

this country rather that the duty shall be levied on these two articles than that very numerous articles should be subjected to a higher rate of duty than that at present imposed. And this brings me to the consideration of another subject.

We cannot avoid seeing that one of the causes which will operate against the United States, both in retaining their present inhabitants and in attracting additional population is found in the very high duties they have been compelled to impose. If our duties are less than theirs, we may reasonably hope that a large amount of immigration may be attracted to our shores. I think, also, it will be found that a very considerable increase in our trade will be the result of the mode I propose to adopt in the imposition of duties. It is quite within the knowledge of every member of the Committee that, justly or unjustly, strong opinions are held not only in England but in the United States as to what they are pleased to call our very high customs' duties. They have never taken into account the circumstances which have compelled the imposition of those duties, for there never was a time before in which the Legislature could consider such a method of raising the revenue as is now proposed. Never before were we able to raise the revenue of the country in any other way than by comparatively heavy duties on imported goods, and there has hitherto prevailed great ignorance of the circumstances under which our financial legislation has previously taken place. We are now permitted by circumstances to reconsider this legislation, and to place it on a footing which will be more consistent with sound political economy, and consequently more conducive to the prosperity of the people. In addition to the causes which I have already mentioned as being of a nature that may well lead us to consider the propriety of reducing our duties, it must also be remembered that it is very desirable, when we are engaged in the consideration of the question of the defence of the country, that we should do our best to deprive the only party in Great Britain who are opposed to the maintenance of the connection with the mother country—of which we are so proud and to which we are all so devoted—of the sole cause of complaint which they can bring against us. (Hear.) Again, in the case of the United States, it is evident that the ground upon which they have endeavoured to set up an agitation upon the subject of the Reciprocity Treaty, rests precisely on the same footing as the complaints made in the mother country. There they have endeavored to arouse the selfish feelings of the New England manufacturers and to yoke that interest with the forwarding interest of the State of New York, so as to foment an agitation against the treaty for their own unworthy