

There is no pecuniary sacrifice to the principles of free-trade here, where over one third of the gross revenue of the kingdom is still derived from imposts on foreign trade. The English of it all is, that with the exception of raw material, nothing of the slightest importance to the finances was placed on the free list, till it had taken itself out of the paying column.

PROTECTION, AND THE RISE OF THE BRITISH IRON TRADE.

The following is taken from an article in the *New York Tribune* of Dec. 24th, 1866. As a short and telling recapitulation of the true story of how perhaps the most important of all branches of British manufacture rose and prospered, it is submitted for the information of those who may yet remain under the impression that Britain's manufacturing greatness owes nothing to Protection.

Just see what unswerving support the British Government gave to the British iron manufacture for an unbroken period of 147 years, till it was strong enough to invite the world to Free Trade, and to teach Free Trade. In 1679 the first duty on foreign iron was imposed by the British Government, of 10 shillings per ton. In 1710 the duty was advanced to £2. 1s. 6d. per ton in English vessels, and £2. 10s. 10d. in foreign vessels. A stiff tariff, which yearly did its intended work for 72 years, undisturbed by any howling of foreign importers, camped in London or elsewhere, against the folly of manufacturing dear iron at home when cheaper iron could be bought abroad. This tariff did not make cheap iron—did not even supply England with the iron she needed, for she was a constant importer of it. But what of that? She was after cheap iron, and she was going to get it through persevering protection. In 1782 the duty was raised to £2. 16s. 2d. In 1785 Parliament prohibited the exportation of tools, engines, models, or plans of machines used in the manufacture of iron, under the penalty of one year's imprisonment of the shipper, £200 fine, confiscation of the articles shipped or intended to be shipped, a fine of £200 on the master of the vessel, and the same on the custom house officers, who were to be dismissed, and be thereafter incapable forever of holding office. Item, for enticing iron workmen out of England, Parliament imposed the penalty of one year's imprisonment and £500 fine for every workman so enticed; the fine to be doubled for the second offence. Blood-earnest legislation—but there was not a man in England to protest against it. For England, and the English, were after cheap iron.

In 1787 there was nobody to talk about the right of buying in the cheapest markets, and foreign importers not having a voice in legislation, Parliament prohibited the importation of iron less than three-fourths of an inch square, except plain bars, and all manufactures of iron and steel. In 1795 that blood-earnest act prohibiting the exportation of tools and