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MEMORANDA

RELATING TO THE PRESENT CRISIS, &c.

The writer of these pages is satisfied that it would have been folly, in ordinary times, to have brought forward a proposition to meet the difficulties of the country with any expectation of its being adopted, wholly, or in part, or, even being read; but as party leaders of all kinds may be said to be equally in disgrace and at fault, there is a chance that the public may, for a time, be wise enough to judge men by their labours rather than from their position, and, consequently, they will read, instead of contemptuously rejecting the propositions of unknown individuals.

In England, though the spirit of liberty is not dead, yet the spirit, if not of faction, at least of party, governs. Men are too apt to consider themselves as individuals, and not as citizens, and the true interest of the country is sacrificed for the petty triumph of party and the unconstitutional preference of private friends and family connexions to service and efficiency to the detriment of the public interests—and this, in ordinary times, ever will be so.

Thinking in this way, the following four Memoranda, on the Trade between England and her Colonies, and Foreign States, on the Currency, and on the Railways, are published; and if they assist in helping the public in duly considering and ultimately forming a sound opinion upon these important questions, it will be a gratification to the writer.

These four Memoranda are the result of long consideration on the subjects, and they were intended to have been proposed to Lord John Russell, if his lordship had condescended to him in interview.

In a pamphlet, entitled, "Haiti and her Dependencies," which appeared some years ago, the true principles of Free Trade are laid down, as, also, sound views in relation to our Colonies; and it is to carry out those principles that the present pages are submitted to the public.

These principles being opposed to those of Mr. Cobden, which have been adopted by Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, their followers, and the Free Traders, and also to those of Lord Stanley, and of the Conservative party, or Protectionists in general, have to encounter the opposition of the two leading parties in the State; and, therefore, if they make their way with the public, can only do so from their own intrinsic soundness. And, important as the writer considers the class called the "Landed Interest," he is so far a Free Trader as not to be an advocate for class protection, except in the case of our fisheries; and which should be protected, not on account of the merchants engaged in the fisheries, but because the seamen are so essential to our maritime power, and therefore, a general, and not a class advantage. If the Free Traders had left the landed interest alone, all other interests would have been left, it is believed, by that interest to struggle on; but that interest, not having been made an exception, the country is roused, and the Free Trade policy, after the Empire has suffered enormous loss, and thousands ruined, will be abandoned; for the Protectionists, and multitudes of deluded people, to save themselves from the selfishness of the Free Traders, will be advocates for the policy for which the writer has, for years, been contending, *viz., equality throughout the British world.* This policy would, throughout the empire, create unity of feeling, and unity of action.