

without it the products of those industries can be imported so cheaply, that the native manufacturer cannot *at first* compete with the foreign, but may be enabled eventually to do so. Take axes for instance. If they had been always on the free list, there might be no axes made in Canada to day, whereas it is likely that, even without the duty, we would now be making most of our own axes. But can the agricultural industries be crushed out by foreign importations? Did our farmers cease to till their fields and reap their harvests when there was no duty on grain? Will apples and strawberries cease to grow if they are put on the free list again?

An import duty on the necessities of life is an unfortunate one, because in time of plenty it does not benefit the farmers; whilst in times of scarcity it is positively unjust to the poor. It was in securing the abolition of the Corn Laws that the free-traders of England achieved their great victory, and, so far as provisions go, we would do well to follow their example here. But when we try to imitate them in other matters we are very apt to forget the essential difference in the industrial conditions of the two countries.

The English manufacturing industries are now so strong that they do not require protection any longer; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would get very little revenue indeed

from such a tariff as ours is. Therefore, he has to raise his revenue in other ways, and partly by direct taxation, so that we may be as good theoretical free-traders here as they are in England, and yet be unable to follow in their footsteps very closely, at least for many years.

Some such policy as I have indicated would, I believe, *have* to be adopted by Mr. Cartwright if he were appointed Finance Minister to-morrow. He could not go back to the old tariff of 1878 if he wanted to, because he must have all, or nearly all, the revenue produced by the present tariff to carry on the Government, and to fulfil the enormous obligations now resting on the country.

If this is true, surely the best policy for the Liberals to adopt is to come out boldly, and tell the people what their policy will be.

Such a policy as I have very roughly outlined would be popular with the farmers, with the importers, with the coal consumers of Ontario, with the flour consumers of the Maritime Provinces, and with consumers generally; whilst it would please the manufacturers just as well to have less protection if they could get their raw material more cheaply.

It remains to be seen whether the Liberal Leaders will have the wisdom to catch the popular breeze, and to turn it in the right direction.

## CARLYLE.

(Buried in the place of his birth, February, 1881.)

BY GARET NOEL.

BACK unto thy childhood's meadows  
They have borne thee, mute, unheeding,  
Prophet heart, that midst life's shadows  
Spoke the truth with earnest pleading:  
Once men feared thy scorn of error,  
Now the meanest knows no terror.