

manufactured here; and that it results as a necessary incident of our settled fiscal system, that there must be a large, and as I believe, in the view of moderate protectionists, an ample advantage to the home manufacturer.

“Our adversaries wish to present to you an issue as between the present tariff and absolute Free Trade.

“That is not the true issue.

“Free Trade is, as I have repeatedly explained, for us impossible; and the issue is whether the present tariff is perfect, or defective and unjust.

“I believe it to be in some important respects defective and unjust.

“We expressed our views last session in four motions, which declare that articles of such prime necessity as fuel and breadstuffs should be free; that the sugar duties should be so adjusted as to relieve the consumer from some part of the enormous extra price he is now liable to pay to a few refiners; that the exorbitant and unequal duties on the lower grades of cottons and woollens should be so changed as to make them fairer to the masses, who now pay on the cheapest goods taxes about twice as great in proportion as those which the rich pay on the finest goods; and that the duties on such materials as iron, which is in universal use, should be reduced so as to enable the home manufacturer, to whom it is a raw material, to produce a cheaper article for the benefit of his home consumer and the encouragement of his foreign trade.

“I believe that by changes of the character I have indicated monopoly and extravagant prices would be checked, a greater measure of fair play and justice to all classes would be secured, and the burden of taxation would be better adjusted to the capacity of the people who are to pay. Depend upon it, a day will come when by sharp and bitter experience we shall learn the truth; and many who even now applaud will then condemn these particular incidents of the tariff.”

Mr. Blake's repetition is of more importance than his original utterance, and that for a reason which is universally recognized. To re-affirm a thing, after an interval of time with its changes and events has passed, is to imply that your views have not changed on the matter in question, and that these views of yours are even more decided now than they were before. **Mr. Blake gives us to understand that his mind is made up on the question of Protection or Free Trade, and has been for some years back.** He admits absolute Free Trade to be impossible, but he wants a reform of the tariff. And his allusion to “four motions” pressed in the House by his party in 1882, implies that the party was with him then, and is with him still. Both leader and party, therefore, are responsible for the position assumed.