

who levied a base, obscene tax, to which his son Titus objected. "Oh," said Vespasian, "that is nothing; the tax money does not smell; there is nothing wrong about that." The hon. gentleman, although he loathed the very idea of taking money, took every possible step to collect the money, and it has come at a very opportune moment, a moment when, thanks to the financial skill of the gentlemen opposite, the money was very much needed. With respect to the order about cattle, I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that it operates in some respects disadvantageously. It certainly interferes with the transit trade. But we had the choice of two evils. We were all aware that a panic existed in England, and of the resolve of the Board of Trade in England to put the Animal Contagious Diseases Act into full effect. We were informed of that, and we knew that, if we did not take the step at once, we would have been scheduled—to use a technical expression—as the United States were scheduled; that Canada would have been at once placed side by side with the United States, and all the cattle going from Canada and the United States would be slaughtered at the place of import into England. And, therefore, we would have had to give up that trade, which has grown to be of such importance, even though in its infancy, if we had not taken the steps we did. I agree with the hon. gentleman that it is of importance that that prohibition should exist for as short a period as possible. I fancy the panic will soon pass away in England. We know the energy of the American Government in the matter, and I believe their energy is now being displayed in preventing the spread of the disease of pleuro-pneumonia, and in proving that it is limited to a small district of the United States. I believe that the United States Government are taking the most active steps for the purpose of stamping out the disease, and of putting that portion of the country where the disease exists under quarantine, so that ere long the direct trade in live cattle between the United States and England will be revived. So soon as that is done, we will only be too happy, as everyone knows, to repeal the Order in Council, and to restore the transit trade,

which is of so much importance to the country. With respect to the clause about the negotiations with Spain and France for the development of our trade with those countries, the hon. gentleman has spoken as any independent statesman ought to speak on that subject. I have no doubt that he and his Government considered that fully during the period when they were charged with the special responsibility of considering such subjects. We, of course, on assuming the reins of power, took up that subject as well. It is of great importance that this country should find large and increasing avenues for our foreign trade, and I am glad to inform you, Sir, that we have not been altogether unsuccessful. I am glad to inform you, in a general way, that the Government of France have received our overtures in the most gracious and kindly spirit, that they are inclined to reciprocate in every possible way, and that they are inclined to admit our ships and many other articles under the "most favoured nation" clause. If that clause is continued in the commercial treaty between England and France, that will involve our ships being transferred in France on paying a duty of two francs per ton instead of forty francs; in other words, it will restore the shipbuilding trade to its wonted prosperity in a very great degree. The French Government have received our propositions very favourably. Of course corresponding concessions on our part must be given in the way of a reduction of the duties on French wines. That matter is to be submitted by the French Government to the Chamber of Deputies in a few days—I believe to-morrow. Of course it is impossible for us to know, and perhaps for the French Government to say, what change will be made; but, at all events, so far as the Government is concerned, they have met us more than half-way. I may say that Spain has also expressed a desire to develop trade between Canada and the Spanish Colonies, Cuba and Porto-Rico principally, and they have asked themselves that the powers of our Commissioners should be enlarged so as to embrace the consideration of trade with the Mother Country, of Spain as well as with her colonies on this side of the Atlantic. Whether this