

oppress and destroy it. For let us see if the facts do not prove that the tobacco interest has been surrendered to British taxation, whilst other interests of both nations have been relieved of their burdens.

What is this bargain? Upon the one side, England retained, for an extended period, her north western posts, and thus repressed the progress of our western settlements. She was released from any responsibility for six thousand slaves, carried away contrary to the provisions of a treaty. She obtained the release and restoration of a large confiscated debt. She has procured the admission of her Provincial timber and other productions into the America market, duty free. She has secured the assistance of the American navy to keep down the competition of slave labor with her own colonies. She has bound the United States to acquire no territory in Central America without her permission. She has secured cheap cotton and free provisions of the United States—a reduced duty upon her own manufactures—and throughout all this diplomacy she has maintained a tax upon American tobacco which produces her annually a revenue of twenty millions of dollars. On the other hand, the United States has obtained a free market for its cotton and provisions. The fishermen of Maine, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, have been admitted to the fisheries of Newfoundland. The wool of Connecticut and Pennsylvania is vended, without revenue license, in the Canadas. The Clippers of New York and Boston carry, without tonnage tax, the cargoes of Calcutta and Liverpool.

Does it not seem that the proscribed staple, represented by your memorialists, has paid the consideration for much of these reciprocal advantages?

Would it not appear that England has limited in its application to tobacco a principle of reciprocity which she has extended to all other American products? Does it not seem that the Government of the United States has surrendered the taxation of this important staple to secure relief to other interests of more sectional importance to her negotiators?

The onerous duties on tobacco enable England to reduce *pro tanto* the duties on articles essential to her manufactures. These duties also pay for the special favors shown to other American interests.

Your Committee will not charge that this systematic imposition upon one staple, and indulgence to others, is intentional, but really, under other circumstances, such a coincidence looks almost like conclusion.

Without making so serious a charge against the patriotism or justice of their own government, they deem themselves justified in asserting, that the staple of tobacco has been at once the victim of foreign injustice and domestic neglect.

The memorialists are really at a loss to know what reasons to assign for so unjust a discrimination against the interests which they represent.

It cannot be justified by any peculiar immorality in the use of tobacco, because clergymen, physicians, and philosophers, indulge in it. It has become as much an established usage of civilization as coffee—perhaps it is as nutritious.

The use of some stimulant seems indispensable to man. The savage finds in vegetable fermentation some oblivion of his cares, or some excitement in his pleasures. Some nations have been compelled, at the point of the bayonet,