

extent that scarcely any one would believe it unless both were made the subject of a public strict and thorough enquiry and be thereby revealed with all its supporting proof. The facts in that connection now brought forward are particularly furnished for the purpose, of showing the necessity for such an enquiry—which the Government, it would seem, from many indirect and some direct evidences, are averse to institute. Must the great number of employees of the Custom House, who are cognizant of those facts, be made to understand that the evident weakness or looseness manifested thus by the Government—in refusing to listen to the complaints which many among them have timidly or otherwise boldly addressed to it—is nothing less than a proof of connivance on their, the Government's, part, and that they abet it? Corruption of such varied and great gravity, coming from such high quarters, in such scarcely undisguised shape, and allowed to spread among subordinate officers of all grades, tends not only to disgust them with their superiors acting thus towards them, but invites them to follow the fast flowing current so profitable to those around them who do so. The attractive circumstances of that sort which surround and impel them on, either to have a willing share in the spoil, which they see others enjoy with perfect ease and impunity, as if there was nothing wrong about it; or, viewed from the higher kind of ground, of furnishing their families with certain wants or comforts which these families have not, and which they cannot in many cases with their limited salaries provide them with—all these considerations forcing themselves upon them daily and repeatedly form, it must be admitted, very strong temptations to be effectually resisted. It must, however, be here acknowledged to the honor of the majority of these employees, that they deserve well indeed of the public and country for having so long kept clear of the contamination which reigned supreme around and above them. There is in the individual human mind a faculty which can readily appreciate such devotedness to stern and right principles, and the people, or the *great* man, more so, will feel cause to be proud of them.

The mercantile class have also had to realize in many ways the effects of the corruption and mismanagement so overtly and otherwise displayed in the Custom House. As the "Ring" enjoys supremacy and interferes more or less, as opportunities offer, in damming the regular course of things, so as to bring the waters to their mills, the importers or their clerks have very often had to submit to vexations or extortions—and quietly submit to them—for fear in acting differently of seeing no way to get out of their repetition or extent. If the large number of quashed complaints which have been fyled in the Collector's office against the members of the "Ring" were examined; or if the Collector's *private* secretary was called on oath to testify as to the nature and extent of those complaints, made by many merchants and others against the "Ring," there would be much to swell the proportions of this work. If the prospect of better times for the Custom House were even to dawn the vexed and pilfered merchants and brokers would, no doubt, turn out *en masse* to testify to their past and present complaints. It is hoped they will soon have that opportunity.

There are officers, clerks, tidewaiters and lockers among the Ring who have no doubt, been forcibly enticed, in some way or other, to belong to it, and who would be glad to free themselves of the obloquy which clings to them as leprosy.