

cause French duties on English goods are still pretty high after all—it cannot be regarded as the *experimentum crucis* which they profess to see in it. The Free Trade of the English school—as taught to other communities—is, the free importation of manufactured goods. But, however, much as the French treaty lacks of coming up to this ideal, it is already regarded as too much Free Trade by the French people. There have been riots in certain districts in France, provoked by the sight of food being exported in large quantities from those districts; and there have been strong remonstrances addressed to the government, provoked by the sight of English goods brought in. The popular mind reverts irresistibly to the double idea, that the exportation of human food, and the importation of foreign manufactures, leads to national ruin. This rude, popular notion, has at its bottom a truth which the most advanced philosophy of our day recognises as unimpeachable. In the meantime, the Free Traders may very fairly be requested to “wait a little longer,” ere they have conceded to them the point that a real Free Trade treaty between two nations, both highly civilized manufacturing nations, has proved a permanent success.

What, it has been asked, is to be said about the seeming absurdity of French operatives and manufacturers grumbling at English goods coming into France, while in England, French and Belgian manufacturers are taking heavy contracts, underbidding the English in their own country—and this to an extent which has caused an inquiry and a report on the subject by an influential commission? The explanation is as follows. The iron-workers of Britain are the strongest, best organized, and most aggressive of any Trades Union of workmen in the world. They have been able to force increased rates of wages, which have told on price, and have caused Belgian-made rails, and French-made locomotives, to be purchased for English railways. But the cotton-workers of England have never been able to force the masters in this way, and cotton fabrics are still produced in England cheaper than in France: and the phenomenon is thus easily accounted for.

But there is more to be said than merely to deny the assumed fact of the advance of Free Trade, as between two or more highly progressive manufacturing nations, and to affirm that what is called Protectionism makes its greatest advances among those nations that