

transit by sea and land, had brought to our shores the food products of the most distant parts of the earth, at prices, which our agriculturists without further organisations and development of their industry, were not prepared to meet, and not unnaturally the renewal of a protection not yet forgotten became their first political aspiration.

It is easy to understand therefore, and it is impossible not to sympathise with, both the British exporting manufacturer and the British agriculturist thus injured, who cries to his Government to do something to counteract the action of the foreign Governments. It is too much to expect them to follow the secondary and remoter consequences of these foreign tariffs upon British trade as a whole, and it would be still less reasonable to expect them to follow the secondary and remoter consequences of any system of Retaliation or Protection it would be possible to an English Government to establish. It may be admitted without surprise that the existence of the present world-wide system of Protection, directed as it was primarily against this country, makes the existence of