

should be paid, Of course, the glories of the Ottoman Power vanished, and Turkey has been known as the Sick Man of Europe. The Turk, invincible in arms, was enslaved by diplomacy.

Encouraged by her success at Constantinople, England sought similar Treaties with Tunis, Tripoli, Morocco, and forced such provisions upon Persia, Muscat, Siam, Japan, and China. In some instances she permitted her victim to exact 5 per cent. duty on the English valuation of goods.

A writer to whom I acknowledge my indebtedness, says :—

“In the same way and at the same time, we have everywhere obtained that our goods shall be imported into all these countries at duties of either 3 or 5 per cent. We are continuing to apply to eastern nations this double system of tariffs and jurisdiction of goods and judges. To attain those ends we use all sorts of means, from courteous invitations to bombardments. We prefer to employ mere eloquence, because it is cheap and easy ; but if talking fails we follow it up by gun-boats, and in that convincing way we induce hesitating ‘barbarians’ not only to accept our two unvarying conditions, but also to pay the cost of the expedition by which their consent to these conditions was extorted from them. We tried patience and polite proposals with Tunis, Tripoli, and Morocco. China was so unwilling to listen to our advice, so blind to the striking merits of our opium and our Consuls, that we were obliged, with great regret, to resort to gentle force with her. Japan presents the most curious example of the series ; it is made up of ignorance circumvented, and of indignation frightened.”

Unlike these cases was that of the Methuen Treaty of 1684 with Portugal. The Portuguese had made great progress in the manufacture of woollen goods, and had become immense producers of wool. The people increased in prosperity, and the Government found increasing revenues. Tracing these good results to manufactures, it prohibited the introduction of woollen goods, but named the articles prohibited. English manufacturers evaded the prohibition by changing the names of their productions. Serges and druggets were soon flooding their markets, competing with their own productions under these hitherto unknown names. Determining to protect the industries of its people and its own revenues, the Portuguese prohibited the importation of articles bearing these names and of woollen cloths generally.

English manufacturers, excluded from Portuguese markets, invoked the aid of their Government, and demanded that it should destroy these industries which threatened their profits. The establishment of manufactures was, however, not a recognized cause of war. The British Government would try what diplomacy might accomplish, and Methuen, her wily representative, whispering reciprocity to the Portuguese Government, suggested commercial greatness. What if Portugal, by the admission of her wines free of duty into British ports, should enjoy a monopoly of the British wine market ? 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 be admitted free of duty. The spider 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 fabrics there for making cloth, and proceeded with very good success, and we might justly apprehend they would have gone on to erect other fabrics, until at last they had served themselves with every species of woollen manufactures. The Treaty takes off all prohibitions, and pledges Portugal to admit, for ever, all our woollen manufactures. Their own fabrics, by this means, were perfectly ruined, and we exported 100,000*l.* 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.”

I do not mean to intimate that the ratifications 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 trade of England, and reduce a number of our leading industries to such a condition as would impel the impoverished people to demand of the Government to disregard the Treaty, though it should involve us in war.

In order that you may judge whether this suggestion is extreme, let me invite your attention to some provisions of the Treaty. It proposes to restore to us the right we held prior to 1818, of taking, curing, and drying fish in and along the inshore fisheries