

will relieve a multitude of reputations against which the most infamous charges have been placed on file.

—The Coal Tax, as has been before noted, is the only item in the Tariff which can be designated as Protective, in the proper sense of that equivocal term. It is laid on avowedly, not for the purpose of raising revenue, which it does only to a very inconsiderable extent and in a manner most oppressive to the people, but for the purpose of compelling the people of Ontario to buy Nova Scotian instead of American coal. But the language of the Finance Minister in the Budget debate, and notably with reference to the question of Beet Sugar, if correctly reported, shows that he is in danger of allowing himself to be drawn, by a success which he somewhat misconstrues, and by the sweet applause of certain commercial sirens, into a general policy of Protection. He ought to know that no home interest can be protected except at the expense of some other home interest, and that the unprotected interest almost inevitably suffers more than the protected interest gains. The principle of his Tariff, so far as the Tariff is good, is not Protection but Adjustment. No sane man can deny the truth of the broad doctrine of Free Trade. To buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest, is the manifest dictate of common sense: in no other way can the various fruits of the earth and of human labour be duly distributed, or the industry of each section of mankind directed to the most profitable objects. If all the nations of the world were one community, Free Trade would be the law of their intercourse, as it is the law of intercourse between the different citizens of the same nation whom nobody proposes to protect against each other. But the nations of the world are at present very far from being one community: each of them wants money for its separate establishments; each of them raises, and is likely to continue raising, a large portion of that money by means of import duties; and each of them in regulating the duties has regard, and will always have regard,