

dom, and its dependencies. Other powers had the same object in view, and both the Netherlands, and Prussia had adopted measures, avowedly intended as retaliatory of the British restrictive and exclusive system. It was quite clear, from these occurrences, that the time had arrived for reconsidering the British commercial principle; they must adopt one of two courses—either to persevere in the present system through the instrumentality of protecting duties and prohibitions, or else to admit other powers to a perfect equality and reciprocity of shipping duties. The latter was the course they were bound to adopt. *Its effects would lead to an increase of the commercial advantages of the country; while, at the same time, it had a tendency to promote and establish a better political feeling and confidence among the maritime powers; and would abate the sources of commercial jealousy, idly-wasting the forces of each in a race of mutual annoyance. It was time, in the improved state of the civilization of the world, to establish more liberal principles; and to show that COMMERCE WAS NOT THE END, BUT THE MEANS, of diffusing comfort and enjoyment among the nations embarked in its pursuit.\**

Towards the close of the debate, on this important subject, Mr. Ricardo emphatically observed that, Merchants had, at length, begun to find out that restraints upon commerce were restraints upon themselves. *They had foolishly imagined that they were imposing restraints upon other countries, whilst they were only adopting measures prejudicial to themselves.*

In the course of Mr. Huskisson's observations it appeared that, in an official note which the minister of Prussia had delivered in on this matter, the following admirable and liberal principles were stated to be those of his court, namely; "that reciprocal commercial restrictions were reciprocal nuisances, prejudicial to all nations having reciprocal interests, and particularly to those engaged in extensive commerce; and that the policy of Prussia was to substitute in the place of reciprocal prohibitions, reciprocal facilities?"

The resolutions proposed and carried went to confer upon the king in council the power of relaxing the old law, where other powers departed from the retaliatory principle, and to continue it where they did not.

The following letter, which has just come to hand, bearing relation to the subject I treated of in No 41, and to another recent instance of that lawless spirit with which the meanest officers of justice in Canada take upon themselves to fly in the face

\* When will mankind in general, in like manner, find out that wealth and property, of every kind, are not the end, but the means, of securing comfort and enjoyment?