

wily representative, whispering reciprocity to the Portuguese government, suggested visions of commercial greatness. What if Portugal, by the admission of her wines free of duty into British ports, should be enabled to exclude those of France and Germany, and thus enjoy a monopoly of the British wine market? How would other countries be abased and Portugal exalted by such a result? Having thus touched the ambition of the government, it was easy to suggest that Portugal and England should by perpetual treaty agree that the wines of the former and the woollen manufactures of the latter should, in a spirit of fraternal reciprocity, be admitted into the respective countries free of duty. The spider had charmed the fly. The treaty was made.

Of the effect of this reciprocity upon Portugal and England, a writer in the *British Merchantman*, a few years after, said:—

"Before the treaty our woollen goods, woollen serges, and cloth products were prohibited in Portugal. They had set up fabries there for making cloth and proceeded with very good success, and we might justly apprehend they would have gone on to erect other fabries, until at last they had served themselves with every species of woollen manufactures. The treaty takes off all prohibitions and pledges Portugal to admit, forever, all our woollen manufactures. Their own fabries, by this means, were perfectly ruined, and we exported one hundred thousand pounds, sterling value, of the single article of cloths the very year after the treaty. The court was pestered with remonstrances from their manufacturers, when the prohibition was taken off, pursuant to Mr. Methuen's treaty, but the thing was passed, the treaty was ratified, and their looms were all ruined."

It would Impoverish our People and Involve us in War with England.

Let me not be misunderstood. I do not mean to intimate that the ratification of the pending treaty would reduce the United States to the condition of Turkey, Portugal, or China. What I affirm is that, while closing the mines and destroying many of the industries of Canada, it would revive the languishing trade and commerce of England, and reduce a number of our leading industries to such a condition as would impel the impoverished and suffering people to force the Government to disregard the stipulations of the treaty, though it should involve us in years of war, and again drive our shipping from the seas.