

duties almost prohibitory; and so long as this one-sided system of commerce exists England and English interests must continue to suffer. It appears to me to be *very absurd* to suppose that, in these days of individual competition, English statesmen can *really expect* foreign governments to *expose their people to the competition of Englishmen*; they never will do it. *Why, sir, if America admitted the free importation of British goods, that country would be immediately inundated with such a vast quantity of all classes of manufactures that its own people would stand no chance, and hence it is it imposes such heavy duties.*

That there should be found in England a class of statesmen, whether Liberals or Tories, *who still persist in compelling* their countrymen to submit to such a one-sided commercial system is a marvel. Can it be possible that English statesmen are altogether ignorant of the *sure and rapid destruction of British trade* under the adverse foreign fiscal duties imposed upon it? Can it be possible that they are blind to the coming struggle among the producing class? Can it be possible that they will look with indifference upon the suffering hosts of people are now enduring, and will have to endure, by the loss of their occupation? Sir, you, as the acknowledged leader of the press, ought at least to permit the free discussion of this *one-sided commercial policy*, even if you do not help it by your own powerful influence. Can the President of the Board of Trade really understand the vast national importance of the trade he is supposed to preside over? Does he know that the products of England are shut out of America by impossible duties? There is at present a great effort being made to introduce American watches into England. How are we treated by America in this particular article? If an English watch, made in London at a cost of £10, is sent to America, a duty of 25 per cent.—that is in cash £2 10s.—would be charged upon it, but England receives American watches free, and hence it is they advertise and push this particular trade, and thus injure the business formerly done by the watch-making industry of England? Can the Right Hon. President be alive to this great abuse? Can he, as President of the Board of Trade, understand the vast importance of this national sacrifice, not in one article, but in everything we make? *Our manufacturers and workmen are thrust out by the importation of foreign goods duty free, and are shut out of all foreign markets by the imposition of prohibitory import duties, a position too ridiculous to last with a generally declining commerce, and too ruinous to endure by those who live by the labor of their hands.*

HYDE.