

does not meet the point. The fact that she is the most advanced, furnishes the very reason why the others cannot compete with her. Suppose there existed another nation, as far ahead of England in extent and cheapness of manufacturing production as England is ahead of the United States; then, perhaps, English economists might see the advantages of a system of Protection. It is the single nation which is ahead of all others that has its advantage in Free Trade, harmonizing on this subject with barbarous, half civilized, and half developed nations generally, but decidedly *not* harmonizing with those whose development most nearly touches its own.

Mr. Cobden's French treaty is avowedly the greatest of all the "modern instances" which Free Traders cite to show that their system is advancing. But there are two remarks to be made concerning this treaty, with regard to which the Free Traders have managed to raise a dust that rather obscures the popular view. The trade which has so increased under it is largely of a character such as Protectionists may approve of as heartily as did Mr. Cobden himself. France now imports English coal, a raw material of unsurpassed value in promoting industrial development; while England imports wines, the native product of French soil, an article which England cannot produce at all. England has no wine, while France has not enough coal for her requirements, and, therefore, on the sound principle that cheapness and facility of supply of raw material is part and parcel of a wise home industrial system, both are benefitted by the exchange. France has, indeed, rather the advantage, for the reason that though cheap and good wine is an agreeable and really beneficial acquisition to England, it cannot—as far as its relations to national industrial development are concerned—take rank in the scale with coal. And there is this much more to be said, that whereas France may be expected to continue producing wine until seed-time and harvest cease, the probable exhaustion of England's coal supply—not totally, perhaps, but to the point of interference with that cheapness and abundance of the article upon which so much of England's prosperity is based—is already matter of serious consideration with scientific men. Already there are those who say that England will at no distant day rue the folly of giving away, dirt cheap, her precious "black diamonds,"