

would be cheap, wages would be lower without any loss to the mechanic or the artizan, and people could buy such articles as they desired to import from abroad without having to pay \$200,000,000 more than they need do to support a rotten system, which goes by the name of Protection. So miserable is that system that the small province of New Brunswick builds twice as many ships a year now as the whole of the United States.

It is a favourite argument with the Protectionist that England did not adopt Free Trade until she was in a position to compete with the rest of the world, that Sir Robert Peel did not act from conviction so much as from policy. Let us on this point hear Sir Morton Peto in this work on *Taxation*.

"In one direction—the direction aimed at by Sir Robert Peel—great results have been achieved. The trade of the country has been unshackled. Prior to 1842 the commerce of the nation was clogged by a thousand different duties, which, with few exceptions, have now been removed. In 1841 there were 1,162 different articles subject to taxation at our custom houses, of which the greater portion were loaded with duties which, whilst they brought little revenue to the public treasury, opposed formidable obstacles to the extension of trade. In 1862 there were only forty-four articles chargeable with customs duties. This great result has been accomplished without any diminution of the revenue of the department. In 1841, the customs duties on 1,162 articles amounted to £21,898,845; in 1862, the duties on the comparatively few articles subjected to duty produced £29,036,000. By the extension of commerce which has followed the remission of duties on articles of import and export, employment has been afforded to the industry of the country, and, consequently, the means of the people has been increased. * * The declared value of exports of British and Irish produce from the United Kingdom, which, in 1841, was only £51,545,116, rose, under these commercial reforms, to £134,842,000 in 1860. A marvellous increase indeed! An increase, however, of which it may be confidently predicted that it is only the first fruits of a system as yet quite in its infancy."

And the Customs Commissioners in their First Report (1857) say:—

"Under the influence of the simplification of the tariff, the reduction of duties, and the facilities afforded to merchants and shippers, the commerce of Great Britain has shown a marvellous increase, and the revenue a still more marvellous elasticity. The net aggregate of the reductions in the tariff amounts to above ten millions. Yet the customs revenue scarcely varied for the last twenty years—ranging steadily from twenty-two to twenty-three millions."

This is the lesson which Free Trade teaches. And we have thought