

at a higher price than that asked by the Americans for the same articles, "someone else would come over, get the cheaper article, and he would not continue in business long."

Bully for him! This is the thought and word of a true merchant, a true Englishman, a true patriot.

The "shopkeepers" of England

Lord Rosebery once said how stupid it was for Englishmen to take offence at Napoleon's saying: "England is a nation of shopkeepers".

To her shopkeepers, still more than to her statesmen, sailors and soldiers, England owes her wealth, strength and glory. They are the true "pillars of Empire".

Why? Because the 'shopkeepers' of England, not satisfied with making of their shops the centre of the world's supplies, never lose sight of the *collective* interests of British trade, the basis and mainspring of British power. In spite of their individual rivalries and competitions, British traders never fail to unite to a man in order to maintain their common interests against those of the rest of the world, foreign and colonial alike.

That collective action is not confined to mercantile interests. More than once England was saved by the patriotism, energy and combined efforts of her 'shopkeepers'.

When the traders of the City combined to put a check on the loan negotiated by Philip II with the Bank of Genoa, the expedition of the Great Armada was postponed to the following year, and England was saved from foreign invasion or attack. When those same traders prepared the return of Charles II, they saved their country from anarchy and militarism.

When Pitt in distress appealed to the voluntary subscriptions of the British people to pay the foreign legions fighting against Napoleon, the movement was headed and kept up by the merchants of the City.

The great Corsican had good reason to hate the 'shopkeepers' of England: their patriotism and their gold crushed his power more effectively than Wellington's grenadiers.

hun
trad
Lon

Wh

miss
the
start
coun
of no
unde
let a
show
Briti

cann
expe
man
own
yet b
adva
comr
with
stead
trade

Tran

Can
and l
is, th
(
wider
cies o