. A tariff upon imports is War against every foreign nation; and War, General Sherman described very justly as Hell! He was speaking of our Civil War,

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which was Hell, although the combatants on both sides were pretty unanimous in thinking their cause was just. But no reflecting person can think <sup>that</sup> a tariff upon imports, which is a privilege for the hundreds protected at the expense of the thousands who are unprotected, is just. It is War. We are in flagrant war at this very moment. In more than half of the States of this Union today labor and capital are and for some years have been arrayed against each other, and privation of rights always and bloodshed only less frequently have been the consequences. What else are our desolating labor troubles but civil war? The fact that the mass of the combatants on both sides are not soldiers nor in uniform only makes the prospects of a permanent peace more remote, and the prospects of a revolution more imminent.

It made me sad to see the Outlook extenuating an utterly unconstitutional mode of taxation, which is compelling our people to pay fully fifty per cent more for their supplies from foreign countries than they are worth or need to have cost. It is a consolation to me however to reflect that the Outlook will soon have to haul ~~to~~ *its* wind; for it has never happened that a policy that was unconstitutional, unrighteous and oppressive to a majority of the people did not in due time come to a disastrous end. *But then the Outlook can only have the privilege of singing the Tariff's requiem.*

*Yours sincerely all the same*  
J. . . . . B. . . . .