

cultural Chemistry," that beet sugar was *entirely too bitter* to be of any use. The discussion must have been *bitter* indeed—but not so the sugar, which when refined, is identical to the very best cane sugar; so much so that the ablest chemist or commercial buyer in the world could not, in the presence of samples of each kind, say which is which, were it to save his life.

Napoleon I has been justly called the father of this industry. He lavished both honors and fortune on those who were the most successful in its establishment,—but his downfall nearly ruined this offspring of his. The alliance of continental powers with England against France, brought back the predominance of England's commercial interests on the continent—and the very elastic principles of free trade nearly crushed this industry entirely out of existence. Although Germany and Russia had already lavished millions of francs in the manufacture of beet sugar, they allowed the imported cane sugar to compete fully with the beet sugar, which, being yet unable to support this competition, was completely ruined in all countries but France.

Even in France, for many years, the theories of free traders had their able and nearly all-powerful defenders; so that beet sugar could barely keep up a foothold. So was it in France up to 1829, when the whole production of beet sugar did not exceed 4,000 tons annually, although millions over millions had been lost in the attempt to establish this industry without sufficient protection in its infancy. It would no doubt prove interesting to follow out this all but deadly combat between free trade and protection in France, on this question of beet sugar.

However, I will only say that to me it looks as if a few very clever, if not always very honest men, managed to enrich themselves and their friends, but not without impoverishing the mass of agricultural laborers. To perform this clever trick requires great ability, indeed, in handling bright, dazzling theories, which, like a mirage, can, of course, deceive people. But yet, those clever things could not be repeated,—and accomplished again—were it not for that very numerous class of so-called statesmen, who, in order to maintain their prestige, are always in search for the easier and least unpopular mode of taxation, if not the most judicious and most encouraging system for the fostering of home industries. Thus, in France it was feared that the maritime commerce of the country would suffer by the stoppage of importation of colonial sugar, the total consumption of which then only amounted to 35,000 tons. Protection was established notwithstanding the gloomy predictions of the free-traders; let us see what was the result:

Instead of the 4,000 tons of beet root sugar manufactured in 1829, France now produces from 300,000 to 462,000 tons per annum. It, however, imports about 200,000 tons of sugar annually. Its consumption has increased from 35,000 to 266,384 tons per annum (1876). All this sugar is refined at a profit to commerce and industry, and France exports about 450,000 tons every year. The free-traders were therefore wholly mistaken

in their calculations. 35,000 tons of the interests of and French colonies both in France

To this great must be added coal, which are the numerous in their turn,

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