

Parliament will therefore best consult their own credit, by lifting themselves fairly out of the trammels of the old system, and taking such a comprehensive view of the subject as will enable them to form regulations, agreeable to their own liberal and enlightened ideas, and conformable to the advanced state of political science. They will then be at no loss to determine what course should be pursued, but acknowledging the general principle, that whatever tends to interrupt the natural current of trade, or fetter the industry of the country, should be avoided, they will endeavour so to regulate the duties, as to keep the commerce of every country as nearly as possible in the same situation as if no tax had been imposed.

In applying this principle to the duties on timber and deals, they will, no doubt, have to combat many prejudices, but will succeed in framing regulations, which will bear to be closely investigated, and will stand the test of time. They will perceive, that cost what it may, the interest of the country will not be consulted, if this branch of our trade is not, as speedily as possible, restored to its natural channels, and they will see no insurmountable bar to the almost im-