

Free Trade and Unity.

Empires have risen, reached their zenith, waned, and passed away.

The verdict of history points to corruption as the cause of the downfall of these extinct civilizations. Slavery under which they reached the zenith of their power was the probable cause of corruption. Such an institution is unjust. Experience teaches that injustice in any form can only be perpetuated by corruption. It is said that "corruption is as fatal to the strongest body politic as cancer to the individual."

It is thought by some whose standing compels respect, that the British Empire has reached its zenith, and they predict its wane and downfall. They forget that unlike the civilizations of the past, or those that are waning, the civilization of the British Empire is founded on individual liberty. Further progress is therefore possible as a result of an extension of liberty; whilst its unity and continuity may depend on the ability of its various governments to safeguard this liberty.

Now the re-imposition of an inter-imperial preferential tariff, involves the adoption of protection by the Mother land and each of the Colonies. The result of its adoption would be to compel all the people who inhabit the Empire, and who number one forth the human race, to restrict their consumption of the commodities they now deem necessary for their sustenance comfort or pleasure, whilst it would at the same time force them to pay for the smaller quantity, what in the absence of this tariff