

bushels an acre, if drained, but they were undrained, and did not produce more than twenty-three, for the farmers were as stupid as their oxen. He was not disposed to take a gloomy view. They had before them the means of increasing, by the application of science, the produce of the land;—for if they could get forty bushels an acre instead of twenty, that must tend to relieve their difficulties. If they looked at the geological map of England, they would find that one third of the whole was made up of clay, and there was not a single acre of that land, the produce of which, if properly drained, would not after five years be doubled. He had bought a farm of 200 acres, and instead of acting like a foolish squire, and attempting to lay wilderness to wilderness, he had spent £600 on it in drainage in six weeks; before it only produced nine or ten ricks of corn, and now it produces twenty or thirty. The parts that were drained produce double the quantity produced on the land not drained, although they were only separated by a thorn hedge, put up for an enclosure. This was not to be sneered at as theory, it was real practice. This was better than keeping the money in their breeches pockets, and saying they could not employ the labourers. If they had not the money in their pockets for drainage, it was their own fault, because £200,000 had been voted by Parliament, to be lent for that purpose, at reasonable interest, and to be repaid in twenty years. If by good management in these matters, drainage and skilful farming, they got better crops, that would tend to relieve the agricultural distress, which undoubtedly prevailed in this country.

At a large meeting of the Agriculturists of the County of Essex, Mr. Disraeli explained in detail the principles of his plan for relieving the farming interest from its present depressed condition, and thereby promoting the general prosperity of the country. By financial retrenchment in all government departments, and a fixed import duty on the productions of foreign countries, (the colonies we imagine to be excepted of course,) a large sinking fund was to be created, which would have the effect of rendering money cheap, thereby enabling the farmer to obtain the amount of capital necessary for agricultural improvement at a lower rate of interest. The equalization of taxation forms likewise a prominent feature of the scheme. Mr. Disraeli concluded his address with the eloquence for which he is remarkable, in the following words:

There must, if there be a *bona fide* sinking fund—there must result a gradual but a certain, and every year a diminishing amount of burdens on the country. It will not be the commercial section of the community, or even, perhaps, some one commercial house, that will gain the advantage of this measure; but every class in the community will, by the action of the sinking fund, obtain relief. The next effect it will have is on the price of capital—the interest of money—a subject of great importance to the industrial classes: Now these advantages you will obtain; you will have capital abundant—you will have every class feeling their burdens diminishing. How are you to do it? Why, by making the foreigner pay a toll on his commodities. (Loud cheers.) Now, am I right in supposing that the yeomen of Essex will adopt these principles? (Loud cries of "Yes, yes.") But, am I right in supposing that the yeomen of Essex mean to act upon them? (Tremendous cries of "Yes, yes.") Because we live in times when cheers round a convivial board will not save the country. In old days we assembled to commemorate the victories we had won and the tocs we had baffled.—But we meet now in the hour of difficulty and danger;

and we must meet to no use, unless we can devise some plan which we shall follow up with a confirmed resolution to conquer. If you resolve to act upon these principles, permit me to tell you, not as a mole, for you do not require such an incentive, but rather as an instructive hint, what we have done in the county in which I live. Impressed with the two great principles—first, that taxation should be equalised; and secondly, that public credit should be maintained, we have formed a society for the relief of real property, feeling convinced that real property never will be relieved except on the policy of these two principles which I have laid down. I ask you to do the same. From your society petition the House of Commons for equal taxation, to which you are entitled—a justice which no one denies; call upon Parliament to cease tampering with the fiscal fortunes of England, which has been too long indulged in—make up your mind to pay your debts—establish the same rule of morality for a nation which exists for individuals—and the certain and inevitable consequence will be, that you will not only introduce a principle of fiscal morality, which has been too long absent from the counsels of the Legislature; you will not only make capital abundant to those classes who require it, and who have a right to ask for it—and to no other class do I refer—but you will do more than this, you will place your ancient and noble industry in a just and legitimate position. I have been told that the agricultural interest don't know what they want—that they have no motto upon their banners. Write on your banners "Justice and Honesty," and depend upon it the nation will sympathise with you. It will rally round such professions, backed by such practices as you counsel and recommend. I feel persuaded that if the county of Essex shall act with spirit, and drive home these two points—if they demand from the Legislature equal taxation, which now, so far as reason and argument are concerned, is a settled question,—if they will counsel in an admonitory voice imperial morality, that the first and greatest principle of finance is the diminution of the national burdens, and that the only legitimate mode of doing this is by diminishing the public debt, and that the easiest, the most obvious, the justest course to do that would be that the untaxed foreigner should contribute his quota—I am convinced that that is a policy which must govern the country; if, indeed, the country be worth redemption. I have treated this subject economically, because the opinion of the times is inclined to economy, and because that way of treating it is rather endured by us in our forlorn position in consequence of the legislation which we have had in the present day. But I never can consent that this great question of the land of England shall be argued on such narrow and limited considerations. In this age of perfidy and cowardice I am not ashamed to say that I am prepared to uphold and maintain the constitutional preponderance of the land of England. I do so because I recognise all the institutions which have made our country so eminent as having their root and origin in the land—that immemorial throne which reconciles the majesty of the law with the freedom of the subject—the sacred spires of that patriot church that has at all times guarded the popular privileges and formed the national character—the brave front of these high spirited Parliaments that have educated the people of England in a comprehensive and practically enlightened freedom; because I recognise in the territorial principle the real and only source of stability in the state; because in the laws, the customs, the manners, the influence, the traditions connected with the land, I see the origin of that noble and indefatigable ambition that prevades all classes of the community—the true aristocratic principle that has taught every Englishman—at the plough or at the loom—in the gilded saloon or in the ermined senate—that it is his privilege to aspire and his