

The Free Trade

ven to repudiate the name of British and to take refuge under the American flag depends on how long the national delusion shall continue that holds up such men as Peel, Gladstone, and Lord Grey. In the meantime the condition of the colonial proprietors is being made more and more desperate. Gladstone's administration of Peel's principles, and especially his ungenerous dispatch to Canada, in which, (banishing from his memory all our American experience), he boldly asserted that the Colonial trade was secured by the traditional prejudices of the Colonists! reminds us of the treatment received by a distinguished French traveler who was shipwrecked on the coast of Barbary: to dry up his tears the barbarians threw dust in his eyes! But to describe the effects of the principles of political economy as administered to the Colonies by Lord Grey, it is impossible to find language. The eloquent language of Sheridan, instead of overstating, far understates the case; for so pestiferous to British interests is the breath of our late geometrical legislation that it at once succeeds in blasting all agricultural pursuits at home and in the colonies, and at the same time invigorates the national industry of our opponents and enemies, reanimating even their accursed slave trade.

"It looks as if some fabled monster had made his passage through the country, whose pestiferous breath had blasted more than his voracious appetite could devour."

Am I asked why these people arose in such concert? Because they were people in human shape; because patience under the detested tyranny of man is rebellion to the sovereignty of God; because allegiance to that power that gives us the forms of men commands to maintain the rights of men.

Never was this unextinguishable truth destroyed from the heart that man is not the property of man; that human power is a trust for human benefit; and that when it is abused, revenge becomes justice if not the bounden duty of the injured. These, my Lords, were the causes why these people rose."

Perhaps no where has the truth as to the misgovernment of the Colonies been more fearlessly stated than in the late numbers of *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine*:-

"The influence," says *Tait*, "that retains the British people together must be strong, to resist in years of successive and violent temptations to separate. The design of casting off the colonies is now openly avowed by the subordinates of the Government; but, if their superiors proposed a bill for that purpose in Parliament, they will learn that they have completely miscalculated the temper of the people. The Ministry will not follow that plain path. They will continue to insult, misgovern, and oppress, in expectation of the consequences. They will sustain Torrington, the Governor, the priest-whipper, in Ceylon; they will give certificates of good conduct to the More O'Ferrals, who may turn our fortress into the tools of the Jesuits—knighthood to Wards, who hang Cephalonians like the Haynaus—peerages to the Elgins, who hide in the woods from the presence of the colonists whom they have successfully involved in trouble—and all manner of honors to the dozens of governors in over-taxed islets who demand for themselves more money than the colonists can earn. This is the hub of the Colonial office. An effort to part the Colonies from home, made avowedly and manfully, would not be successful. The people would at once lay the treason prostrate. Therefore, a deeper scheme is invented. The Colonists are teased, tormented, and mothered with constitutions. Here they are threatened with famine. Now they are pressed to the earth, and money squeezed out of them hydraulically to pay governors and officials, over whose appointments and dismissals they have no power; again they are forbidden to employ labourers, except with permission, behest, and benison from Earl Grey. In one quarter land is rendered of dangerous and difficult attainment; in another it is squandered away in grants to favourite pets, with guilty profusion."

The colonies are in danger. The empire is parting. We are in the progress downwards, and commence our second millennium, as Anglo-Saxons, with bad prospects, unless our policy be decisively and rapidly changed."

To me it has long been clear that, whether wilfully or not, Peel and Grey have, between them, as nearly as possible, broken up

\* The race of small men described by Chamblaud, "Jenne homme qui se distingue par un ton dessein, par des manieres libres et courtoises."

† BRITISH PRINCIPLES BANISHED FROM THEIR OWN COUNTRY HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN AMERICA.  
The following is the deliverance of the greatest living American, the Hon. Henry Clay. He terms Free Trade "Concessions to our rivals jealous of our growth and anxious to impede our onward progress. Encouragement to domestic industry is a concession to our fellow-citizens. It is a concession by the whole to the whole; for every part of the country possesses a capacity to manufacture, and every part of the country more or less does manufacture." And the Free Trader or Theorist he characterizes thus:- "He has mounted his hobby and has determined to spur and whip him on, rough shod, over all facts, obstacles and impediments that lie in his way."

#### LAND AND COLONIAL VIEWS.

(From the *Greenock Advertiser* of 8th February, 1850.)

Mr Isaac Buchanan has written more than any other man on the necessity of protection—not because England could not do with Free Trade if other countries would imitate her example, but because no other country on earth but England is in a position to open its ports—and this is also the view of "A Colonist" [the writer in the *Toronto Colonist*, who originated the £200 prizes to the working classes.] They agree, too, in declaring

the British Empire. At all the different stages of the Free Trade Minia, I have seen its certain result; firstly, in our ceasing to be an Empire; and secondly, in our being involved in revolution from want of employment in this country; and I have not flinched from what I consider the duty of declaring that I have not flinched with Cobden and others, are in the opinion of the Colonists I have addressed to the Secretary for the Colonies, on the 11th April last, subsequent events having but too well corroborated them:- "In 1846 I brought before your Lordship and Lord Elgin the true position of Britain's Colonies, we should have to blame entirely created Lower Canada in 1774 and 1840. In 1774, we made an English colony; and we gave the French Canadians a feudal system as a means of keeping them different from the New England States—which were then evincing the independent spirit of Englishmen—and as a machinery by which, with the aid of the North American Indians, we might be enabled to hunt down the then protesting Colonies, which are now the United States' Republic. I showed you that practically, to suffer a French of the Canadian Constitution of 1840 would be an equally valuable attempt to coerce the British portion of the American Colonies—who, though they love the British name well, love the reality of British freedom better—and I pointed out the certainty that, if the fatal policy of 1774 were practically to be persisted in by the British Government, Lord Elgin would assuredly be the last British Governor in America, it being absurd to suppose that the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the West Indies. The Canadian legislation of 1774—and by this course alone will time enough be got to save our entire Colonial Empire by national repudiation by Sir Robert Peel and his anti-British measure of 1840. Except with a view to the latter, there is no use whatever in carrying the former reform; but to leave no uncertainty in which the legislation of 1840 may be so qualified as to secure permanently our Colonial Empire."

#### [HOW TO SAVE THE COLONIES.—A BRITISH SOLVEREIGN.]

Let us not once prove our faith in Free Trade by making the Colonies so far integral parts of the British Empire as to levy no duty on the sugar, corn, or other products of the Colonists, except on articles on which there is an excise duty in this country; and let us—in order to show our confidence in British manufacturing superiority, and to lead other nations to reciprocate with that all foreign countries that will agree to Free Trade with our Colonies, and so to remodel their tariffs as not to charge us more on any article than 15 per cent. on the British cost, shall stand on the same footing as the Colonies, and have their products received here free of all duty. And, as it is most reasonable that trade should have deducted from the price which their articles produce in this country a customs' duty in some degree equivalent to the taxes paid by British subjects producing the same articles, let us arrange that on all such foreign articles as are not charged any duty, or are charged a less duty than 15 per cent. on the price in England, we should charge the said customs' duty of fifteen per cent. until the foreign country agrees to our proposition for reciprocal trade, or until we can agree to such other proposition as the foreigner may shew to be more reasonable in his peculiar circumstances. By following the foregoing line of principle and policy, I am confident the Colonies and the West Indies could, in a moment, be reannexed into the most prosperous and most loyal portions of the British Empire. I see also, however, that it is more likely that our national infatuation may continue till, in the words, "It is now too late," may come to be used; and, in such case, the names of Peel and Grey will go down with infamy to posterity, as having reversed the old British principle that honesty is the best Policy."

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\* The tenure of the property is the better I all else