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SUBSTANCE
OF
TWO SPEECHES,
DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
ON THE 21st AND 25th OF MARCH, 1825,
BY THE RIGHT HON.
WILLIAM HUSKISSON,
RESPECTING THE
COLONIAL POLICY,
AND
FOREIGN COMMERCE
OF THE COUNTRY.

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MEMORANDUM

SPEECH ON THE COLONIAL POLICY OF THE COUNTRY	5
FOREIGN COMMERCE	35

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S P E E C H
ON
THE COLONIAL POLICY
OF THE COUNTRY.

MARCH 21st, 1825.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Acts 3rd Geo. IV. cap. 44 and 45, Mr. BROGDEN in the Chair, Mr. HUSKISSON spoke in substance as follows:—

ALTHOUGH, Sir, the Resolutions with which I shall conclude the observations which I am now about to submit to the Committee, are in strict accordance with the recommendation in His Majesty's Speech from the Throne, and with the disposition of this House, in respect to the removal of restrictions upon Commerce; I am afraid that it will be necessary for me to trespass, more at length than I could wish, upon the indulgence of the Committee.

Considering the many important interests that may be affected, the alarms that may possibly be excited, the predilections that may be awakened, the prejudices that may be roused, by the measures which it is now

my duty to propose, I am sure the Committee will forgive me if I dwell upon explanations and statements, which might, otherwise, appear to be uncalled for by the occasion.

I can assure the Committee that if I am about to recommend alterations which are at variance with the ancient sentiments of this country, in respect to Colonial policy and trade, it is not because I consider the views of our ancestors as necessarily erroneous, or that innovation must necessarily be improvement; but it is, because the circumstances and state of the world, in which we have to examine colonial interests, have changed; and it becomes us, as practical Statesmen, to deal with those interests with a reference to that change. It is only in this sense, and with this qualification, that I desire to be looked upon as an innovator. I am not anxious to give effect to new principles, where circumstances do not call for their application; feeling as I do, from no small experience in public business—and every day confirms that feeling—how much, in the vast and complex interests of this country, all general theories, however incontrovertible in the abstract, require to be weighed with a calm circumspection, to be directed by a temperate discretion, and to be adapted to all the existing relations of society, with a careful hand, and a due regard to the establishments and institutions which have grown up under those relations.

It was under these impressions, that, in conformity to the notice which I had given, I intended this evening to have requested the attention of the Committee to the following subjects: *First*,—The system of our commercial policy in respect to our colonies. *Secondly*,—The expediency of revising many of the duties now payable upon the import of the raw materials used in our manufactures, and of relaxing the prohibitory duties, which,

under the name of protection, are now enforced against the manufactured productions of other countries: and, *Thirdly*,—The means of affording some further degree of relief and assistance to the interests of our shipping and navigation. From the bearing of these subjects upon each other, it would certainly have been convenient to have taken them in connexion; but considering the numerous topics which they embrace, I cannot hope, rising at this late hour, that the patience of the Committee can be sustained, whilst I advert to them all. I shall therefore, with your permission, confine myself this evening to the first, and in many respects, the most important head of inquiry—our Colonial System,—and postpone the two other branches till Friday next.

It must be well known to every gentleman who hears me, that the long-established policy of all the European powers possessing Colonies in the New World, and of this country among the rest, was that of an entire and rigid exclusion of those Colonies from all commercial intercourse, except with the mother country. To uphold this exclusion, and to forbid all such intercourse, seemed of the very essence of colonization. In the strict, and even inhospitable enforcement of this principle, Spain, with the largest colonial possessions in the world, shewed herself most determined, and, if I may use the expression, most exclusive. But without being equally jealous, other powers were not less tenacious of the principle. I cannot give a stronger proof of this, than by reminding the Committee, that this exclusive intercourse was held to be a part of the international law of Europe. In our prize courts it has been commonly referred to, and acted upon, as the rule of the Seven-years' War. Under this rule, the colony of a belligerent could not claim to carry on trade through the intervention of a neutral, because that neutral was

not permitted to participate in such trade in time of peace. But if this has been the long-established basis of the Colonial system, need I state the vast inroads which have been made upon this system within the last fifteen years? Let the Committee look at the Brazils, that immense country, which was held by Portugal under a strict exclusion, till the migration of the Royal Family from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro, in 1808. Let them look at the large and fertile Island of St. Domingo; to the present state of those extended regions on the Continent of America, lately as Colonies of Spain, shut out from all intercourse with the rest of the world. Again, let them look at Cuba, and the Islands which have continued their allegiance to the Spanish crown, the trade with which is now open. Considering this almost general revolution in the system of Colonial commerce,—considering the influence of such a revolution upon the commerce of our own Colonies, upon the commerce of rival nations, upon the views, and feelings, and speculations of the mercantile part of the community, and of our own Colonial population, is it not enough, of itself, to warrant, at least, the inquiry, whether so great a change in all around us does not call for some change on our part? I will not now examine how far this inquiry is become necessary, in consequence of our pretensions to participate in the commerce of these foreign Colonies, and by the fact of our so participating; or how far, in fairness and impartiality, justice, and that duty, which power, above all, owes to weakness, require that we should reciprocate the benefits which we exact.

These considerations, however important, do not perhaps immediately belong to the present discussion, viewed as a commercial question; but there is another inquiry which, in this point of view at least, it becomes us not to neglect.

Have the Colonies, of which the trade has been thrown open, benefited by this enlargement of their intercourse? Are they likely to benefit still more? Rivals in the same productions, competitors in the same markets, can we, in the long run, with our system of monopoly, stand against their freedom of trade? If we cannot, are we not risking the good will and attachment of our Colonies, as well as the interests of our commerce? Is perseverance in such a system, politically wise, or practically safe? Is the great change, begun half a century ago, and still in progress, in the political and commercial state of the vast Continent of America, from the Gulph of St. Lawrence to Cape Horn, to lead to no change in our mode of administering the extensive possessions, both continental and insular, which remain under our dominion and protection in that quarter of the globe? Do the immense and rapidly growing commerce and navigation of the United States of America, suggest no matter for consideration, in reference to our own commercial and naval interests? These are important questions, which, in the department allotted to me in the Public Service, I have asked myself, as a Minister of the Crown, and which I now feel it my duty to recommend to the most serious consideration of this Committee.

Recollecting that, for centuries, it has been a settled maxim of public policy, in all great States having dependencies, to make the interests of those dependencies subservient to the interests, or the supposed interests, of the parent State; there is, perhaps, no country where the consequences of perseverance in such a system, on the one hand, and of its relaxation, on the other, can be so forcibly illustrated as in our own.

In the first place, let us look at Ireland, till the year 1782 a dependency of Great Britain, in the sense which I have described. It was so not only in fact, but in law,

and under the express provision of a statute, (6 George I. cap. 5,) entitled, "An Act for the better securing the Dependency of the Kingdom of Ireland upon the Crown of Great Britain." The many other causes which contributed to keep that fertile Island in a state of misery and depression I shall pass by, on the present occasion; but is it not a well-known fact, that, till the year 1780, the agriculture, the internal industry, the manufactures, the commerce, the navigation of Ireland, were all held in the most rigid subserviency to the supposed interests of Great Britain? In the year 1778, indeed, it was proposed in the British Parliament, so far to relax this exclusive system, as to allow Ireland to import sugar directly from our West India Colonies, for her own use; and, in payment for such sugar, to export her own produce and manufactures (woollens excepted) to those Colonies; and further, to allow her to export glass, and some other articles of her own manufacture, directly to foreign parts. What was the reception which these proposals met with in the House of Commons, and on the part of the trading and manufacturing interests of this country? In this House, the opponents of these limited concessions, enumerating the boons which had already been conferred upon Ireland, declared, that to grant any more would be fatal to the commerce and manufactures of England. And what were those mighty boons, beyond which we could not, with safety to ourselves, venture to be liberal to others? Why, that we already allowed the Irish to send their beef and butter to our Colonies,—a permission, however, only granted from year to year, since the breaking out of the American war;—and that we further permitted them to clothe, with articles of their own manufacture, the troops on the Irish establishment, paid and provided by that country, but then serving with our army in North America. To be

sure, as compared with these indulgences, the measures then proposed were extravagantly rash and liberal. But were they acceded to by the House? No, Sir. Our merchants and manufacturers, our ship-owners, our country gentlemen,—all took the alarm.—All were to be ruined, if we granted the proposed participation to a country almost without any debt, not paying the same taxes with ourselves,—a country in which so many of the population were without employment, and where, from these causes, wages were so much lower, and provisions so much cheaper, than in England. Resting upon these and other grounds, petitions poured in from all quarters, and the House was deterred from proceeding with the proposed measures in that Session. I have had the curiosity to look back to some of the leading petitions on that occasion. The merchants of Glasgow pray, "that neither the present, nor any future advantage should be granted to Ireland, which might, in the least degree, operate to the disadvantage of Great Britain:"—so far I go along with them in principle, and I only quote this sentence to shew the doctrine then universally assumed—that in commerce one country could not be liberal to another, without sacrificing its own interests; and, accordingly, the good people of Glasgow, in those days, maintained, that they had an hereditary right in the sugar trade, and claimed its exclusive possession, for the people of Great Britain, as a property in which Ireland never could be allowed the smallest participation. The language of Manchester was still more decided in reprobating the proposed concession.—With the loyal people of that town, it appeared to involve almost a question of allegiance. Liverpool, also, did not hesitate to predict, that, by the adoption of the proposals, "That town and port would speedily be reduced to their original insignificance."

In the year 1779, a more limited concession to Ireland was proposed in the British House of Commons. It went no further than to allow the Irish to bring sugar directly from our Colonies, limiting the supply to their own consumption; but even this measure was negatived upon a division. Towards the close of that year, the events of the war in North America, and the state of things in Ireland, produced a different feeling in the British Parliament. State necessity, acting under a sense of political danger, yielded, without grace, that which good sense and good feeling had before recommended in vain: and in 1782, under the like pressure, these concessions, fortunately wise in themselves, were rendered irrevocable by the repeal of the Statute of the 6th George I.

I will not detain the Committee with further details of the progressive measures by which, since that period, all the remaining restraints on the commerce, the agriculture, and the industry of Ireland, have been gradually removed, up to the termination of the Union Duties in the course of last year, and the placing of her commercial intercourse with Great Britain upon the footing of a coasting trade. Many of these restraints, now happily at an end, were too long retained by ignorance and prejudice, by violence and faction, sometimes on the one side, and sometimes on the other. But I would ask any man, the most devoted to the tenets of the old school of commerce, whether he is prepared to maintain that this relaxation, which it was so confidently predicted would be fatal to all the great interests of Great Britain, has not contributed at least as much to augment her wealth and power in agriculture, in shipping, in commerce, and in manufactures, as it has to promote, in all these branches, the advancement of Ireland? I would ask those, whom I am

proud and happy to designate as my present enlightened constituents at Liverpool, to look back to the fears which agitated the generation which preceded them,—to compare with the predictions of those fears the present life and bustle of their commerce,—to estimate how much of its unparalleled prosperity, unparalleled in the rapidity of its growth, is due to the freedom of commercial intercourse with that country, from the first earnest of which their predecessors anticipated nothing short of annihilation?

The Committee must be aware, that in tracing the advantages which both countries have derived from the removal of all exclusive restraints upon the commerce of Ireland, I am stating a case, in which the progress of relaxation, begun forty-five years ago, and scarcely yet complete, had to encounter many peculiar disadvantages. Among other drawbacks, the Committee will recollect the ravages of a rebellion, destructive alike of property and of confidence; the drains of a long and expensive foreign war, to which the resources of Ireland were inadequate:—and yet how much has been done towards laying the foundations of her future, and, now I trust, not distant prosperity? How much for the mutual and concurrent advancement of both parts of the United Kingdom in the scale of opulence and power, instead of leaving them in the state of disgraceful contrast to one another?—a contrast perilous to both, and most unjust to the weaker country,—in which they must have remained, had Great Britain persevered, as at one time it was but too much her disposition to persevere, in her ancient system of commercial policy towards Ireland.

If from Ireland we turn our eyes to those Provinces, which, little more than forty years ago, ceased to be colonial dependencies of Great Britain,—whatever we may think

of the proceedings which induced them to resort to arms against the mother country,—whatever may have been the faults, on either side, which led to that appeal,—whatever may, now, be our retrospective opinion of the justice, the policy, or the conduct of the American war,—whatever feelings may have existed, at any time, of humiliation and regret; that, by the issue of that war, these fine Provinces were, for ever, wrested from his Majesty's Crown;—I would ask any man, whether, abstractedly from these feelings, the disseverance of the United States from the British Empire, viewed as a mere question of commerce, has been an injury to this country?—Whether their emancipation from the commercial thralldom of the colonial system has really been prejudicial to the trade and industry of Great Britain? If the answer must be, that it has not been prejudicial, is there no useful admonition to be derived from this example?—Contemplate the possibility of another set of Provinces, emancipated from commercial thralldom, but firmly maintaining their political connexion;—their commercial marine a part of our commercial marine,—their seamen a part of our seamen,—their population a part of our strength.—Consider whether it be not worth while to attempt a course which promises, both to those Provinces and to the Mother Country, all the commercial benefits of a free trade, together with all the political advantages of our continuing parts of one great Empire, and enjoying alike, under the sway and protection of the same Sovereign, all the rights and privileges of British subjects.

Looking to what the United States now are, as a political and maritime power in the New World,—to the state of other countries in that hemisphere,—to their increasing relations with the Old World,—to the intercourse

which, in the next fifty years, will probably grow up in the Pacific, between the west of America and the east of Asia,—to the British interests, both of commerce and political power, which are involved in all these changes and occurrences, I trust that I shall not be considered as losing sight of the business of this evening, or as harbouring any unfriendly feeling towards the United States; if I look also to the means by which, in a race of fair and honorable rivalry and competition of our commerce and navigation with the commerce and navigation of the United States, these great interests of the British Empire are most likely to be maintained.

From all the experience which we can collect from the conduct of this country, in respect to Ireland, and to its Colonies,—from all that we witness of what is passing in the Colonies of other States, I come clearly to this conclusion,—that so far as the Colonies themselves are concerned, their prosperity is cramped and impeded by the old system of exclusion and monopoly; and I feel myself equally warranted in my next inference, that whatever tends to increase the prosperity of the Colonies, cannot fail, in the long run, to advance, in an equal degree, the general interests of the Parent State.

Requesting the Committee to bear in mind these general inferences, I will now state how far we have already relaxed the old rigour of Colonial exclusion, and how much further I propose to proceed in this career. By the Acts which have been read (3rd Geo. IV. cap. 44 and 45,) we have permitted, *First*,—An intercourse between any countries in America, and our Colonies, in the ships of those Countries, or in British ships; but the first of these Acts requires, that the intercourse, at least in the foreign vessel, should be direct from the Colony to the country

to which the vessel belongs; and it limits very much the articles which can be imported into the Colony, according to schedules in which the articles are enumerated; and, *Secondly*,—We have permitted a direct trade from the Colonies, in articles of their growth or production, to the ports of foreign Europe; but this trade is strictly confined to British ships, which may also carry from those ports, direct to the Colonies, certain enumerated articles of foreign growth.

From this statement, the Committee will perceive that, in allowing the countries of America to trade with our Colonies in their own vessels, we have, in fact, conceded to the navigation of the United States a privilege which is not granted to any State in Europe; and this privilege, though nominally extended to all the countries of America, is really a boon to the United States alone, as the other countries have, as yet, scarcely any commercial marine. What has hitherto been the return made by the United States for this indulgence? In the first Session of their Congress, which followed the opening of this trade by our Act of Parliament, they passed a law, imposing alien duties in their ports upon all British ships which might trade between those ports and our Colonies, to be levied until the productions of the United States should be admitted into our Colonies, upon the same terms and duties as the *like* productions of *any other* country, meaning, thereby, the like productions not of any other *foreign* country, but of our own country, or of our own provinces in North America. This is a pretension unheard of in the commercial relations of independent States. It is just as unreasonable as it would be, on our part, to require that sugar or rum, from our West India Islands, should be admitted at New York upon the same terms and duties as the like articles, the growth and production of

Louisiana, or any other of the twenty-four separate States which now constitute the federal Union. Whatever may have been the arguments used to induce the American Congress to adopt this course, their real reason for making the attempt was, I am persuaded, an impression on their part, that we had yielded this intercourse to necessity, and, that, as our Colonies could not subsist without it, they might prescribe the conditions under which it should be carried on. To meet this unexpected proceeding on the part of the United States, we were driven to one of these two courses,—either again to prohibit the intercourse with them altogether, or, to retaliate the alien duties imposed upon British shipping, by subjecting to the like duties American ships entering the ports of our Colonies. Neither of these expedients were in themselves desirable, but we preferred the latter; *first*,—as the mildest, and because the American Government manifested a disposition to negotiate upon the subject; and *secondly*,—because a more comprehensive measure, for giving a wider opening to the intercourse of other countries with our Colonies, was in contemplation; such a measure as, if adopted, must take away all pretext, on the part of the United States, for continuing these alien duties, and shew them, that, if they do not choose to trade with our Colonies upon equal terms with other countries, the Colonies can do without their trade altogether.

After this explanation of the mode in which the permission given to the United States to trade in their own ships with our Colonies has been received by the Government of that country, I would ask the Committee, independently of all general considerations, why are we to refuse the like indulgence to the ships of European States? Are we more jealous of the navigation of Denmark, Sweden,

Russia, Holland, or the Hans Towns, than of that of the United States? Are we anxious to promote the one, at the expense of repressing the other? Is it fair or politic to grant to the one what we withhold from the other? I think that every man who understands the political interests of England, as connected with the maintenance of her naval power, must be satisfied that this cannot be a wise policy.

There can, therefore, be no doubt that it would be expedient to permit the same latitude of trade to the ships of other countries, as is now allowed to those of the United States. But I go further; I am prepared to open the commerce of our Colonies to all friendly States, upon the same principle, (though of course with some difference in the detail of its modifications,) upon which they are at liberty to trade with Jersey, or with Ireland. With the exception of some articles which it will be necessary to prohibit, such as fire-arms and ammunition of war generally, and sugar, rum, &c. in the sugar Colonies,—I propose to admit a free intercourse between all our Colonies and other countries, either in British ships, or in the ships of those countries, allowing the latter to import all articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the country to which the ship belongs, and to export from such Colonies all articles whatever of their growth, produce, or manufacture, either to the country from which such ship came, or to any other part of the world, the United Kingdom, and all its dependencies, excepted. All intercourse between the Mother Country and the Colonies, whether direct or circuitous, and all intercourse of the Colonies with each other, will be considered as a coasting trade to be reserved entirely and absolutely to ourselves. By this arrangement, the foundation of our Navigation Laws will be pre-

served, whilst the Colonies will enjoy a free trade with foreign countries, without breaking in upon the great principle of those laws, in respect to foreign trade—that the cargo must be the produce of the country to which the ship belongs, leaving the national character of the ship to be determined by the rules which apply in like cases in this country. The importation of foreign goods into the Colonies, I propose, should be made subject to moderate duties, but such as may be found sufficient for the fair protection of our own productions of the like nature. The duties, already established by the Acts to which I have referred, it is proposed to leave as they are, and to establish a further scale of *ad valorem* duties, varying from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 30 per cent. upon all articles, the importation of which, from foreign countries, has hitherto been prohibited. The particulars of these duties will be found in the Resolutions. They will, of course, form part of the revenues of the respective Colonies in which they may be collected, upon the same principle, and subject to the same system of appropriation by the Legislatures of those Colonies, as the duties already collected, under the Acts of the 3rd of the King.

It is for the Colonies that the benefit of these arrangements is intended; the duties will form a revenue which will be theirs, and will be carried to their account. They can, therefore, have no jealousy of the new system as one likely to trench upon their constitutional privileges in those respects.

With the further view of encouraging our own trade, and that of the Colonies, with the Countries of South America, I also propose to extend to certain ports in those Colonies the benefits and regulations of our Warehousing System, as it is now established in this Country, by allowing goods from all parts of the world to be bonded, and

deposited in warehouses, without payment of duty, till proper opportunities of selling, or exporting them, to advantage, shall occur. Looking to the present state of the countries lately belonging to Spain, this system must be attended with extraordinary advantages. The wants of those vast Countries are numerous; they embrace almost every object of European assortment; but in the present state of society, from the want of capital, and individual credit, and from other causes, these wants are best supplied, as it were, in retail, and by small deliveries frequently renewed. A large cargo, sent directly from England to any of their ports, is not easily disposed of; it gluts the market. It is very desirable, therefore, that the warehousing system should be established in the ports of our Colonies with which these countries can most easily and frequently communicate. The Americans have found the benefit of this mode of carrying on traffic, with the late Spanish Provinces, from New Orleans; a port which now engrosses a considerable portion of this trade, though not so conveniently situated for the purpose, as some of the ports which we possess in the Gulph of Mexico.

It is not to be dissembled that this is a great change in our colonial system. Should it be adopted by Parliament, it will operate somewhat differently in our sugar islands, and in those extensive continental possessions, the Provinces of British North America. By opening to our sugar colonies a trade with all other countries, we shall afford them, in the increased competition and economy of a direct trade, a better chance of supplying their wants on reasonable terms, and of finding a demand for their surplus productions. We shall accomplish, I verily believe, though not perhaps at first, the establishment of a new course of trade, as well as of a more extended system

of commission and agency, in those colonies. Mercantile houses will be formed in the principal ports, both to supply the wants of the colonies, and to watch, for their own speculations in the general markets of the world, the fluctuations of demand and price in those articles which the West Indies supply. Every step in this change will contribute to introduce a greater proportion and a better description of white population, and gradually, I should hope, to diffuse a new spirit of enterprise, not only in commerce, but in agriculture,—to stimulate endeavours to raise other productions, (indigo and silk, for instance,) besides sugar, which will increase the cultivation and wealth of those colonies. On the part of the mother country, it will be wise to give every degree of proper encouragement to these new sources of improvement. They will not only add to the value of property in that part of the world, but they will gradually meliorate the moral condition of society, and, by consequence, the internal security of these possessions. It is under these impressions that I shall propose, in revising other duties of customs with a view to the relief of trade, considerably to reduce the duties payable in this country upon many of the minor productions of the West Indies, such as are generally raised by the negroes and people of colour for their own account, or by small white proprietors residing on the spot; in the hope that such a reduction, by increasing the consumption, will contribute to increase the cultivation of these articles, as well as the comforts of those classes by whom they are raised.

These, it may be objected, are but vague and speculative improvements, which may never be realized.—It may be so; but if I am called upon to point out specifically the precise mode and course of operations by which the

benefits of this new system are to make their way in the West Indies, I have no hesitation to avow, that I can do no such thing. Yet in making this avowal, let me remind the Committee, that in 1813, when, upon the renewal of the East India Company's Charter, their monopoly of trade was greatly relaxed, the wisest and most experienced men in that trade could not point out, precisely, what new channels of commerce could be opened with the East Indies. Nay, they denied that any new channels could be explored by the private trader, or that any benefits could accrue to India from the relaxation of the former monopoly. But new channels have been explored, new benefits have been conferred;—proving, as the history of all modern commerce proves, that whenever you give a free scope to capital, to industry, to the stirring intelligence and active spirit of adventure, which so strongly mark the present times, you are in fact opening new roads to enterprise, and affording new facilities to the interchange of the productions of the different regions of the earth:—that interchange, of which the advantages must be reciprocal, and of which the extension to new countries is, perhaps, the surest harbinger of their improvement and civilization. I cannot doubt, therefore, that the West Indies, in the course of no very great number of years, will add a new proof to those which Ireland, and the United States have already afforded, which so many other parts of the world are now about to afford, of this great commercial and political truth,—that an open trade, especially to a rich and thriving Country, is infinitely more valuable than any monopoly, however exclusive, which the public power of the State may be able, either to enforce against its own Colonial dominions, or to establish in its intercourse with other parts of the

world:—so true it is, that the wants of mankind, every where, increase with the means of indulging their desires, and that the increase of those means will be best found in that course, which, by stimulating industry, creates exchangeable wealth.

If this principle be true in its application to the West Indies, mere plantations, sugar gardens, as it were, tilled by slaves, for the benefit of masters resident in Great Britain,—in how much a greater degree must it be true in its application to our North American Provinces, where a wider field is open, and a more natural and happier state of society prevails? There you have not a mere plantation, but an immense country. There you have a white population, all free, prosecuting their various pursuits and avocations of life, for their own benefit and happiness, many of them born in the country, and almost all looking to it as their home, and as the home of those by whom they are to be succeeded. That population, taking all the Provinces, is not short, perhaps, at this moment, of one million of people, and their numbers increasing very rapidly. With the fertility of the soil in many of their districts, with their natural productions, their harbours, and extent of coast, both upon the ocean and their internal lakes, with their fisheries, and other advantages, I cannot doubt, that without any other encouragement than freedom of trade, and a lenient administration, these Provinces will, henceforward, make the most rapid strides towards prosperity;—that connecting their prosperity with the liberal treatment of the Mother Country, they will neither look with envy at the growth of other States on the same Continent, nor wish for the dissolution of old, and the formation of new political connexions. With a tariff of duties, accounted for to their own treasury, and moreover

far lighter than those paid by their neighbours,—with a trade as free,—with their shipping in possession of greater privileges,—themselves in the enjoyment of the same civil rights,—they will not be easily moved to acts by which all these advantages may be placed in jeopardy or danger. Such a course is not in human nature. At any rate, let us, as the parent State, fulfil our duties with all proper kindness and liberality. This is true wisdom, affording us, on the one hand, the best chance of perpetuating a solid and useful connexion, and on the other, the best hope if, (which God avert,) in the progress of human events, that connexion is ever to be dissolved, that the separation may not be embittered by acrimony and bloodshed; and the certain consolation that, however brought about, it will not have been hastened or provoked by vexatious interference or oppressive pretensions on our part. In addition, therefore, to all the advantages which the prosperity of our North American Colonies must reflect upon our own prosperity, I consider that, by extending to them this participation of the commercial facilities and privileges which we enjoy, we shall unite the mutual interests, and draw closer the bonds of harmony and good understanding, between us and these valuable dependencies. But viewed as a question of commerce merely, I have no difficulty in stating that, without these changes, they will not, I fear, be able to stand the competition of the United States. To those who have not paid particular attention to subjects of this nature, I shall perhaps best illustrate the disadvantage under which our Colonies now labour in this competition, by stating one instance of it.

The fisheries employ a considerable part of the population of Nova Scotia. They also afford employment to the citizens of the neighbouring districts of the United States.

In all that relates to the procuring the fish, and the preparing them for a foreign market, the two parties are perhaps upon an equality. But, now, let us follow them to that market, we will say, the Brazils, which is one of the best and most extensive. Each party, it is true, has there an equal facility for selling his cargo; but the cargo, once disposed of, the inequality commences. The citizen of the United States can take in return, any of the productions of the Brazils, and proceed with them, either to his own country, or to any other part of the world; and, in the latter case, bartering them away again for the productions of some other country, finally return with another cargo to his own. Not so the Nova Scotian. Many of the staple productions of Brazil, (sugar for instance,) are not admissible in the British Provinces of North America. He may take these productions, it is true, to the ports of foreign Europe, with as much facility as his neighbour; but then again, if he procure a loading in those ports, he cannot return home with his cargo, because it is not admissible in his own country, except directly from Great Britain. Now, it is this difference in the mode of transacting the same business, which often makes the profit or loss of the adventure; and from which, among other disadvantages, it is my wish to relieve the King's subjects in North America.

Another essential relief applicable to our Colonies and their trade, will, I trust, be found in the abolition of the large fees which are now levied in almost all our Colonial ports. These fees, which frequently amount to more than the public duties, both on the ship and cargo, are levied for the benefit of certain public officers. There is, in many of the Islands, a fee for the Governor, another for his Secretary, a fee to the Naval Officer, to the Officers of the

revenue, and to several others. If a ship proceed from one port to another, as is frequently the case, owing to the state of the markets, these fees are levied at every port. They are not only a heavy burthen, but a great impediment to trade, and have more than once been complained of in this House, particularly by the Member for Coventry (Mr. Ellice). Some of the officers to whom those fees are paid, (I mean particularly the naval officers,) will, I conceive, be no longer necessary, especially when the commerce of the Colonies will be so nearly assimilated to that of the Mother Country. The officers of the Customs will be quite sufficient to attend to the enforcement of the Navigation Laws. It is, therefore, intended to abolish the naval officers altogether, making compensation to those who hold their appointments for life, under patent, and allowing a superannuation, in the usual mode, to such as have been appointed only during pleasure. To all the officers in the Customs who are to be continued, it is proposed to give salaries, as in this country, to be paid out of the duties which they will have to collect: and upon the same fund, it will be just to assign the temporary compensations to the other officers, as the discontinuance of their fees will be a relief to the Colony in which they were levied; the balance, after defraying those charges, to be accounted for, as I have already explained, to the treasury of the Colony. The details of this improvement, and the mode of carrying it into execution, appertain of course to the Treasury, and the Colonial Department; but it was right that I should advert to it, on the present occasion, as a measure essentially connected with the new system of Colonial commerce, which I have now submitted to the Committee.

It only remains for me to state two further alterations, of

a more local and specific nature. The one relates to the Mauritius, and the other to Canada. The duty on Mauritius sugar, on its importation into this country, is now ten shillings per cwt. more than the duty on British plantation sugar. Last Session I proposed Resolutions for equalizing those duties; but it was then objected, that the commerce of the Mauritius was not under the same restrictions as existed in the West Indies, and that the inhabitants of that Colony preferred freedom of trade to equality of duty. Upon this objection the Resolutions were abandoned; but now that trade will be equally free to all, there can be no valid reason (even if there existed any last year) why the Mauritius sugar should not be admitted at the same rate as that of the West Indies. This island is cultivated in the same manner as the West India islands. I know of no advantage it has over them; whilst its greater distance, by increasing the expense of freight, and its frequent exposure to hurricanes, would seem to place it under some natural disadvantages. From this diminution of duty, which appears to me, in all fairness, due to the Mauritius, I do not apprehend that any serious prejudice can accrue to the West India planter, as the quantity of sugar grown in that island is not considerable; and, of course, what is sent to Europe must equally influence the price of this article in the general market, whether it finds its way to this country or to the Continent.

The measure which I have to propose in respect to Canada, appears to me to be no more than an act of common justice to that Colony. It is simply this:—to admit, at all times, the corn of that country into our consumption, upon the payment of a fixed and moderate duty. When it is considered that corn is the staple of that Colony, I cannot conceive a greater act of injustice, than to

have declared to a part of our own Empire, as much entitled to protection as any other part of it, that against that staple the markets of this country were closed. How are the Canadians to pay for the supplies which they draw from this country?—Is it fitting, that, when they make their remittances in this staple, they should do so, without being able to know whether it can be received here?—Whether it is to remain in warehouse, unavailable and unproductive, and at a ruinous expense, for five or six years, depending for its admission into our market upon the fraction of a half-penny, according to the average price in our markets for a few preceding weeks;—that average, influenced by the conflicting tricks and artifices of the home grower and the home dealer; the result of which cannot be known in Canada for many months afterwards? When this subject is considered by the British agriculturist, it is impossible that he can view the indulgence which I propose with jealousy or apprehension. That indulgence is, to allow the free import of Canadian wheat, at all times, upon the payment of a duty of five shillings a quarter. In addition to the protection of this duty, the British grower will have that of the freight from Quebec to England, which is not less than from twelve to fifteen shillings more. The greatest quantity of wheat which Canada can now supply, may, I understand, be estimated at not more than 50,000 quarters, but even if the importation were double that quantity, and were it to increase more rapidly than I consider probable, such an addition is not likely to keep pace with the growing demand of our population; and whether so or not, I should still maintain, that the principle of the measure is one to which no fair or impartial man can possibly refuse his assent.

It only remains for me, thanking the Committee for their attention, to move the following Resolutions:—

First,—That it is expedient to amend several Acts of the 3rd and 4th years of His present Majesty, for regulating the trade between His Majesty's Possessions in America, and other places in America and the West Indies; and between His Majesty's Possessions in America and the West Indies, and other parts of the world; and also an Act of the 4th year of His present Majesty, for 'regulating the warehousing of goods.'

Secondly,—That the Duties imposed by two Acts of the 3rd year of His present Majesty, for regulating the trade between His Majesty's Possessions in America, and other places in America and the West Indies; and between His Majesty's Possessions in America and the West Indies, and other parts of the world, or by an Act of the 4th year of His present Majesty, to amend the last mentioned Act, shall cease and determine; and that the duties hereinafter mentioned shall be paid in lieu thereof; that is to say,

[SCHEDULE.

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES.

A SCHEDULE of DUTIES payable upon Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, not being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any place under the British Dominion in America or the West Indies, or within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, imported into His Majesty's Colonies, Plantations, or Islands, in America or the West Indies.

	£. s. d.
Barrel of Wheat Flour, not weighing more than 196lbs. net weight	0 5 0
Barrel of Biscuit, not weighing more than 196lbs. net weight	0 2 6
For every hundred weight of Biscuit	0 1 6
For every 100lbs. of Bread made from Wheat or other Grain, imported in bags and packages	0 2 6
For every barrel of Flour, not weighing more than 196lbs. made from Rye, Pease, or Beans, Oats, or Barley	0 2 6
For every bushel of Wheat	0 1 0
For every bushel of Pease, Beans, Rye, Calavances, Oats, or Barley	0 0 7
Rice, for every 100lbs. net weight	0 2 6
For every 1,000 Shingles, not more than 12 inches in length	0 7 0
For every 1,000 Shingles, being more than 12 inches in length	0 14 0
For every 1,000 Red Oak Staves	1 1 0
For every 1,000 White Oak Staves, or Headings	0 15 0
For every 1,000 feet of White or Yellow Pine Lumber, of one inch thick	1 1 0
For every 1,000 feet of Pitch Pine Lumber	1 1 0
Other kinds of Wood and Lumber, per 1,000 feet	1 8 0
For every 1,000 Wood Hoops	0 5 3
Horses, Neat Cattle, and all other Live Stock, for every £.100 of the value	10 0 0
Spirits, viz.	
Brandy, imported in Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Newfoundland, for every gallon	6 1 0

	£. s. d.
Wine, imported in bottles, the tun containing 252 gallons	7 7 0
And further, for every £.100 of the true and real value thereof	7 10 0
And for every dozen of Foreign quart bottles in which such Wine may be imported	0 1 0
Wine, not in bottles (except Wine imported into Newfoundland), for every £.100 of the true and real value thereof	7 10 0
Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, Melasses, and Rum, imported into any of the British Possessions in North America, viz.	
Coffee, for every cwt.	0 5 0
Cocoa, for every cwt.	0 5 0
Sugar, for every cwt.	0 5 0
Melasses, for every cwt.	0 3 0
Rum, for every gallon	0 0 6

And further, the amount of any Duty payable for the time being on Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, Melasses, and Rum, respectively, being the produce of any of the British Possessions in South America.

Alabaster	-	} For every £.100 of the true and real value thereof - } 7 10 0
Anchovies	-	
Argol	-	
Anniseed	-	
Amber	-	
Almonds	-	
Brimstone	-	
Botargo	-	
Boxwood	-	
Currants	-	
Capers	-	
Cascasoo	-	
Cantharides	-	
Cummin Seed	-	
Coral	-	
Cork	-	
Cinnabar	-	
Dates	-	
Essence of Bergamot	-	
— of Lemon	-	
— of Roses	-	
— of Citron	-	
— of Orange	-	
— of Lavender	-	
— of Rosemary	-	

Emery Stone	-	-	-	-	-
Fruit, viz.	-	-	-	-	-
— Dried, preserved in Sugar	-	-	-	-	-
— Wet, preserved in Brandy	-	-	-	-	-
Figs	-	-	-	-	-
Gum Arabic	-	-	-	-	-
— Mastic	-	-	-	-	-
— Myrrh	-	-	-	-	-
— Sicily	-	-	-	-	-
— Ammoniac	-	-	-	-	-
Honey	-	-	-	-	-
Jalap	-	-	-	-	-
Juniper Berries	-	-	-	-	-
Incense or Frankincense	-	-	-	-	-
Lava and Malta Stone, for Building	-	-	-	-	-
Lentils	-	-	-	-	-
Manna	-	-	-	-	-
Marble, rough and worked	-	-	-	-	-
Mosaic Work	-	-	-	-	-
Medals	-	-	-	-	-
Musks	-	-	-	-	-
Maccaroni	-	-	-	-	-
Nuts of all kinds	-	-	-	-	-
Oil of Olives	-	-	-	-	-
— of Almonds	-	-	-	-	-
Opium	-	-	-	-	-
Orris Root	-	-	-	-	-
Ostrich Feathers	-	-	-	-	-
Ochres	-	-	-	-	-
Orange Buds and Peel	-	-	-	-	-
Olives	-	-	-	-	-
Pickles, in jars and bottles	-	-	-	-	-
Paintings	-	-	-	-	-
Pozzolana	-	-	-	-	-
Pumice Stone	-	-	-	-	-
Punk	-	-	-	-	-
Parmesan Cheese	-	-	-	-	-
Pickles	-	-	-	-	-
Prints	-	-	-	-	-
Pearls	-	-	-	-	-
Precious Stones (except Diamonds)	-	-	-	-	-
Quicksilver	-	-	-	-	-
Raisins	-	-	-	-	-

For every £.100 of }
the true and real } £. s. d.
value thereof - } 7 10 0

Rhubarb	-	-	-	-	-
Rice	-	-	-	-	-
Sausages	-	-	-	-	-
Senna	-	-	-	-	-
Scammony	-	-	-	-	-
Sarsaparilla	-	-	-	-	-
Saffron	-	-	-	-	-
Safflower	-	-	-	-	-
Sponges	-	-	-	-	-
Vermillion	-	-	-	-	-
Vermicelli	-	-	-	-	-
Whetstones	-	-	-	-	-
Clocks and Watches	-	-	-	-	-
Leather Manufactures	-	-	-	-	-
Musical Instruments	-	-	-	-	-
Wires of all Sorts	-	-	-	-	-
Books and Papers	-	-	-	-	-
Glass Manufactures	-	-	-	-	-
Soap	-	-	-	-	-
Refined Sugar	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar Candy	-	-	-	-	-
Tobacco, manufactured	-	-	-	-	-

For every £.100 of } £. s. d.
the true and real } 7 10 0
value thereof - }

For every £.100 of }
the true and real } 30 0 0
value thereof - }

For every £.100 of }
the true and real } 20 0 0
value thereof - }

Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, not being enumerated or described, nor otherwise charged with duty by this Act, for every £.100 of the true and real value thereof - - - 15 0 0

And if any of the Goods hereinbefore mentioned shall be imported through the United Kingdom, having been warehoused therein, and exported from the warehouse, one-tenth of the Duties herein imposed shall be remitted in respect of such Goods.

And if any of the Goods hereinbefore mentioned, shall be imported through the United Kingdom, not from the warehouse, but after all Duties of importation for home use therein shall have been paid thereon, in the said United Kingdom, the same shall be free of all the said Duties.

SPEECH
ON
FOREIGN COMMERCE.

MARCH 25th, 1825.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Consolidated Custom Duties, Mr. HART DAVIS in the Chair, Mr. HUSKISSON spoke, in substance, as follows:—

SIR,
IN requesting the attention of the Committee, whilst I state (in continuation of the subject which I had the honour to open on Monday last) the alterations which I propose to recommend in the Duties levied upon the importation of materials employed in some of our principal manufactures, and also in the prohibitory duties now imposed upon the manufactured productions of other countries, I need scarcely bespeak the disposition of the Committee to countenance the principle of these proposals, so far as they shall be found not inconsistent with the protection of our own industry. I feel the more assured of this general disposition in the Committee, not only as it was manifested on the former evening, but also from the experience which the House and the Country now have of the benefits to be derived from the removal of

vexatious restraints, and meddling interference, in the concerns of internal industry, or foreign commerce.

However confident either my Right Honourable Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or I myself, may have been, that the changes which, since the restoration of peace, it has been our duty to propose in our commercial policy, would be attended with the most salutary consequences, it was impossible for us,—at least it was impossible for me,—not to feel that, in the application of the soundest principles, the result, from unforeseen causes, may sometimes disappoint our expectations. It became us, therefore, to watch the issue of each experiment, and not to attempt too much at once, until we had felt our way, and until the public were prepared to accompany us in our further progress. But I think I am not too bold in stating that, in every instance, as far as we have hitherto gone, not only have the fears and forebodings of the particular interests by which we were opposed proved to be visionary and unfounded, but the expectations of our most sanguine supporters have been more than realized. In these advantages, therefore, the opponents of the measures by which they were produced, must, on the one hand, find a matter of consolation, that their admonitions did not persuade,—that their arguments did not convince,—that their predictions did not intimidate; and, on the other hand, past success is, to the supporters of those measures, a source of encouragement to follow up the same path, as likely to lead us still further in the career of public prosperity.

The Committee will recollect that, when the change was made last year in the system of our Silk Trade, one great alteration was the substitution of an *ad valorem* duty of £.30 per cent. instead of an absolute prohibition of all

articles manufactured of silk. A doubt was suggested at the time, and in that doubt I participated, whether £.30 per cent. was not too high a duty;—not too high, indeed, according to the apprehensions of the British manufacturer, (for he stated it would be quite inadequate to his protection) but whether its amount would not still leave some latitude to the smuggler. This latter ground of doubt still remains,—the former, I believe, is already pretty well removed. If alarm now exist any where, and I know it does exist, it is transferred to the other side of the Channel, and is to be found only among the manufacturers of France, in consequence of the great progress and improvement, since made in this country, in every branch of the silk trade.

Having thus ruled that £.30 per cent. is the highest duty which could be maintained for the protection of a manufacture, in every part of which we were most behind foreign countries,—the only extensive manufacture, which, on the score of general inferiority, stood in need of special protection,—surely it was time to inquire in what degree our other great manufactures were protected, and to consider if there be no inconvenience, no unfitness, no positive injury caused to ourselves, no suspicion and odium excited in foreign countries, by duties which are either absolutely prohibitory,—or, if the articles to which they attach admit of being smuggled, which have no other effect than to throw the business of importing them into the hands of the smuggler.

To bring this subject more particularly before the House, I will begin with our greatest manufacture, that of Cotton. It will not be denied that, in this manufacture, we are superior to all other countries; and that, by the cheapness and quality of our goods, we undersell our competitors in all the

markets of the world, which are open alike to us and to them. I do not except the market of the East Indies, (the first seat of the manufacture) of which it may be said to be the staple, where the raw material is grown, where labour is cheaper than in any other country, and from which England and Europe were, for a long time, supplied with cotton goods. Now, however, large quantities of British cottons are sold in India, at prices lower than they can be produced by the native manufacturers. If any possible doubt could remain that this manufacture has nothing to apprehend from competition any where, and, least of all, from a competition in our own home market, it must vanish when I state to the Committee that the official value of cotton goods, exported last year, amounted to the astonishing sum of £.30,795,000: and yet such have been the extravagant fears of a jealous monopoly, and such is the influence of old prejudices, that in our book of rates, the duties, will the Committee believe it?—stand at this moment, as follows:—on certain descriptions of cotton goods, £.75 per cent., on others £.67 10s. per cent., on a third class £.50 per cent.

It is impossible not to smile at the discriminating shrewdness which made these distinctions, and which could discover that, with a protection of £.67 per cent., ten shillings more were wanting, to make the balance incline on the side of the British manufacturer, in the market of his own country. These absurd duties, and equally absurd distinctions, attach alike upon the productions of our own subjects in the East Indies, as upon those of foreign countries; whilst our manufactures are admitted, almost duty free, into all the territories of the East India Company. Instead of this graduated, but monstrous scale, I propose to admit all foreign articles,

manufactured wholly of cotton, whether from the East Indies or elsewhere, at one uniform duty of £.10 per cent., which, I conceive, is sufficient to countervail the small duty levied upon the importation of the raw material into this country, and the duty upon any other articles used in the manufacture. Any protection, beyond this, I hold to be not only unnecessary, but mischievous.

From cotton, I proceed to Woollens, one of our oldest manufactures,—that which has been most nursed and dandled by the Legislature,—a favourite child, which like other favourites, has, I suspect, suffered, rather than profited, by being spoilt and petted in rearing, whilst its younger brother of cotton, coming into the world much later, has thriven better by being much more left to rough it, and make its own way in life. Some detailed and authentic history of the paternal and zealous solicitude with which our ancestors in this House interposed to protect the woollen manufacture, (should such a history ever be written,) will alone preserve future generations from incredulity, in respect to the extent to which legislative interference was once carried in this branch of internal industry. Within my own time, regulating Acts, dealing with every minute process of the manufacture, have been repealed by the score; as have also heaps of other laws, equally salutary and wise, prescribing the mode of clipping wool, its package, the time to be allowed, and the forms to be observed, in removing it from one place to another.—Laws, the violation of which, in some instances, amounted to felony, but which now no longer disgrace the statute-book. Fortunately for the cotton manufacture, it was never favoured with this species of protection, so abundantly lavished upon woollen, and which was only withdrawn last year from silk, by the repeal of the Spital Field Acts.

I am well aware that this retrospect to former systems may be wearisome to the Committee, but it is not without its importance, if it were only to strengthen us against falling again into erroneous courses. I trust, therefore, that I may be allowed to state, from official documents, what has been the relative progress of our cotton and woollen manufactures, since the year 1765, being a period of sixty years:—

The quantity of Cotton Wool imported into Great Britain, in the year ended the 5th of January, 1765, was about } 3,360,000 lb.

The value of Cotton Goods exported £.200,000

The quantity of Cotton Wool imported in the year ended the 5th of January, 1825, was } 147,174,000 lb.

The value of Cotton Goods exported £.30,795,000

The quantity of Lamb and Sheeps' Wool imported in the year 1765, was } 1,926,000 lb.

The value of Woollen Goods exported £.5,159,000

The quantity of Lamb and Sheeps' Wool imported in the year 1825, was } 23,858,000 lb.

The value of Woollen Goods exported £.6,926,000

Perhaps I may just add, that

The quantity of raw Silk imported in 1765, was } 418,000 lb.

And in 1825 } 3,047,000 lb.

In submitting these satisfactory statements, I cannot refrain from calling the attention of the Committee to one observation which they suggest to my mind. It must, I think, be admitted, that, in the year 1765, the whole quantity of sheeps' wool grown in this country could not be nearly so great as at present, when, owing to the many improvements in husbandry, and particularly in the art of raising winter food for the flocks, the number of sheep must be greatly increased; and yet, the quantity of wool imported in that year, was not one-twelfth of the quantity imported in 1825. Out of this aggregate supply from home growth and foreign import, the whole wants of our own population were supplied in 1765, leaving to the amount of £.5,159,000 of manufactured woollens for exportation. In the year 1825, out of the aggregate of the home growth, and of an import of wool so greatly exceeding that of 1765, the whole manufactured export is £.6,926,000, being an increase over that of 1765, of only £.1,765,000. Now let me ask the Committee, how often, in these sixty years, has the increase of consumption in cotton and silk clothing been contemplated with alarm and jealousy, by the wool grower, and the woollen manufacturer; by the descendants of those who passed laws, (repealed only within these last ten years) compelling us to be buried in woollens?—And yet what was our consumption of cotton,—that other great article of clothing?—in 1765, next to nothing; and what is it now?—greater probably than the whole amount of our woollens, to say nothing of the consumption of silk, which has also increased eight-fold. Can any statement shew more decidedly the wonderful increase in the power of consumption by this country? Can any thing more forcibly illustrate that general position to which I have already adverted, and which cannot be too strongly impressed on

those who legislate for the interests of commerce and industry,—that the means which lead to increased consumption, and which are the foundation, as that consumption is the proof, of our prosperity, will be most effectually promoted by an unrestrained competition, not only between the capital and industry of different classes in the same country, but also by extending that competition, as much as possible, to all other countries?

The present rates of duty on foreign woollens vary from £.50 to £.67 10s. per cent. I am satisfied that £.15 per cent. will answer every purpose of reasonable and fair protection; and this is the reduction, therefore, which I intend to submit to the Committee.

The next great branch of manufacture is that of Linens;—this also has been the object of more nursing and interference than were good for its healthy and vigorous growth. But not to weary the Committee with details, I will proceed at once to state, that the present duties, which are very complicated, fluctuate from £. 40 to £. 180 per cent, and that I propose to simplify and reduce them, by putting them all at £. 25 per cent.

In like manner the duties on Paper, which are now altogether prohibitory, I propose to reduce, so that they shall not exceed double the amount of the excise duty payable upon that article manufactured in this country. This reduction will extend to printed books, which now pay, if in any way bound, £.6 10s. and, if unbound, £.5 the cwt. The amount of these duties is sufficient, as I have been assured, to lead to the smuggling of books printed abroad; and I am sure that, for the character of this country—for the interest of science and literature,—the importation of foreign works, which do not interfere with any copyright in England, ought not to be discouraged.

I should, therefore, propose to lower these duties, regard being had to copyrights, which may require specific provisions, to £.3 10s. and £.3, respectively.

Upon Glass, the present duty, which is £. 80, I propose to lower to £. 20 per cent; and, instead of the heavy duty, so justly complained of, upon common Glass Bottles, amounting to 16s. 2d. a dozen, (which, now that wine is reduced in price, amounts, in many cases, to more than half its value) I intend to recommend a duty of three shillings only.

Upon all descriptions of foreign Earthenware, an article with which we supply so many other countries, the present duty is £.75 per cent; the effect of which is, that ornamented Porcelain is abundantly smuggled from the Continent. I propose to reduce the duty on Earthenware, and plain Porcelain Goods to £.15, and upon Porcelain, gilt or ornamented, to £.30 per cent; which is quite as much as can be demanded, without throwing this branch of import into the hands of the smuggler.

To foreign Gloves, another manufacture, now altogether prohibited, but which are to be bought in every shop, I apply the same observation, and the same measure of duty, £.30 per cent.

I now come to the metallic substances.—The amount of the reduction which I propose upon Iron, from £.6 10s. to £.1 10s. a ton, has already been stated by my Right Honourable Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It afforded me great satisfaction, on that occasion, to hear the liberal sentiments avowed by a worthy Alderman (Thompson), who is very extensively concerned in the iron works of this country. His unqualified approbation of this important change, I had flattered myself, would have been echoed by all the other iron masters: but in this expect-

tation I have been disappointed. Deputations from the mining districts have since been at the Board of Trade. I have heard their representations,—but I have not been convinced by them. I am bound to say, that they fully partake of the character of nearly all the communications, (and they are many) which I have received from those whose interests in manufacture or trade are affected, or likely, in their apprehensions, to be affected, by the changes which I am now submitting to the Committee. They are all great advocates for free trade generally, all alike forward in their approbation of the principles on which the Government is now acting; but each has some reason to assign, quite conclusive, I have no doubt, in his own mind, why his peculiar calling should be made an exception. All these special reasons, I own, have only satisfied me, that the general rule of free competition is the best for all trades, as it is certainly the best for the public; though I can quite understand, that a privilege or monopoly given to any one branch, whilst it is denied to all others, might be an advantage to that particular trade. But is it fit, that in an article like iron, of universal use in all our manufactures, in all the arts and conveniences of life, in agriculture, in houses, in ships, we should now be suffering from a scarcity of that metal? That we should submit to have every article, in which it is used, greatly increased in price, as well as deteriorated, perhaps, in quality, on account of the enormous duty imposed upon foreign iron, not for the purpose of revenue, but for that of protection,—a duty which amounts nearly to a monopoly in favour of the British iron masters? Has not the price of British iron, of late, been almost doubled? Have not all the iron masters demands for iron beyond what they can supply? Is there no risk or danger to our hardware

manufacturers at Birmingham and Sheffield, from this state of things? Can they execute the orders which they receive from abroad, if iron continues at its present price, or is to rise still higher? How many thousand workmen will be thrown out of employ, if this branch of trade be lost to this country? Is there no reason to apprehend its being transferred to Germany, the Netherlands, and other parts of the Continent? I have been assured, upon authority not likely to mislead me, that very extensive orders, which have lately been received at Birmingham from the United States, and other parts, have been refused, because the great rise in the price of iron does not admit of the articles being made within the limits specified in those orders. And what is the consequence? They are transferred to the Continent; and the share of this country in their execution, is confined to making the models and drawings, which are prepared here, for the guidance of the foreign artificers. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance, that the duties on foreign iron should be reduced, in reference, not only to the interests of the consumer in this country, but also to the well-being of those numerous classes who are employed in all the manufactures of this metal for foreign countries. The necessity of this reduction becomes the more urgent, from the fact, that, at this time, the whole produce of the British mines is not adequate to supply the present demand. But, quite independent of this evil, which may be temporary, I own it appears to me, that it would be of great advantage to the manufactures of this country to be able to procure foreign iron, particularly that of Sweden, on easy terms. Swedish iron is known to be superior to our own; its admixture with British iron would improve the quality of our manufactures; they would be held in higher estimation,

and not only be able to command a more decided preference in foreign markets, but become more valuable for all the purposes to which iron is applied in our domestic consumption.—Take, for instance, the important article of iron cables, now so generally used by our shipping; it will not be denied that, by a due proportion of Swedish iron in their composition, their strength and tenacity would be improved. Here, then, an important advantage to our naval interests, connected too with the safety of every ship using iron cables, is directly counteracted by the present high duties on foreign iron. The result of its more free admission, I am persuaded, will be, not only to check those extreme fluctuations, which, of late years, we have witnessed in the price of iron,—at one time so low as to be ruinous to the producer, at another so high, as to be greatly distressing to all the other interests of the country,—but also, by the improvements to which it will lead, to extend the use and consumption of manufactured iron (the bulk of which will always be our own) both at home and abroad. This increased demand, joined to a more steady price, will, ere long, more than compensate to the British iron masters the temporary inconvenience, if any, which some of them apprehend from the extent to which it is proposed to carry the reduction of this duty.

The next metal upon which I have to propose a reduction is Copper. The duty, which in 1790 did not exceed £.10, now amounts to £.54 a ton. This high duty is not less injurious to the manufacturer than the high duty on iron. Now, if the price of our copper manufactures is to exceed that of the like articles of foreign manufacture, in any thing like a proportion to this enormous duty, it is evident, that, even assuming some superiority in the skill of our workmen, we must

ultimately be driven from the markets of other countries. The quantity of copper produced by the English mines amounts to about 10,000 tons annually, of which something less than one half suffices for the home consumption. This being the proportion, do not the owners of copper mines see that if, by the high price at which the manufacturer buys copper, he should lose his hold upon the foreign market, they must be injured by the effects of their own monopoly? The annual supply required would then be diminished to less than 5,000 tons; and they would, therefore, run the risk of losing more by the continuance of the present high duties, than by the repeal of them. These prohibitory duties have already, in my judgment, been attended with serious injury. They have prevented copper, not only in an unmanufactured, but in an imperfectly smelted state, from coming into this country. This metal exists in great abundance, not only in several parts of Europe, but also in some of the new States of America. It would have been sent here, as it used to be, in an imperfect state, in payment for British manufactures. Here it would have undergone the process of purifying, of rolling, or of being otherwise prepared for consumption, by the means of our superior machinery, had it not been kept away by impolitic restrictions. They operated as a bounty upon the transfer of our capital to other countries, and as a premium to encourage the inhabitants of those countries to do for themselves that which, greatly to our own advantage, we should otherwise have continued to do for them. At the same time I am aware, that considerable capitals have been invested in our copper mines, under the encouragement given by the present monopoly, and how difficult it is to do all that the public interest would require, without injury to those particular

interests. This, in almost every instance, is the most arduous part of the task which a sense of public duty has imposed upon me. In the present case, however, I believe that I may safely, and I hope with advantage to both parties, propose to reduce the duty on copper from £.54 to £.27 a ton; without committing myself, not to recommend, at a future period, even a further reduction, if it should appear that the present limit is not sufficient to enable our manufacturers to preserve their foreign market, and that, at a lower rate of duty, no great or sudden check would be given to the British mines.

There is another metallic substance, in some degree connected with the copper manufacture, the duty upon which ought to be considerably lowered.—I mean Zinc, commonly known in trade under the name of Spelter. This semi-metal enters, in the proportion of about one-third, I understand, into the composition of brass. The selling price of spelter, on the Continent, is about £.20 a ton, here about £.45, and the duty is £.28. Now, with a duty upon copper of £.54 a ton, and upon spelter of £.28, what chance can we have of maintaining a footing in the foreign market for any description of brass wares? None:—and accordingly I am assured that, at this moment, our briskest demand in this trade is in the preparation of moulds and patterns for the foreign manufacturer. Upon spelter, I shall propose to reduce the duty full one half. I feel that I ought to go still lower, and perhaps I shall, after making further inquiry, in some future stage; for I am convinced that the mines of this country cannot successfully compete with those of Silesia, in which spelter is principally produced.

Upon Tin, the present duty is excessive. It is an

article of which we have more the command, and is of less extensive consumption. I propose, however, to reduce the duty more than one half,—from £.5. 9s. 3d. to £.2 10s. the cwt.

The duty on Lead is now £.20 per cent. *ad valorem*; this I propose to lower to £.15, which, I hope, will be sufficient to admit of a foreign import, and to check the present exorbitant price of that metal. If I shall find, upon further investigation, that this is not likely to be the case, I shall reserve to myself to suggest, on some future stage, a further reduction in this duty also.

There are several other enumerated articles in the Book of Rates, upon which I propose to reduce the duties upon the same principle. I should only weary the Committee by going through the detail of these alterations;—they will be found in the schedule annexed to one of the Resolutions which I shall submit for their consideration. Perhaps, however, I ought to state that, although every thing which can, by any accident, be considered as an object of jealousy to any of our manufactures, is enumerated by name in the Book of Rates, there are other things not directly connected with trade or merchandize, but with art, science, and literature, and deriving their value solely from such connexion, which, whenever they are brought into this country, cost the person who imports them £.50 per cent. on their estimated value, under a sweeping clause, at the end of that book, which provides, that upon all goods, wares, and merchandize, being, either in part or wholly manufactured, and not enumerated, a duty of £.50 per cent. shall be payable, and a duty of £.20 per cent. upon all non-enumerated goods, not being either in part or wholly manufactured. Now this duty of £.50 per cent., of little value to the

Exchequer, and attaching principally upon such objects as I have adverted to, is, I am sure, one which the Committee will concur with me in thinking ought to be reduced. The instances, in which this high duty attaches on articles of curiosity and interest, are not very numerous; they are sometimes ludicrous, perhaps, but not very creditable to the good taste and character of this country. One instance, which I recollect to have heard, I will mention. A gentleman imported a mummy from Egypt. The officers of the customs were not a little puzzled by this non-enumerated article. These remains of mortality, muscles and sinews, pickled and preserved three thousand years ago, could not be deemed a raw material; and therefore, upon deliberation, it was determined to tax them as a manufactured article. The importer, anxious that his mummy should not be scised, stated its value at £.400. The declaration cost him £.200, being at the rate of £.50 per cent. on the manufactured merchandize which he was about to import. I propose to reduce the duty on manufactured articles, not enumerated, from £.50 to £.20, and on articles unmanufactured, from £.20 to £.10 per cent.

The result of the alterations, which I have now stated to the Committee, will be this,—that upon foreign manufactured articles generally, where the duty is imposed to protect our own manufactures, and not for the purpose of collecting revenue, that duty will, in no instance, exceed £.30 per cent. If the article be not manufactured much cheaper or much better abroad than at home, such a duty is ample for protection. If it be manufactured so much cheaper, or so much better abroad, as to render £.30 per cent. insufficient, my answer is, *first*,—that a greater protection is only a premium to the smuggler; and, *secondly*,

—that there is no wisdom in attempting to bolster up a competition, which this degree of protection will not sustain. Let the State have the tax, which is now the reward of the smuggler, and let the consumer have the better and cheaper article, without the painful consciousness that he is consulting his own convenience at the expense of daily violating the laws of his country. When my Right Honourable Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is labouring to put an end, as fast as he can, to the evils of smuggling, by lowering the duties, increased during the pressure of the war, and for the purposes of revenue, upon articles of consumption, the last thing, which we ought to countenance, is the continuance of high duties, not for the benefit of the Exchequer, but for the supposed protection of certain branches of manufacture. Is the illicit importation of foreign spirits to be checked, merely to give fresh life to the smuggling of cambrics and lace from Flanders, or of gloves and porcelain from France? I cannot think that Gentlemen are aware to what an extent all the moral evils of smuggling are encouraged by the prohibition of these comparatively petty articles. Let any one go down to Brighton, and wander along the coast from thence to Hastings; I will undertake to say, that he shall most easily find, at every place he comes to, persons who will engage to deliver to him, within ten days or a fortnight, any prohibited article of manufacture, which he can name, and almost in any quantity, upon an advance of £.30 per cent. beyond the prime cost at Paris. What is the consequence of such a system? A number of families, that would otherwise be valuable and industrious members of society, exist, and train up their children, in a state of perpetual warfare with the law, till they insensibly acquire the habits and feelings of outlaws, standing rather

in the relation of pirates, than of fellow-subjects, to the rest of the community. And is this abominable system to be tolerated, not from any overruling necessity of upholding the revenue, nay, possibly, to the injury of the Exchequer, but merely because, in a few secondary branches of manufacture, we do not possess the same natural advantages, or the same degree of skill, as our neighbours? If cambrics are made better at Valenciennes, is that a sufficient reason for imposing a prohibitory duty on all linens; a duty from which the revenue gets next to nothing, whilst the country is full of the proscribed article? If certain descriptions of paper for engraving are made more perfect in France, are we always to be condemned to the use of an inferior and dearer article of home manufacture? The time has been, when it was found quite a sufficient reason for imposing a prohibitory duty upon a foreign article, that it was better than we could make at home; but, I trust, when such calls are made upon this House hereafter, our first answer at least will be,—let us see what can be done by competition;—first try to imitate, and bye and bye, perhaps, you will surpass your foreign rival. This is the feeling, this is the hope and the emulation which we have now created in the silk trade; and, I believe, with a very reasonable prospect of the most complete success. But this feeling never would have been called forth under the old and helpless system of prohibitory protection. Prohibitions, in fact, are a premium to mediocrity. They destroy the best incentive to excellence, the best stimulus to invention and improvement. They condemn the community to suffer, both in price and quality, all the evils of monopoly, except in as far as a remedy can be found in the baneful arts of the smuggler. They have also another of the

great evils of monopoly, that of exposing the consumer, as well as the dealer, to rapid and inconvenient fluctuations in price.

With the knowledge of this fact, that we furnish,—in a proportion far exceeding the supply from any other country,—the general markets of the world, with all the leading articles of manufacture, upon which I have now proposed greatly to lower the duties, I own that I am not afraid of this country being overwhelmed with foreign goods. Some, I know, will come in, which are now excluded;—I shall be glad of it. In various ways, their admission will be beneficial to the general interests of the country. That it cannot be extensively injurious to any of those interests, may be inferred, not only from the arguments with which I have already troubled the Committee, but from actual experience. In the year 1786, we entered into a commercial treaty with France. Under the stipulations of that treaty, the cottons and woollens of France were admitted into this country, upon a duty of £.12 per cent.—I now propose for the latter £.15. Hardware, Cutlery, Turnery, &c. upon a duty of £.10, I now propose £.20 per cent. Pottery, and Glass, &c. under a duty of £.12.—I now propose £.15 upon the former, and £.20 upon the latter. What was the result of this treaty? We sent goods of various descriptions to the French market, and England was supplied with other goods of French production; but no injury accrued,—no check was given to any particular branch of our staple manufactures, in consequence of this interchange. One advantage arising from it was to create a spirit of emulation,—an instance of which occurred in the woollen trade. Soon after the opening of the intercourse between the two countries, French cloths of a fine quality were imported

in considerable quantity.—They were preferred to our own. No fashionable man was to be seen without a coat of French cloth. What followed? In less than two years, the cloth of our own manufactures became equal to that imported from France; the one could not be distinguished from the other; and coats of French cloth were still the fashion, whilst the cloth of which they were made was manufactured in this country. In like manner, we shall now, in all probability, import some printed cottons from Alsace and Switzerland, of richer and brighter colours than our own; some fancy muslins from India; some silk stuffs, some porcelain from France,—objects for which curiosity or fashion may create a demand in this metropolis; but they will not interfere with those articles of more wide and universal consumption, which our own manufactures supply cheaper and better; whilst they will excite the ingenuity of our artists and workmen, to attempt improvements, which may enable them to enter the lists with the foreigner, in those very articles in which he has now an acknowledged superiority.

I know it may be objected, that a great change has taken place, in the situation of the British manufacturers, since the French treaty of 1786,—that we have been engaged in a long and expensive war, and that we have now to support the weight of a great many new and heavy taxes. I admit that such is the case: other countries, however, have not been exempted from the calamities of war; their taxes, too, have been increased; their burthens made to press more heavily. What is still more mischievous, in most of those countries, their commercial and manufacturing establishments have felt more directly the ravages and interruption of war; many of them have been violently swept away; whilst the capitals which they had called forth, if

not confiscated, have been impaired or diminished, by the exactions of military power. In this country no such calamity has been experienced. The trading capital of England remains entire; even during the war, it continued constantly increasing; and in respect to the comparative cheapness of labour in foreign countries, although by no means an immaterial part of the present consideration, it is not alone sufficient, as experience has shewn, to make the balance preponderate in their favour. Since the invention of the steam engine, coupled with the application of so many other discoveries, both in mechanical and chemical science, to all the arts of life, the mere estimate of manual labour is lost sight of, in comparison with that of the creative powers of mind. It is the union of those powers, and of the great capitals which call them into action, which distinguishes British industry, and has placed it in the commanding situation which it now holds in the world. To these advantages, are joined that energy and continuity of enterprise, that perseverance and steadiness of exertion, which, even by our rivals, are admitted to belong to the English character. It is upon these qualities, and these advantages, much more than upon any system of bounties and protecting duties, that I rely with confidence, for the maintenance and improvement of the station which we now occupy, among the trading communities of the world.

I expect further to be told, as a general objection to the course which I now recommend,—indeed I have already been told, in the correspondence which I have felt it right to hold with some of our most intelligent and accomplished merchants and manufacturers on this subject, before I brought it before this Committee,—that in 1786, we had insured from France, by treaty, a

reciprocity of commercial advantages; but that, at present, we have made no such arrangement. This objection, I admit, in one respect, deserves consideration. I mean in its relation to the foreign market;—with regard to the danger of our being under-sold in our own market, it does not hold at all. Now, in respect to our deferring any improvement in our own commercial system, until we can persuade foreign States to view it as a concession to them, which we are ready to make in return for similar concessions on their part, I cannot, I own, discover much wisdom in such a line of policy; but, as I have already stated that I had corresponded with others on this part of the subject, I am sure it will be an acceptable relief to the Committee, (wearied as they must be with hearing me) if I substitute, for my own arguments, the more forcible reasoning of one of my correspondents, a gentleman deeply concerned as a manufacturer and a merchant, who unites to great practical knowledge a vigorous understanding, of which he has formerly given proofs in this House, which must make us all regret that he is no longer a member of it;—I mean Mr. Kirkman Finlay. I received from him a letter, dated the 18th of February, of which the following is an extract.

“ Subscribing, as I do, to every one of the advantages
 “ stated in your letter, I will not occupy your time by
 “ going farther into the subject; at the same time, I
 “ must not lead you to suppose that such a measure is
 “ likely to be adopted without some opposition from
 “ manufacturers, who have all their old prejudices to
 “ remove before they can subscribe, in their own case, to
 “ the sound principles of free commercial intercourse,
 “ which you are, so much to the public advantage,
 “ endeavouring to establish. Believe me, that no one

“ takes a deeper interest than I do in the success of all
 “ such measures; and I am certain that the adoption of
 “ such a plan as we are now talking of, will go far in its
 “ consequences, to satisfy persons both at home and
 “ abroad, of the benefits that will arise to all countries
 “ from the general establishment of such measures. It is
 “ no doubt true, that it will be argued that such concessions
 “ ought not to be granted to foreign States, without being
 “ accompanied by some stipulation for the admission into
 “ their consumption of some of our produce or manu-
 “ factures, on the payment of a moderate duty. But in
 “ my view of the case, we ought not to suffer ourselves
 “ to be influenced by such reasoning, since our whole
 “ object being to benefit ourselves, our inquiry is naturally
 “ confined to the consideration of whether such a mode
 “ of acting be really advantageous, independent altogether
 “ of what may be done by the governments of other
 “ countries. Now, if the measure be really beneficial to
 “ us, why shall we withhold from ourselves an advantage,
 “ because other States are not yet advanced so far as we
 “ are in the knowledge of their own interests, or have
 “ not attained the power of carrying their own views
 “ into practice?”

In the last sentence of this letter, the writer has, I believe, stated the real grounds which may still, for some time, prevent foreign States from following our example, namely, “ their ignorance of their own true interests, or their incompetence to carry their own views into effect.” But let my Right Honourable Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, continue his good practice of coming down to this House, Session after Session, to accumulate fresh proofs, that the removal of restrictive impositions and excessive duties is not diminution, but,

frequently, increase of revenue :—Let foreign countries see him, year after year, (and I hope he will long be able to do so,) largely remitting public burthens, and, at the same time, exhibiting a prosperous Exchequer, still flowing to the same perennial level ; and, I have no doubt, when the Governments of the Continent shall have contemplated, for a few years longer, the happy consequences of the system in which we are now proceeding, that their eyes will be opened. They will, then, believe—but, at present they do not,—that we are sincere and consistent in our principles ; and, for their own advantage, they will, then, imitate us in our present course, as they have, of late, been adopting our cast-off system of restrictions and prohibitions. That they have, hitherto, suspected our sincerity, and looked upon our professions as lures to ensnare them, is not very surprising, when they compared those professions with that code of prohibition which I am now endeavouring to pare down and modify to a scale of moderate duties. At the same time, as a stimulus to other countries to adopt principles of reciprocity, I shall think it right, to reserve a power of making an addition of one-fifth to the proposed duties, upon the productions of those countries which may refuse, upon a tender by us of the like advantages, to place our commerce and navigation upon the footing of the most favoured nation. I need scarcely add, that no part of these arrangements will interfere with the power of the Crown, to enter into specific treaties of commerce with particular States, by which treaties the duties now proposed may be still further varied or modified, subject always to the approbation of Parliament.

Having now stated the alterations which I intend to propose, with regard to the protecting and prohibitory duties, I have only to add that, with a view to give the

British manufacturer every fair advantage in the competition with which he has to contend in the foreign market, it is desirable to consider how far this object can be promoted, by a reduction of some of the duties now levied upon the raw materials, which he is obliged to use in his manufacture.

During the exigencies of the late war, duties were laid, or increased, upon various articles used in Dyeing. The revenue derived from these duties is not considerable : but, in proportion to the amount of the charge, must be the increased price of the manufactured commodity. Be that charge, upon our woollen cloths, for instance, only 1 or 2 per cent., even this small addition in the present open competition of the foreign market, may turn the scale against us, and ought therefore to be withdrawn. On most of the articles in question, I shall propose a large reduction in the existing rate of duty. They are so numerous that I shall not weary the patience of the Committee, by mentioning them specifically : they will all be found in the Schedule, which will form part of the intended Resolutions. To one or two articles, however, not included under the class of dyeing drugs, I must beg leave shortly to refer. Olive oil is very much used in the manufacture of the finer woollen cloths.—The duty upon it was somewhat more than doubled during the war. I propose to reduce it to a rate rather below that of the year 1790 ; from £.15 13s. the present duty, to £.7 a tun. This will be a great relief to the manufacturer. There is another species of oil, extracted from rape seed, largely used in the preparation of the coarse woollens, upon which I also propose to give relief. The Committee may perhaps recollect, that a few years ago, when the panic of agricultural distress was in full force,—when

fears were openly expressed in this House, that England must cease to grow corn, (and fear, it is said, is seldom a wise counsellor) it was suggested, that the raising of rape seed might become a profitable substitute; and, upon this suggestion, a duty, almost prohibitory, was laid on foreign seed, which till then had been imported free from any charge. This measure, of which the benefit, if beneficial at all, was confined to a very few districts of the kingdom, has certainly contributed nothing to the revival of our agriculture, but it has, in various ways, been attended with detriment to our manufactures. It has greatly injured the manufacture of rape oil and rape cake in this country, and it has increased the price of the former to the woollen trade. The cake, indeed, being wanted for agricultural purposes, is allowed to come in from abroad nearly duty free; so that, in this instance, and to this extent, our recent policy has been to prohibit the raw material, and to encourage its importation in a manufactured state. I propose to revert to our ancient policy in respect to this article; and, after giving a certain time to the dealers to get rid of their stock in hand, to allow the free importation of rape seed, upon a duty which will be merely nominal. The only other article, which I think it necessary to mention, is Wool. The duty is now one penny a pound upon all foreign wool. It has been stated to me, that even this rate of duty presses severely upon the manufacturers of coarse woollens, in which we have most to fear from foreign competition, and that considerable relief would be afforded by reducing it to one half, upon all wool, not exceeding the value of one shilling a pound. I therefore propose to make this alteration, by which, I am assured, the quantity of coarse wool imported into this country, to be mixed in the manufac-

ture with our own long wool, is likely to be greatly increased.

All these reductions I consider to be right and proper in principle; but, as measures calculated to afford encouragement and assistance to our manufacturers, I am particularly anxious to propose them at the same time when I am bringing forward other measures, not unlikely, till better understood, to excite alarm in particular quarters. Some of the duties which I am now dealing with, I am aware, were imposed for the purposes of revenue; it may, therefore, be thought, that in repealing them, I am travelling out of my own department, and encroaching, in some degree, upon that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But my Right Honourable Friend, I have no doubt, will forgive me where the pecuniary sacrifice is trifling, and the relief to our manufactures the more important consideration. He, I am sure, will allow me to consider myself, however humble, as a fellow-labourer with him in the same vineyard. Whilst I am pruning away the useless and unsound branches, which bear, at best, but a scanty and bad crop, my object is to draw forth new and vigorous shoots, likely to afford better and more abundant fruit; the harvest of which, I trust, it will be his lot, hereafter, to present to his applauding country, in the shape of further relief from taxation.

I now come to the last of the three heads, into which I have divided the subject, to be submitted to the Committee,—the means of affording some further encouragement to the Shipping and Navigation of the empire. There is already a bill on the table which will contribute very essentially to the relief of that important interest. I mean the bill which repeals all the quarantine duties. They operated as a very considerable burthen, unfairly placed

on the particular ships and goods which were compelled to perform quarantine. This was a precaution adopted, not for the special advantage of those engaged in any particular trade,—on the contrary, to them the detention and loss of time were great inconveniences, however unavoidable,—but for the general protection and safety of the community. The Committee of Foreign Trade was, therefore, perfectly justified in recommending that the expense of quarantine should be borne by the country at large, and not by any particular class in it; and a Bill has been brought in, accordingly, by my Right Honourable Friend, the Vice President of the Board of Trade. Another measure of substantial relief, now in contemplation, I have already mentioned to the House, but I am convinced, from the communications which I have since received, that I, then, underrated its importance. That measure is the abolition of Fees upon Shipping and Trade in our colonies. Besides the vexation and liability to abuse, inseparable from the present system, I know that, in many instances, the fees alone, upon a ship and cargo, amount to much more than all the public duties collected upon the same.

The next measure, which I have to propose, is the repeal of the Stamp Duty now payable upon the transfer of a whole ship, or of any share in a ship, from one person to another. A ship, I believe, is the only chattel upon which a duty of this sort attaches, as often as it changes hands. I can trace no reason for this anomaly, except one, which ought rather to be a plea for exemption. From motives of State policy, we compel the owner, or part owner of any ship, to register his interest or share therein. From this registry the ship-owner derives no advantage—on the contrary, however improved the forms and regula-

tions now observed, it is at best to him troublesome, and more or less obnoxious to litigation. By consolidating and amending the registry laws, I have done every thing in my power to mitigate those inconveniences, but still every transfer must be registered. Now, to take advantage of a law, which compels the names of all owners to be registered, in order to attach a heavy stamp duty on every transfer that may be made in the owner-ship, is an unnecessary aggravation of a necessary inconvenience, and in itself a great injustice. I shall, therefore, submit a resolution for abolishing the whole of this transfer duty upon shipping, by which I shall, at once, relieve the owners of this description of property from a partial tax, and from some degree of annoyance.

There is also another stamp duty, in respect to which I am anxious to afford relief. I mean the duty on Debentures for the payment of Drawbacks, and on Bonds, given by the merchants, for the due delivery of the goods which they have declared for exportation. I propose this relief, partly, upon the same principle as that which I have stated in respect to the transfer of ships. These bonds are not entered into for the benefit of the merchant, but for the security of the Revenue; besides, from their being *ad valorem* stamps, they frequently lead to great abuses and perjury. I will not trouble the Committee with details upon this subject. I propose to reduce these stamps to a fixed duty of only 5s. upon each instrument.

As connected with the same subject,—the relief of our commerce and shipping from direct pecuniary charges,—I beg leave now to call the attention of the Committee to the change which I shall propose in the system of our Consular establishments in foreign ports. These establishments are regulated by no fixed principle, in respect to the mode of

remunerating the individuals employed in this branch of the public service. In one port, the consul receives a salary,—in another he is paid exclusively by fees,—in a third, he receives both a salary and fees. There is no general rule in this respect, applicable even to the whole of the same country. The consuls at Havre and Marseilles have no salaries. The consul at Bourdeaux has a salary, and is allowed fees. The consul at Antwerp has a salary. The consul at Rotterdam has none. The consul at Stettin has a salary. The consul at Dantzic none. At Madeira, the consul has a salary,—at the Azores none. The scale of fees, the principle upon which they are levied, the authority for enforcing their payment, and the mode of levying them, appear to be quite as various and unsettled as the mode of remuneration. In some ports, the fees attach upon the vessel,—in others, upon the merchandize. In some ports, vessels pay all alike, without regard to their tonnage,—in others, the fees are rated in proportion to the size of the vessel. In some ports, again, the fees are an *ad valorem* charge upon the cargo,—in others, so much per ton upon the freight, without regard to its value. Now, not only all this discrepancy in the details of the same establishment cannot be right, and would require revision; but I am of opinion, that the whole principle of providing for our consuls, by authorising them to levy a tax upon the shipping and commerce of the country, is wrong. In the first place, the foreign trade of the country is one of its great public interests, and as much entitled to be protected at the public expense, as far as it wants protection in foreign countries, as any other great interest. In the next place, in the performance of many of the duties for which consuls are appointed, the ship-owner and merchant have

no direct or exclusive interest. The navigation laws, the quarantine laws, instead of being advantageous, are inconveniently restrictive to trade; yet to these it is the peculiar duty of the consuls to attend. They have other essential duties to discharge, in which the merchant and the ship-owner have no interest, distinct from that of the whole community. It, therefore, appears to me, that it would be just as reasonable to tax English travellers, in foreign countries, for the support of our political missions, by which they are protected, as it is to tax the shipping or the trade, for the payment of our consular establishments. My object is, to grant to all our consuls fixed and moderate salaries, to be paid out of the public purse; such salaries to vary, of course, according to the importance and responsibility of the station, to the country in which the consul may reside, and to other circumstances, which must, from time to time, come under the consideration of the Government. In the civil list, which is granted for the life of the Sovereign, a sum of £.40,000 is allotted for the payment of consular expenses. A considerable part of this sum is required for the salaries of certain officers, designated as consuls, but who are, at the same time, diplomatic agents: I mean our residents at Algiers, and the other courts on the coast of Africa, in the Mediterranean. As the remainder of this sum will fall far short of what will be necessary for the payment of the whole consular charge, I propose that the difference should be voted annually by this House, upon estimates to be laid before us by the proper department.

If this change should be approved of by the House, the effect will be the abolition, generally, of all the present fees payable to our consuls, either upon ships or goods, in foreign ports. Certain small fees would still remain for

personal acts that a consul may be called upon to perform, such as notarial instruments, and other documents to which his attestation or signature may be required. Those fees will be specified in the Bill, and will be reduced to the most moderate amount. In regard to another expense, provided for, in certain ports, by a tax upon shipping,—I mean the maintenance of a place of worship, the payment of a chaplain, and other charges of that description,—I trust, that the British merchants and inhabitants residing at, or resorting to, those ports, will find no difficulty in raising, by a small voluntary rate among themselves, a sufficient sum for these purposes. But, as an encouragement to them to provide the means of performing the important duties of religion, I shall propose, in the Bill, to give a power to the Government, to advance a sum equal to the amount of any subscription which may be so raised, either for erecting a place of worship, providing a burial ground, or allotting a suitable salary to a chaplain, in any foreign port, where a British consul may reside.

Having now stated the outlines of the plan, which I have to propose, for the improvement of our consular system, it only remains for me to mention one other subject, in immediate connexion with it, and certainly of great importance to a very valuable branch of our foreign trade;—I mean, our trade to those countries, which are known under the name of the Levant. This trade was placed under the direction of a chartered company, so far back as the reign of James I. Great privileges were conferred upon that company; and they had also important duties to perform. Among their privileges, they were allowed to appoint all the consuls to the Levant, and to levy considerable duties, on all British ships resorting to those countries, for the maintenance of those consuls, and the other expenses of their

establishment. They also obtained, partly by Acts of Parliament, and partly by treaty and concession from the Porte, the right of exercising, by their agents and consuls, a very extensive jurisdiction over all British subjects in the Turkish dominions. These powers and trusts have been exercised, by the servants of the Company, for two centuries, often under very difficult circumstances; and, generally speaking, with great correctness, fidelity, and discretion. In the present state, however, of a great part of the countries in which these consuls reside, and looking, moreover, to our relations with Turkey, as well as with other powers, to the delicate and important questions of international law, which must constantly arise out of the intercourse of commerce with a country in a state of civil war,—questions involving discussions, not only with the contending parties in that country, but with other trading and neutral powers,—it is impossible not to feel that, upon political considerations alone, it is highly expedient that the public servants of this country, in Turkey, should hold their appointments from the Crown. It is to the Crown that foreign powers will naturally look for regulating and controlling the conduct of those officers, in the exercise of their authority; and it is certainly most fit, not only on this account, but for the due maintenance of that authority, that they should be named, not by a trading company, however respectable, but, like other consuls, directly by the Crown, advised, as it must be in their selection, by its responsible servants.

If this change, in the mode of appointing the consuls in the Levant, be called for upon political grounds, it would be highly absurd not to take advantage of the occasion to bring them, in all other respects, under the regulations of the new consular establishment. It becomes the more im-

portant not to neglect this opportunity of affording relief to the Levant trade, as the duties, which the Company is authorised to levy, are very considerable, amounting to a tax not much short of two per cent. upon the whole of that trade; a charge quite sufficient, in these times, to divert a considerable part of it from the shipping of this country to that of other States. It is due to the noble Lord (Lord Grenville), who is at the head of the Levant Company, to state, that, as soon as this subject was brought under his consideration, he manifested the greatest readiness to assist the views of Government in respect to the proposed changes. Nothing less was to be expected from this distinguished Individual, who, in his dignified retirement, still interests himself, with the feelings of a statesman, and the wisdom of a philosopher, in the progress of those sound commercial principles, which, in their application, have already conferred so much benefit upon this country. This noble Lord called together the Company over which he presides, and proposed to them a voluntary surrender of the charter which they had enjoyed for two hundred years. In the most praiseworthy manner, the Company acquiesced in this suggestion. His Majesty will be advised to accept the surrender so tendered; but it cannot be carried into effect without an Act of Parliament. Among other requisite arrangements to be provided for by the Bill, will be the transfer of a Fund which the Company has accumulated out of their revenue, and the abolition of the taxes by which that revenue was produced.

I have now travelled over the wide field of the alterations, which I undertook to submit to the Committee, in the commercial concerns of this country. I wish that my statement, to many Members of this House comparatively uninteresting, had been more perspicuous, for the sake of

those who have paid attention to this subject. I was desirous to bring it under consideration, before the recess, in order that the details might be dispassionately and generally considered by the several interests, throughout the country, which are likely to be affected by the measures which I have now proposed. They are open to alterations, and to amendment. I shall be happy to pay every attention, in my power, to whatever suggestions may be transmitted to me, from any quarter, for this purpose. All I ask now of the Committee is, to take under their protection, the comprehensive principle of the system which I have ventured to recommend, and that, so far, they will look upon it as a state measure, connected with the public prosperity. If, to this extent, it shall receive their steady countenance and support, this Session will not close without our having proved to this, as well as to other countries, that we have not lost sight of the recommendation from the Throne—to remove as much, and as fast, as possible, all unnecessary restrictions upon trade.

The first part of the report deals with the general
 situation of the country and the progress of the
 work during the year. It is followed by a detailed
 account of the various projects and the results
 achieved. The report concludes with a summary of
 the work done and the plans for the future.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

RESOLUTIONS *reported* from the Committee of the whole House, to whom it was referred to consider of several Acts passed in the Reigns of their late Majesties King George the Second and King George the Third, and of His present Majesty, relating,—to the Duties of Customs chargeable in the United Kingdom; to the Stamp Duties on Law Proceedings and other Instruments; to the better collecting certain Sums for Relief of Shipwrecked Mariners in Portugal, the Ports of Cadiz and Saint Mary, in Spain, and the Port of Leghorn; to the regulating the Trade into the Levant Seas; to the Prohibiting the exporting or conveying Coin out of the Realm, and the Importation of foreign Hops into Ireland, and the Importation and Exportation to and from Ireland of such Goods as may be imported into or exported from Great Britain by the Levant Company; to the permitting certain Goods to be imported into Great Britain and Ireland in neutral Vessels; regulating the Trade between Malta and His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations, and between Malta and the United Kingdom; to the extending the Privileges of Malta to the Port of Gibraltar; and to the removing Doubts respecting the Dues payable to the Levant Company.

- 1.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That it is expedient to provide for the appropriation of certain monies belonging to the Levant Company, and for other purposes relating thereto.
- 2.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That it is expedient to regulate the payment of Salaries and Allowances to British Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Foreign Ports, and the disbursements at such Ports for certain public purposes.
- 3.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That a Stamp Duty of five Shillings be charged on all Bonds relating to the Customs, in lieu of the Stamp Duty now payable thereon.
- 4.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That a Stamp Duty of five Shillings be charged on all Debentures or Certificates relating to the Customs, in lieu of the Stamp Duties now payable thereon.
- 5.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That the Stamp Duties now payable upon Bills of Sale, or other Instruments in Writing, required for the transfer of property in Ships or Vessels, shall cease and determine.

6.—*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That the Duties of Customs following shall be paid on the Importation of the several articles, matters, and things hereinafter mentioned, in lieu of the present Duties of Customs payable thereon; (that is to say)

Cottons, viz.	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cottons.		
Plain white Calicoes, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	67 10 0	
White, flowered, or stitched Calicoes, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	37 10 0	
Calicoes printed, painted, stained, or dyed in Persia, China, or the East Indies		at present prohibited.
Cotton Caps, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	50 0 0	
Cotton Caps, the manufacture of Places within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	67 10 0	
Manufactures of Cotton, or of any other article mixed with Cotton, being chequered or striped, or printed, painted, stained, or dyed after the manufacture, or in the thread or yarn before the manufacture, and not being particularly enumerated nor described, nor otherwise charged with Duty, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	75 0 0	10 <i>l.</i> per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Cottons, and no Draw-back.
Manufactures of Cotton, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	50 0 0	
the produce of places within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, - - - articles manufactured of Cotton Wool, or of any mixture thereof, not particularly enumerated or described, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	67 10 0	
- - - plain white Dimity, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	67 10 0	

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cottons, continued,		
Cotton Yarn, the lb.	0 1 3	
Wick Yarn, the cwt.	4 8 8	
Muslins, the manufacture of any place within the limits of the East India Company's Charter,		
- - - plain, for every 100l. of the value	37 10 0	10l. per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Cottons, and no Draw-back.
- - - flowered, or stitched, for every 100l. of the value	37 10 0	
Nanquin Cloths, for every 100l. of the value	37 10 0	
Shawls, viz.		
- - - manufactured of Cotton Wool, or Hair, or any mixture thereof, the manufacture of any place within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, for every 100l. of the value	67 10 0	
Woollens.		
Woollens, viz.		
Carpets, viz.		
- - - of Turkey, under 4 yards square, the Carpet	1 10 0	
- - - 4 yards square, and not exceeding 6 yards square, the Carpet	5 10 0	
- - - exceeding 6 yards sq. the Carpet	8 15 0	
- - - of Persia, the yard square	2 10 0	
- - - not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	
Stockings, of worsted, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	
Stuffs of all sorts, made of or mixed with Wool, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	15l. per cent.
Stuffs of all sorts, made of or mixed with Wool, the manufacture of any place within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, for every 100l. of the value	67 10 0	
Tapes of worsted, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	
Tapestry, not of silk, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	
Worsted Yarn, being of two or more threads, twisted or thrown, the lb.	0 1 7	0 0 6

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Linen, viz.		
Linen.		
- - - Cambrics and Lawns, commonly called French Lawns, plain, the piece not exceeding 8 yards in length, and not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard in breadth	0 9 6	
- - - More, the piece, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 2 0	
- - - exceeding 8 yards in length, or exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard in breadth, the piece, and in that proportion for a greater or less quantity	0 12 0	
- - - More, the piece, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 2 6	
- - - Canvas, viz.		
- - - Hessen Canvas, or Dutch Barras, the 120 ells	2 13 1	
- - - More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 11 2	
- - - Packing Canvas, Guttings, Spruce, Elbing or Queensborough Canvas, the 120 ells	1 15 8	25l. per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Linen, and no Draw-back.
- - - More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 7 6	
- - - Damask Tabling of the manufacture of the Kingdom of the United Netherlands, viz.		
- - - not exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, the yard	0 10 0	
- - - More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 2 0	
- - - exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{2}$ and under 2 ells in breadth, the yard	0 11 6	
- - - More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 2 6	
- - - of the breadth of 2 ells, and under 3 ells in breadth, the yard	0 13 1	
- - - More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 2 9	
- - - of the breadth of 3 ells or upwards, the yard	0 19 0	
- - - More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 4 0	

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Linen, continued.</i>		
Damask Tabling of the manufacture of Silesia, or of any other place not otherwise enumerated or described, the square yard	0 2 6	
More, the square yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 6	
Damask Towelling and Napkining of the manufacture of the Kingdom of the United Netherlands, the yard	0 4 0	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 10	
Damask Towelling and Napkining of the manufacture of Silesia, or of any other place, not otherwise enumerated or described, the yard	0 1 3	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 3	
Diaper Tabling of the manufacture of the Kingdom of the United Netherlands, viz.		25L per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Linen, and no Draw-back.
- - - not exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{8}$ in breadth, the yard	0 5 2	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 1 1	
- - - exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{8}$ and under 2 ells in breadth, the yard	0 6 0	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 1 3	
- - - of the breadth of 2 ells, and under 3 ells in breadth, the yard	0 6 4	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 1 4	
- - - of the breadth of 3 ells or upwards, the yard	0 9 1	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 1 11	
Diaper Tabling of the manufacture of Silesia, or of any other place not otherwise enumerated or described, the yard	0 2 11	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 7	

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Linen, continued.</i>		
Diaper Towelling and Napkining, of the manufacture of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the yard	0 2 1	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 5	
Diaper Towelling and Napkining of the manufacture of Silesia, or of any other place not otherwise enumerated or described, the yard	0 1 3	
More, the yard, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 0 3	
Drillings and Pack Duck, the 120 ells	4 11 1	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 19 2	
German, Switzerland, East Country (except Russia), and Silesia Cloth, plain, viz.		
- - - not exceeding 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the 120 ells	2 18 3	25L per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Linens, and no Draw-back.
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 12 3	
- - - exceeding 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and not exceeding 36 inches in breadth, the 120 ells	6 2 9	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	1 5 10	
- - - exceeding 36 inches in breadth, the 120 ells	9 8 9	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	1 19 9	
Hinderlands, Brown, under 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the 120 ells	1 13 3	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 7 0	
Lawns, viz.		
- - - Silesia and all other Lawns, plain, (except Cambrics and French Lawns) not bleached in the Kingdom of the United Netherlands, the piece not exceeding 8 yards in length	0 6 4	
More, the piece, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not	0 1 4	

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Linen, continued.</i>		
<i>Lawns, continued.</i>		
- - - - Silesia and all other Lawns, plain, (except Cambrics and French Lawns) bleached in the Kingdom of the United Netherlands, the piece not exceeding 8 yards in length - - -	0 7 11	
More, the piece, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 1 8	
<i>Linen of the manufacture of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, plain, not otherwise enumerated or described, viz.</i>		
- - - - not exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, the ell - - -	0 2 11	
More, the ell, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 0 7	
- - - - exceeding 1 ell $\frac{1}{2}$, and under 2 ells in breadth, the ell - - -	0 3 2	
More, the ell, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 0 8	
- - - - of the breadth of 2 ells, and under 3 ells in breadth, the ell - - -	0 3 7	
More, the ell, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 0 9	
- - - - of the breadth of 3 ells or upwards, the ell - - -	0 5 2	
More, the ell, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 1 1	
<i>Pack Duck. See Drillings, in Linen.</i>		
<i>Russia Linen, plain, viz.</i>		
- - - - Towelling and Napkining of the manufacture of Russia, - - - - not exceeding 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	1 11 5	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 6 7	
<i>Russia Linen, plain, not otherwise enumerated or described,</i>		
- - - - not exceeding 22 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	1 12 3	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 6 9	

25% per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Linens, and no Draw-back.

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Linen, continued.</i>		
<i>Russia, continued.</i>		
- - - - exceeding the 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and not exceeding 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	2 11 3	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 10 9	
- - - - exceeding 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and not exceeding 36 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	3 16 0	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	0 16 0	
- - - - exceeding 36 inches, and not exceeding 45 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	6 17 5	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	1 8 11	
- - - - exceeding the 45 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	9 10 0	
More, the 120 ells, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	2 0 0	
<i>Sail Cloth or sail Duck, viz.</i>		
- - - - not exceeding 36 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	5 7 4	
- - - - exceeding 36 inches in breadth, the 120 ells - - -	8 19 3	
<i>Sails, for every 100l. of the value - - -</i>	104 9 2	
<i>Foreign-made Sails, on board any ship or vessel belonging to any of His Majesty's subjects, whether in use or not, for every 100l. of the value - - -</i>	104 9 2	
<i>Linen, not being chequered or striped, or not being printed, painted, stained or dyed, after the manufacture, or in the thread or yarn before the manufacture, and not being otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value - - -</i>	63 6 8	
More, for every 100l. of the value, payable on the first entry thereof, whether to be secured in warehouses or not - - -	13 6 8	
<i>Linen chequered or striped, or printed, painted, stained, or dyed after the manufacture, or in the thread or yarn before the manufacture, not being prohibited to be imported into, nor worn nor used in Great Britain or Ireland, and not being otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value - - -</i>	172 10 0	

25% per cent. above the amount of any internal Excise Duty on printed Linens, and no Draw-back.

Metals.	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Metals, viz.		
Brass manufactures, if not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30 0 0
Copper, viz.		
Ore, the cwt.	1 1 0	0 12 0
old, fit only to be remanufactured, the cwt.	1 9 2	0 15 0
in plates, and copper coin the cwt.	3 0 0	1 10 0
unwrought, viz.		
in bricks or pigs, rose copper, and all cast copper, the cwt.	2 14 2	1 7 0
in part wrought, viz.		
bars, rods, or ingots, hammered or raised, the cwt.	3 15 6	1 15 0
Wire of Copper or Brass, not otherwise enumerated, the cwt.	5 14 0	2 10 0
manufactures of Copper, not otherwise enumerated, or described, and Copper Plates engraved, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30 0 0
Iron, viz.		
in bars, or unwrought,		
the Produce of any British Possession, and imported from thence, the ton	1 2 2	0 2 6
the produce of any other Country, the ton	6 10 0	1 10 0
slit or hammered into rods, and Iron drawn or hammered, less than 1/4 of an inch square, the cwt.	1 0 0	0 5 0
cast, for every 100l. of the value	20 0 0	10 0 0
old broken and old cast Iron, the ton	0 17 6	0 12 0
ore, the ton	0 8 9	0 5 0
pig, the ton	0 17 6	0 15 0
the produce of, and imported from, any British Possession in America, the ton	0 8 0	0 1 3
wrought, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Wire, not otherwise enumerated or described, the cwt.	5 18 9	1 0 0
Latten, viz.		
black, the cwt.	1 8 0	0 14 0
shaven, the cwt.	2 10 0	1 5 0
Wire, the cwt.	5 9 3	1 0 0

Metals, continued.	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Lead, viz.		
ore, the ton	1 16 0	1 0 0
pig, for every 100l. of the value	20 0 0	15 0 0
red, the cwt.	0 8 4	0 6 0
white, the cwt.	0 10 4	0 7 0
Pewter wares	at present prohibited.	20l. per Cent.
Spelter, the cwt.	1 8 6	0 14 0
Steel, or any manufacture of Steel, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Tin, the cwt.	5 9 3	2 10 0
Tin ware	prohibited.	20l. p. Cent
Silver Wire, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Gilt or Plated Wire, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Glass, viz.		
Bottles of Green or common Glass, full or empty, not of less content than one pint, and not being Phials, the dozen quarts	0 8 0	} 0 3 0
and further, for every cwt.	0 8 2	
Bottles of Glass not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	80 0 0	
and further for every cwt.	6 6 0	
Crown, German, Sheet, or any kind of Window Glass, not being Plate Glass, the cwt.	11 4 0	
Flint Glass, the cwt.	12 9 0	
Plate Glass, for every square foot superficial	0 6 7	20l. per cent. above amount of internal
and further, for every cwt.	6 6 0	Excise Duties on British Glass.
Glass manufactures, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	80 0 0	
and further for every cwt.	6 6 0	
Watch Glasses, for every 100l. of the value	80 0 0	
and further for every cwt.	6 6 0	
China and Earthenware.		
China or Porcelain Ware, viz.		
plain, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	15 0 0
painted, gilt, or ornamented, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	30 0 0
Earthenware, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	15 0 0

<i>Fine Goods.</i>	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Agates or Cornelians, <i>viz.</i>		
Polished or otherwise manufactured, for every 100l. of the value	60 0 0	
Rough or unmanufactured, for every 100l. of the value	20 0 0	
set, for every 100l. of the value	- - -	20 0 0
not set, for every 100l. of the value	- - -	10 0 0
Brocade of Gold or Silver	Prohibited.	30 } per cent.
Buttons	- - -	20 } cent.
Clocks, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Embroidery	Prohibited.	30l. p. cent.
Feathers, <i>viz.</i>		
Ostrich, dressed, the lb.	2 15 6	1 0 0
Ostrich, undressed, the lb.	1 0 0	0 10 0
Not otherwise enumerated or described, <i>viz.</i>		
----- dressed, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
----- undressed, for every 100l. of the value	20 0 0	10 0 0
Flowers, artificial, not made of silk, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Gauze of Thread, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30 0 0
Gloves or Mitts	Prohibited.	30l. p. cent.
Hair, <i>viz.</i>		
Articles manufactured of hair, or any mixture thereof, not particularly enumerated or described, the produce of places within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, for every 100l. of the value	67 10 0	30 0 0
Jewels, Emeralds, Rubies, and all other precious Stones (except Diamonds), set, or in any way manufactured, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	
set, for every 100l. of the value	- - -	20 0 0
not set, for every 100l. of the value	- - -	10 0 0
Lace, <i>viz.</i>		
Silk Lace, for every 100l. of the value	40 0 0	
----- plain being net or tulle, for every square yard	0 2 0	
Thread Lace, <i>viz.</i>		
----- under 5s. the yard in value, the yard	0 2 6	
----- of 5s. and under 10s. the yard in value, the yard	0 4 9	
----- of 10s. and under 15s. the yard in value, the yard	0 4 9	30l. p. cent.
----- of 15s. and under 20s. the yard in value, the yard	0 6 9	
----- of 20s. and under 25s. the yard in value, the yard	0 8 4	
----- of 25s. the yard, and upwards, for every 100l. of the value	40 0 0	

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Lace, continued.</i>		
Silk or Thread Lace, the manufacture of places within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30l. p. cent.
Needle-work, Foreign, made of Thread, Silk, any or either of them	Prohibited.	30l. p. cent.
Paintings on Glass, for every 100l. of the value	80 0 0	30 0 0
Pencils, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30 0 0
Tin-foil, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Watches of Gold, Silver, or Metal, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
<i>Sundry Manufactures.</i>		
Books, printed or manuscripts, <i>viz.</i>		
----- half bound, or in any way bound, the cwt.	6 10 0	3 10 0
----- unbound, the cwt.	5 0 0	3 0 0
Baskets, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Boxes, of all sorts, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Frames for Pictures, Prints, or Drawings, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Japanned Ware, for every 100l. of the value	62 10 0	20 0 0
Leather, <i>viz.</i>		
----- any article made of Leather, or any manufacture whereof Leather is the most valuable part, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	30 0 0
Mats, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Matting, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Matrasses, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Musical Instruments, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Toys, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
Thread, <i>viz.</i>		
----- Bruges Thread, the dozen lbs.	1 10 6	0 15 0
----- Outnal Thread, the dozen lbs.	1 10 6	0 15 0
----- Pack Thread, the cwt.	1 10 6	0 15 0
----- Sisters Thread, the lb.	0 8 4	0 4 0
----- Whited-brown Thread, the dozen lbs.	1 16 6	0 18 0
----- Cotton Thread. See Cotton Manufactures.		
----- not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Wares, <i>viz.</i>		
Lacquered Ware, for every 100l. of the value	62 10 0	30 0 0

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Sundry Manufactures, continued.</i>		
Paper, viz.		
Brown Paper, made of old rope, or cordage only, without separating or extracting the pitch or tar therefrom, and without any mixture of other materials therewith, the lb.	0 0 10	0 0 3
Printed, painted, or stained paper, or paper-hangings, or flock paper, the yard square	0 1 7	0 1 0
Waste Paper, or Paper of any other sort not particularly enumerated or described, or otherwise charged with duty, the lb.	0 1 7	0 0 6
Cider, the tun, containing 252 gallons	29 14 6	18 0 0
Perry, the tun, containing 252 gallons	34 18 0	18 0 0
Extract, viz.		
of Opium, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	25 0 0
of Guinea Pepper, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	25 0 0
of Quassia, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	25 0 0
of Vitriol, for every 100l. of the value	75 0 0	25 0 0
of any article not particularly enumerated or described, or otherwise charged with duty, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	20 0 0
<i>Sundry Materials.</i>		
Ashes, Pot and Pearl, the cwt.	0 11 2	0 6 0
of the British Plantations in America, and imported directly from thence, the cwt.	0 1 8	Free.
of any British Possession	- - -	Free.
Brimstone, viz.		
Rough, the cwt.	0 15 0	0 1 0
in rolls, the cwt.	1 0 0	0 6 0
in flour, the cwt.	1 3 9	0 9 9
Note.--A drawback of the whole of the present Duties is allowed on Brimstone used in making Oil of Vitriol.	- - -	No Drawback of Proposed Duty.
Elephant's Teeth, viz.		
not exceeding the weight of 21lbs. each tooth, the cwt.	2 0 0	1 0 0
exceeding the weight of 21 lbs. each tooth, the cwt.	4 0 0	2 4 0
Feathers for beds, in beds or not, the cwt.	4 8 8	7 0 0
Oil of Olives, the tun containing 252 gallons	15 13 0	7 0 0
Painter's Colours, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	30 0 0

	Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Sundry Materials continued.</i>		
Powder, viz.		
of Brass for japanning, the lb.	0 5 6	0 2 6
of Bronze, for every 100l. of the value	50 0 0	25 0 0
Seed, viz.		
Cole Seed, the last	10 0 0	0 10 0
Rape Seed, the last	10 0 0	0 10 0
All Seeds not otherwise enumerated, commonly made use of for the purpose of extracting oil therefrom, the last	10 0 0	1 0 0
Tortoise Shell, unmanufactured, the lb.	0 4 0	0 2 0
Seal Skins, taken in any Foreign Fishery by Persons not being British Subjects, the skin	0 3 6	0 0 3
Wool, the lb.	0 0 1	-
not being of the value of 1s. the lb., the lb.	-	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Goods for Dyers' use.</i>		
Argol, the cwt.	0 4 9	0 2 0
Cochineal, the lb.	0 2 6	0 1 0
Fustic, the ton	1 4 6	0 4 6
Indigo, the lb.	0 0 5	0 0 4
Logwood, the ton	0 9 2	0 4 6
Madder, the cwt.	0 12 0	0 6 0
Roots, the cwt.	0 5 0	0 2 6
Orchal, the cwt.	0 16 8	0 6 0
Orchelia, the cwt.	0 16 8	0 6 0
Shumac, the cwt.	0 1 7	0 1 0
Turnsole, the cwt.	0 10 0	0 5 0
Verdigris, common, the lb.	0 3 4	0 1 0
chrystalized, the lb.	0 6 6	0 2 0
<i>Minor Articles of Colonial Produce.</i>		
Pimento, the lb.	0 0 10	0 0 5
Cocoa, the lb.	0 1 0	0 0 6
Arrow Root, the lb.	0 0 2	0 0 1
Tamarinds, the lb.	0 0 6	0 0 2
Lime, Lemon, and Orange Juice, viz.		
Raw, for every degree of specific gravity or strength, the gallon	-	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Concentrated, for every degree of specific gravity or strength, the gallon	0 0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marmalade, the lb.	0 0 6	0 0 3
Succades, the lb.	0 0 6	0 0 3
Preserved Ginger the lb.	0 0 6	0 0 3
Tobacco, unmanufactured, the lb.	0 4 0	0 3 10
Sarsaparilla, the lb.	0 1 3	0 1 0

<i>Minor Articles of Colonial Produce continued.</i>	Present Duty.		Proposed Duty.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Indigo, the lb.	0	0 5	0	0 3
Cashew Nuts, the lb.	0	2 0	0	0 6
Kernels, the lb.			0	1 0
Hides, not tanned, or in any way dressed, viz.				
dry, the cwt.	0	4 8	0	2 4
wet, the cwt.	0	2 4	0	1 2
tanned, and not otherwise dressed, the lb.	0	1 0	0	0 6
Tortoise Shell, unmanufactured, the lb.	0	4 0	0	1 0
Cocoa Nuts, for every 100l. of the value	20	0 0		
the 120 Nuts			0	5 0
Turmeric, the lb.	0	0 4	0	0 2
Bark for tanning, and for no other purpose whatever, for every 100l. of the value	20	0 0	10	0 0
Logwood, the ton	0	9 2	0	3 0
Fustic, the ton	1	4 6	0	3 0
Ginger, the cwt.	2	13 0	1	6 6
Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, being either in part or wholly manufactured, and not being enumerated or described, nor otherwise charged with Duty, and not prohibited to be imported into or used in the United Kingdom, for every 100l. of the value	50	0 0	20	0 0
Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, not being either in part or wholly manufactured, and not being enumerated or described, or otherwise charged with Duty, and not prohibited to be imported into or used in the United Kingdom, for every 100l. of the value	20	0 0	10	0 0

Note.—All the above Duties are those payable upon importation of the respective articles in British ships. A further Duty of one fifth will be charged on Goods imported in Foreign ships, subject to reciprocal arrangements with Foreign Countries.

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