

home has very much aggravated the evils complained of in both the Address and the amendment; and one great corroboration of this belief may be found in the enormous increase which has taken place of late years in the miscellaneous estimates. I cannot admit that this increase of expenditure ought to be made the stepping stone for the introduction of a new commercial and financial system, unless that new system have been proposed and approved of on its own merits. The Government have had recourse to this cry for free trade, in order to hide their own mismanagement, and to enable them to inveigh against those who cannot adopt the cry, as enemies to the people; but the attempt has signally failed throughout the country. I do not conceive that my sentiments upon free trade are at all compromised by the part which I have felt it my duty to take in the late general election, or by the step which I have taken of seconding the amendment. I have always been an advocate of the principles of free trade, as those doctrines were propounded by Mr. Huskisson,—for free trade, based on substantial reciprocity, and applied with a just and discriminating regard to those interests which have grown up under a former system; and to all the parties interested in the safe application of these doctrines, the parties most nearly interested are the labouring population.

A great deal has been said by gentlemen on the other side of the House of the benefit which the landowners and the capitalists may derive from the application of free trade to corn. I do not propose, on this occasion, to enter into that subject; but I will just say that whatever benefit the landowners may derive from a change, unless it can be shown distinctly what would become of that portion of the labouring classes who would be thereby deprived of their ordinary employments, I, for one, would not listen to arguments merely