

&c., what is true only with respect to natural productions. An example or two will show the telling, practical point of this distinction. It is a positive, permanent, natural fact, that cotton cannot be grown in Lancashire, the head-quarters of the cotton manufacture. But against the spinning and weaving of cotton in Georgia no such natural disability exists. The cotton manufacture is transferable, though cotton-growing is not, if climate forbids. It is certain, again, that tea and coffee cannot be grown on the banks of the St. Lawrence: but a locomotive, one of the highest and most valuable triumphs of mechanical art, can be built here as well as in Birmingham. In one class of cases man's art and enterprise may effect a transfer; in the other a transfer is impossible—is forbidden by an edict of nature. It is not sound reasoning, but sophistry, to confound two classes of cases so essentially dissimilar. Yet this is what Free Trade writers are constantly doing, as the reading public can bear witness.

The reply will be, and has been made—that certain requisites of social condition are just as essential to successful manufacturing, as certain physical conditions are to natural growth or production. We will not imagine any Free Trader so obstinate as to deny, when pointed out, the difference between sheer natural impossibility on one hand, and mere difficulties, however serious, due to social conditions, on the other. It has to be conceded that abundance of capital, of cheap skilled labour, and the presence of that native, even sometimes hereditary aptitude for any particular branch of industry and of business, which comes of the long and settled establishment of the same in any particular locality—all confer extraordinary advantages. But the point to be made is, first, that in some cases at least, these advantages admit of transfers to an extent sufficient for success: and, secondly, that where such transfer really cannot be profitably effected, the attempt to do so is not here advocated. Enlightened tentative practice, not blindly groping in the dark, and making endless empirical experiments, but founded on a rational, business-like, and even philosophical understanding of conditions—can alone determine what transfers of industrial occupations to our shores we may attempt with well founded hopes of success, and what others we had better leave alone. The equalization, as far as practicable, of the duties on all imported