

affected also the welfare of the whole country. It was of far more importance to them, and its influence more universally felt, than that of every other branch of industry. "In this respect there was a wide difference between them and the people of England. Here, there are so many vast and various interests, if any one was ruined, it would not affect the general prosperity of the whole nation. Its influence was local and limited. Here also every class was efficiently represented in this House. The cork-cutters, the silk-weavers, the paper-makers, and others similarly situated, who were all for free trade for the rest of the world, but Protectionists for themselves—"Hear," and laughter)—were so powerfully and so ably represented, that they could make themselves heard and felt, and, as we had lately seen, could command support for their views even among some of the oldest and foremost of the advocates of free trade, who claimed exemption for their constituents from the operation of their own principles—but who was here to speak for those three millions of able, intelligent, enterprising and loyal men, who, though unrepresented, were sufficiently numerous and powerful to lay the foundation of a large empire? (Hear, hear.) If he felt discouragement at this state of things, it was not diminished by the consideration, that the measure emanated from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, one of the most eloquent, ingenious, and persuasive of men, but as he described himself the other night, the most