

shire, the accumulation of suffering is intense, and difficult to relieve, except in prosperous agricultural country. Again these centers of trade, are centers of dissipation and crime, the attendant expenses increase and accumulate with great rapidity, therefore it should be the aim of every statesman to as fully as possible provide against it.—Free Trade and depopulation are going hand in hand with centralization, to uproot the very foundation of Britain's future stability. "War has swept away its thousands but peace its tens of thousands."* "It is hardly a century since a rebellion of the Highland Clans sufficed to shake the British throne to its base. Where is that host of matchless soldiers now?—We have it on record that in 1745 there were upwards of 30,000 able-bodied clansmen in the Highlands fit for home and foreign service—every man of them alike in frame and spirit, a warrior. There is not a tithe of that number now; and many districts which furnished their 500, 700 or 800 soldiers in time of war are now without a single human being, in them but a shepherd or two and a brace of game keepers. It is stated that the island of Skye alone furnished during the Peninsular war twenty-one lieutenant-generals and major-generals, forty eight Lieutenant-colonels, six hundred majors, captains, and subalterns, ten thousand foot soldiers, one hundred and twenty pipers, besides three persons for the public service, four Governors of British Colonies, one Governor-general one Chief Baron of England, and Judge of the supreme court of Scotland." Free Trade has beggared them their old minister the Rev. Alexander McGregor, of Inverness, says "they are sunk in the very depths of poverty."

We could give an extract from a letter of the owner of an estate in the

most northern part of Scotland who had a tenantry with small holdings, that regularly pay from five, to fifteen pounds a year. Those families he says have been on the estate for generations. They do not raise much food for export "but they contributed very largely to the prosperity of neighbouring towns and villages and through these to that of many other classes." Such landlords and peasantry do more for the stability and glory of an empire than all the Free Trade in the world.

The facts we have set forth are worthy the careful consideration of those who believe Free Trade has been a blessing to Britain.

They clearly shew that Free Trade has not promoted the prosperity the stability and glory of the British Empire. They could be multiplied indefinitely but these given clearly shew that that solid prosperity which it is the duty of wise rulers to aim for, is greatly wanting in the present agricultural position of that country. That the gradual return to large holdings and to a semi-feudal state is unhealthy. That the love for country and for institutions, which are gradually severing the cords that bind the people to the soil, will ultimately leave the masses in a condition which will cause them to demand and strengthen them to secure that "re-distribution of the land" which the London Times understood Bright or Cobden—we forget which—to propose as a remedy for the great suffering at that time experienced by the operatives in Lancashire—which by the way the speaker was long in contradicting, and which idea we have long foreseen will by-and-by obtain a prominence now little conceived. Free Trade has taken the land from those who tilled it, and the very men who accomplished the fatal fact through Free Trade, now covertly propose in a speech so plain

*Blackwood December 1855 pages 735.