

the burdens about to be shaken off are not those put upon foreign manufactures by high customs duties, but those of high internal revenue duties on home products. The Cobden-Chevalier French treaty, the boast of English Free Traders these seven years past, is in imminent danger of abrogation when the year 1870 arrives. Large importations of English goods during a few years past have so injured French manufacturers and their workmen, that widespread popular discontent has arisen, and the matter already wears a serious aspect. Look elsewhere on the continent, and calculate what England's chances will be of getting Free Trade *in manufactured goods* from the German Zollverein, now so much more firmly compacted than ever before, under the auspices of Prussia. Two of the last German States to give in their adhesion to the Northern Confederation recently experienced an instantaneous conversion of view, when informed by Bismarck that they could not be members of the commercial union, if they staid outside of the political one. The benefits of the German Customs Union were too real and tangible to be sacrificed for a political idea. Now the fundamental principle of the Zollverein is free internal trade within Germany, with customs duties against all the world outside. The Zollverein may not be a symmetrical system, perfect in all details; but beyond fear of contradiction there is this much to be said for it—that under its operation imports of raw material, and exports of manufactured goods, have immensely increased, not only absolutely but relatively—while exports of raw material, and imports of manufactured goods, have correspondingly decreased. In other words, Germany has been making rapid progress in material civilization; one of the most unfailling signs of which is an increasing import of raw material, with a decreasing import of manufactured goods, while the reverse process is always the concomitant of barbarism, imperfect civilization, and retrogression. It is certain that the greatest efforts of the greatest Free Traders in the world will not persuade Germany to relinquish the wise and patriotic system under which the country has already so well prospered.

It would not answer to make this pamphlet a history, or to attempt within its limited compass a *resume* even, of the various commercial changes of some years past, which are claimed by English economists as showing the progress of Free Trade in the world. A much