

In the year of scarcity, 1832, France, imported food for 21 days amounting to upwards of 4,000,000 hectolitres of corn, weighing 32,563,000 metrical quintals, and conveyed by upwards of 3,000 small vessels, of at least 100 tons each. This year she must import one-third more, requiring a capital of 120,000,000 francs, and an increase of expense over that year of 30,000,000 francs.

The situation of the country is serious, and merits the anxious attention of the Government. The scarcity of wheat has caused a rise in the price of flour in the Paris market.

The *London Times* of the 4th instant says, "from letters we have received from Paris we find provisions enormously high. Fish there is none in the market; the finest pieces of meat are 36 sous (18d.) per pound. Veal 22 sous; vegetables beyond price—the best potatoes being 3 francs (2s. 6d.) the *boisséau*, or stone of 14 lbs. Eggs, 28 sous (14d.) per doz., and everything in proportion, and it is yet but the commencement of September."

#### BANQUET TO MR. COBDEN.

A grand dinner was given on Tuesday to Mr. Cobden by the Société des Economistes of Paris. The Duke d'Harcourt presided. The first toast was the King, accompanied by the following sentiment:—

"May the establishment of freedom of commerce add a new *eclat* to a reign, which has been already signalized by so many services rendered to the prosperity of industry and the peace of the world."

Mr. Horace Say, who acted as vice-president of the meeting, proposed the health of Mr. Cobden, in a short but impressive speech. Mr. Cobden replied in French—

"I entreat you to believe, gentlemen, that I am profoundly grateful for the cordial manner in which you have responded to the too flattering expressions by which our excellent president has introduced me to you. Permit me to demand for others, my fellow-labourers in the cause, a large share of this kindness. I am but a humble labourer amongst many others of greater merit, who have long exerted themselves for the trial of a great and salutary principle. In the name of my absent colleagues, allow me to thank you for your sympathy. Free exchange is an article the more added to the great charter of human liberty. We had already obtained by conquests the rights of conscience, the liberty of speech, and the inviolability of the press; we are now in the possession of the liberty of industry, and I will avow to you that I could never regard myself as the citizen of a perfectly free country so long as monopoly, the last badge of slavery, deprived my fellow-countrymen of the just reward of their skill and labour. The League was organized for the purpose of disseminating amongst the English people truths which Adam Smith and your Baptist Say had promulgated here a century ago. Suffice it to say, that our victory was obtained after more than seven years of discussion had elicited every argument in defence of protection which the ingenuity and the sincere alarm of the Protectionists could devise. If you ask me whether the question is settled for ever, I answer Yes; for in England we never recede one inch in the path of reform, when every step has been gained by the force of reason and argument. Besides, we have no man deserving the name of a statesman who would undertake a government founded upon the protective principle. I do not speak of Sir R. Peel, who has immortalized his name by the part he took in the emancipation of our commerce, or of Lord John Russell, who so nobly supported him, but I mean that there is not one member of the late or present Ministry who now advocates the principle of protection. One and all have modestly repudiated, on the part of Government, the right of interfering with the freedom of individual industry and enterprise. Gentlemen I should not be doing justice to my own feelings, or the views of those with whom I have had the honour to co-operate in England, if I sat down without saying that we look for far higher results from the universal application of our principles than those to which I have alluded. Doubtless it is good to extend commerce, to multiply the comforts of life, to stimulate industry, and increase the rewards of labour; but, valuable as are these physical gains, free trade is destined to confer a far greater moral blessing upon humanity. You have joined this evening in drinking a toast to peace—a sentiment which will find a response in every English free trader. True, we have now peace in Europe, but at what cost is it preserved? Everywhere we see preparations for war. Peace is upon our lips, but war resounds from our arsenals. The world sighs for some better guarantees against that scourge of humanity, than is to be found in enormous and costly armaments by land and sea; for experience has, unhappily, proved that the warlike passions of communities are more likely to be stimulated than suppressed by the threatenings which surround them. To render peace something better than an armed truce, we must array on its side such a preponderance of material interests as shall prevent the possibility of war. Here, then, to the mission of the free traders! Gentlemen, I heartily thank you for the patience with which you have listened to this imperfect expression of my sentiments, and in conclusion, I drink with you to the union of all nations."

The following is a copy of the British Possessions Act of the last Session of the Imperial Parliament:—

**An Act to enable the Legislatures of certain British Possessions to reduce or repeal certain Duties of Customs.** [28th Aug. 1846.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the eighth and ninth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled An Act to regulate the Trade of the British Possessions abroad, certain Duties of Customs set forth in a Table in the said Act contained are imposed upon the Importation into any of the British Possessions in America, or into the Island of Mauritius, of the several Articles therein mentioned, not being the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of the British Pos-

essions enumerated therein, and a certain Duty of ten pounds for every one hundred pounds of the value thereof is imposed upon the importation thereinto of certain Sugar refined in Bond in the United Kingdom; And whereas by the said Act it is enacted, that all Laws, By Laws, Usages and Customs which shall be in practice or endeavoured or pretended to be in force or practice, in any of the British Possessions in America, which are any way repugnant to the said Act, or to any Act of Parliament made or to be made in the United Kingdom, so far as such Act shall relate to and mention the said Possessions, are and shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and whereas it is expedient to enable the Legislatures or other proper legislative authorities in the said British Possessions, with the assent of Her Majesty in Council, to reduce or repeal all or any of such duties of Customs as aforesaid, so far as the same may be in force in such Possessions respectively. Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That if and whenever the Legislature or other proper legislative authority of any of the said British Possessions in America or the Mauritius make or pass any Act or Ordinance, Acts or Ordinances, reducing or repealing all or any of the said Duties of Customs so imposed as aforesaid by the said recited Act, upon any Articles imported into such Possession, and if Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, assent to such Act or Ordinance, Acts or Ordinances, such Duties of Customs shall, upon the Proclamation of such assent in the Colony, or at any time thereafter which may be fixed by such Act or Ordinance, be so reduced or repealed in such Possession as if such reduction or repeal had been effected by an Act or Acts of the Imperial Legislature, any thing in any Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

II. And be it enacted, that all such Acts and Ordinances shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, within thirty days after Her Majesty shall have assented thereto, if Parliament be then sitting, or, if not, within thirty days after next meeting of Parliament.

**EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE.**—The weaving trade in Scotland has sensibly improved since the passing of the corn bill. From many of the weaving towns and villages the reports are favourable, the weavers being both more plentifully supplied with work and at better prices. Three extensive houses, engaged in carpet weaving, at Glasgow, and two large firms at Bannockburn, have cordially agreed to advance the wages of their operatives eleven per cent. Manufacturers have only large orders for home consumption, but they are already preparing for the foreign market. The beneficial effect of this state of things is exhibited in the greater health and comfort of the population.

#### EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

*An Account of the Exports of the Principal Articles of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures in the Six Months ended 5th July 1846, compared with the Exports in the two preceding years.*

ARTICLES.	DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.			
	1844. £.	1845. £.	1846. £.	
Butter,.....	—	86,868	89,128	
Candles,.....	—	36,007	30,596	
Cheese,.....	—	12,718	11,327	
Coals and Culm,.....	286,863	439,227	478,243	
Cotton Manufactures,.....	9,192,573	9,590,323	8,899,792	
Cotton Yarn,.....	2,914,872	2,985,577	3,583,792	
Earthenware,.....	386,203	420,915	406,598	
Fish—Herrings,.....	—	8,399	14,888	
Glass,.....	204,905	246,517	193,117	
Hardware and Cutlery,.....	1,053,125	1,068,618	1,069,045	
Leather, Wrought and Unwrought,.....	—	199,411	166,893	
Linen Manufactures,.....	1,547,456	1,576,252	1,389,520	
Linen Yarn,.....	493,993	553,897	410,277	
Machinery,.....	—	344,037	555,018	
Metals, viz. {	Iron and Steel,.....	1,548,414	1,772,608	2,199,006
	Copper and Brass,...	945,963	901,408	747,681
	Lead,.....	147,177	131,580	78,945
	Tin, Unwrought, ...	41,062	19,497	40,558
	Tin Plates, .....	266,802	317,426	358,068
Salt,.....	112,474	96,030	97,007	
Silk Manufactures,.....	380,837	385,989	421,910	
Soap,.....	—	110,541	77,906	
Sugar, Refined,.....	170,483	231,976	207,173	
Wool, Sheep or Lambs',.....	181,412	269,191	95,953	
Woollen Yarn,.....	370,117	490,231	377,160	
Woollen Manufactures,.....	4,251,243	3,920,088	3,143,550	
Total,.....	24,495,972	26,166,732	25,020,972	

#### VESSELS EMPLOYED IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

*An Account of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels which Entered Inwards and Cleared Outwards, in the Six Months ended 5th July, 1846, compared with the Entries and Clearances in the two preceding years; stated exclusively of those employed in the Coasting Trade between Great Britain and Ireland.*

	ENTERED INWARDS.		
	1844.	1845.	1846.
U. Kingdom & } Dependencies, } Other Countries, }	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 4,479 1,117,141	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 6,211 1,402,563	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 6,160 1,355,696
	3,222 503,833	3,555 595,797	4,005 639,912
	Total,.....	8,971 1,620,974	9,766 1,998,360
	CLEARED OUTWARDS.		
	1844.	1845.	1846.
U. Kingdom & } Dependencies, } Other Countries, }	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 7,230 1,308,804	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 7,072 1,447,601	<i>Ships. Tonnage.</i> 7,801 1,540,543
	2,678 432,516	3,795 569,395	4,335 633,067
	Total,.....	9,908 1,741,320	10,867 2,026,996
			12,136 2,173,607