

gentleman who visits Europe annually to purchase for his firm, is supposed to be, as a general thing, above the absurdity of being a Protectionist. He affects in Canada the opinions of the "Manchester men" and commercial magnates at home, whom he is happy to name as his intimate acquaintances. Those here who are not privileged with such cosmopolitan experiences, catch the tone which they hear from the very beginning of their business apprenticeship. Let those who know the facts look closely into the truth of the matter, and say if the influence here pointed out be not in Canada more potent in upholding Free Trade doctrines amongst us than all the arguments that we are accustomed to see in print. This is the subtle, false impression, the chief of all hostile influences, which the home industrial movement has to encounter in these Provinces. What are called Free Trade arguments, however elaborately set before the eye on the printed page, are of but small effect on the public mind compared with the idea that it is unfashionable in certain quarters, "uncommercial," so to speak, to be a Protectionist. Frequently, too, the man of "common sense" only, who does not profess to understand commercial matters, thinks it highly sensible to be a Free Trader, merely because he sees the majority of commercial men taking that side of the question. A superficial, only partially informed, and uncritical idea of what is English opinion on the question of Protection or Free Trade, and a weak deference to so-called commercial authority, are the main supports upon which popular Free Trade public opinion rests in these Provinces.

The old story about Charles the Second and the Royal Society, whether true or not, serves well to point a moral. It is related that the "merry monarch" propounded to his wise men the scientific question why a living fish, swimming about in a tub of water, added nothing to the gross weight of the tub and its contents, while if a dead fish were put in, its weight immediately told on the whole, as so much added. As in the case of the wonderful little glass bubble called Prince Rupert's drop:

"Whose least part cracked, the whole does fly,"

"And wits are cracked to find out why,"

the wits of the big wigs of the Royal Society were cracked to no purpose in the endeavour to assign scientific reasons for the extraordinary "fact" which they were challenged to explain. It