If it be desired to prevent trade altogether, which seems to be the purport of protection, duties should be levied on the exports as well as the imports. If the protectionists are not willing to adopt such measures, it seems impossible to consider them in earnest. Of course, in support of the assumption that trade is a system of force, it seems hardly necessary to say that all communities are composed of individuals, and that each individual is supposed to pursue his own interest; the consequence would be that the usual amount of all kinds of production would go on, and would only cease with the absolute decline of profit. The exports would therefore continue, and if the imports were kept out by prohibitory duties, the balance must either be paid in the precious metals, or in some kind of securities from the debtor countries; or it would be lost by the exporter in the discount on his bills. In either case, the country must suffer the loss of the value of the reduced imports, though the individual merchants might not; nevertheless the expense of the remittance must be paid out of the price of the exports. Therefore the import duties must inevitably, in the first instance, fall on the producer of exports. We must now consider the subject of money. As before intimated, money is not capital, neither with respect to the community is it wealth. If imported as balances in trade, it may possibly benefit individuals; but their gains, like those of the gambler, would be taken out of the pockets of others. The operations of money have never yet been clearly explained. Ricardo was the clearest writer on the subject, and nothing has been added of any consequence within the last half century. He went so far as to say, "That a currency would be in the most perfect state consisting wholly of paper." Yet he adopted the common error from Adam Smith, that the gold could be exported in purchasing extra commodities, and added to the capital of the exporting country; an assumption that contradicts the whole theory of money.

The circulating medium of almost all countries at present is probably composed of ninety-nine and a half per cent of paper and credit, and the rest specie. Yet the world still clings to the delusion of the metalic standard of value; and supposes it could not be done without. England appears likely to work out her own financial ruin, by clinging to the fallacy of keeping her currency convertable into gold. No doubt the present depression in trade has been chiefly caused by her injudicious system of currency. It must always keep the prices of English commodities higher than those of other countries. The Bank of England is the common sewer into whish most of the newly produced gold, from all parts of the world is poured. By one provision of her charter, the Issue Department is obliged to purchase all the gold bullion that is offered to her at £3 17s. 9d. an ounce; for which it pays in Bank of England notes. By this foolish regulation, England is forced to supply the rest of the commercial world with gold, gratis. This must cause a constant redundancy in the currency, and as there is no other method of getting rid of such redundancy, except through depreciation in value, it is constantly given away in the price of imports; which sometimes nearly doubles that of the exports. But there are other causes that have contributed to the present high prices of England.