

would have been enabled to detect the false statements, and gross misrepresentations of some of the witnesses, which will, in all probability, be received by the House of Commons as correct—their knowledge would also have enabled them to suggest such questions as were calculated to elicit the truth, and the result of evidence so obtained, would have left an impression on the minds of the Committee that would have produced a Report, on which the Legislature might fearlessly have acted, instead of adopting the dangerous proceeding of founding their recommendation of a change in the duties on timber upon the evidence of individuals whose interests and prejudices all lean to one side.

MR. MCGREGOR'S EVIDENCE, QUESTION No. 922.

Mr. McGregor says that foreign nations would take our manufactures in about the same proportion that we took their timber, were it not for the present differential duty on foreign and colonial timber.

Mr. McGregor is doubtful as to foreign nations taking fully as large an amount of British manufactures as we might take of their timber, and he is quite right in doubting it, as he knows that to a certain extent, they manufacture for themselves; but Mr. McGregor abstains from giving the Committee a much more important piece of information, which he was well able to do, that the Colonies take in British manufactures not only fully the amount of the timber exported, but a great deal more; the annual import being now £3,000,000, and for the last twenty years the balance of trade with the colonies has been greatly in favor of England. Whatever increase there might be in the export of British manufactures to foreign nations, by a reduction of the duty on foreign timber, there must of necessity be a reduction of the import of British manufactures into the colonies, by colonial timber being thus excluded from the British market.

923—Mr. McGregor says, the present differential duties oblige ship builders and others to pay a higher price for timber of all kinds.

To give weight to a bold assertion like this, the individual making it ought to be a practical man acquainted with

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