

FREE TRADE.

THE world has been so arranged by Providence that different countries have different climates, soils, minerals, plants, and animals. The tropics produce certain fruits which will not ripen in the open air with us, while we, on the other hand, are rich in coal and iron. We used to make wine, but we find it better to buy the clarets and champagnes of France, the hocks of Germany, the port and sherry of Portugal and Spain, paying for them with coal, iron, cotton and other goods.

Even in one great article, such as iron, there are different qualities—in the first place, of ore, and even of the metal itself; so that we import certain classes of iron and export others—for instance, from and to Germany.

Some differences are even more subtle.

The character of the water is supposed to give some places an advantage as regards certain manufactures.

The dryness or dampness of the air has important consequences. For the finer qualities of cotton thread the air of Lancashire is said to be especially suitable.

Moreover, when an industry has flourished for a time in one district, the inhabitants acquire special gifts and aptitudes. The excellence of claret