

briefer reference will abundantly answer the present purpose. The countries, besides England, which are already either great manufacturing countries or which are in rapid present progress of becoming so—are France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, and the British North American and Australian colonies. These are the spots—some of them pretty large spots—on the globe, where civilization to-day shows its most forward strides. For the Free Traders to point us to “liberal” commercial intercourse with the South American States, Greece, Turkey, or even with Italy, Austria, Spain, or Portugal, is beside the mark—utterly fails to prove their case. (To Italy an apology is due for even temporarily mentioning her in the same category as some of the others named, and let the following suffice. Italy, though possessing in a very high degree what may be called the *morale* of civilization, yet lags far behind in its materialities—in the material, industrial elements of national progress and wealth. Not that the gifts of Nature to the country are lacking, but that the economical and industrial improvement of those gifts, by the Italians themselves, has not yet been attained to. The almost unrivalled agriculture of Lombardy, and the remarkable prosperity of Milan and its neighbourhood, furnishes the single brilliant exception to this general statement. As for Austria, whatever rank she holds as a manufacturing country is due to the German element in her population, which may, for the purpose of the present argument, be fairly enough counted in with the rest of the great Germanic body.) This exception made, the countries last named admit of classification together in this respect, that they have little or no manufactures to speak of. What they have to dispose of consists of the raw products of the soil only, and these they exchange for the manufactured goods of more advanced countries. Now the Free Traders are welcome to all they can make of the admission that their system has undoubtedly advanced a certain stage, when liberal commercial arrangements are made and kept up between England or any or all of the other manufacturing countries on the one hand, and any or all of the non-manufacturing countries on the other. A country which either cannot or will not manufacture for itself doubtless makes an advance in civilization, when it substitutes freedom and facility of trade with nations that do, for a former state of restricted intercourse by reason of high duties or other