

well to produce it in view of the objections taken in other columns to our previous remarks on the decline of shipbuilding and publishing in the United States. Mr. Whitney argues that greater things have been done in the latter country under Protection. We have endeavoured to show that Protection is the robbing of the many for the benefit of the few, and that the achievements of Free Trade are far nobler than those of the restricted policy of which he is the advocate. We believe that if the United States had followed out a Free Trade policy, as nearly as was practicable, she would be in an infinitely better commercial position to-day than she is, and that in time no country could compete with her: and as regards her debt, upon which Mr. Whitney dwells strongly we would say in the words of the New York *Evening Post*:—By the free method the debt will “be paid rapidly, out of the constantly increasing riches of the people in the shape of taxes intelligently apportioned and cheerfully paid, because nothing is more agreeable than paying an honest debt out of growing riches. By the other method, it will be paid slowly, out of hard-toiling penury, by taxes wrung from every available resource, grinding the body of people to the earth, and transmitting the burden to posterity.” There is little hope that the better policy will be adopted.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

FIGURES QUOTED BY THE LATE MR. WHITNEY IN REPLYING TO THE “LEADER.”

By the foregoing statements, the public were of course expected to see that Great Britain, by throwing off all protective duties in 1842, reduced the list that yielded those duties from 1162 to 44 articles, and thereby, through some unexplained process, increased her own revenue.

The facts, however, are these:

There were in 1841, 1162 different *rates of duty*, (not dutiable articles,) there were 862 articles subject to duty, there were of these 349 which produced less than £100 each per annum, and 147 which produced nothing; moreover, from so far back as 1838, 95 per cent. of the customs revenue was derived from 16 *articles only*. Thus long before the period of the tariff reform had the commerce of England, under extreme protection, shaped itself into what we now have it. What subsequent Free Trade enactments had to do with previous changes I will leave with the reader to judge.

Table showing the true position of the British custom-house returns in the two years quoted by the *Leader*:—