

foreign silks, numerous manufacturers of silk failed, thousands of silk operatives were thrown out of employment, and that once prosperous industry was largely prostrated. That was the record of England as a Free Trade country.

Mr. Charlton's Change of Opinions.

Having spoken of England, I desire to say a few words regarding our neighbors across the line and the policy they have adopted. But before doing so, I will take the opportunity of referring to some observations that have been made by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). In 1876 that hon. gentleman made a speech in the House on the Tariff question, and it is no flattery to the hon. member to say that no member has given to that important question more careful study than the hon. gentleman, and that no hon. member, either as a special student of the subject or as a practical business man is more competent to arrive at a correct conclusion. The propositions laid down by him in that address, were the result of thought and study, and they were, I believe, the honest conclusions of that hon. member at that time. We have the best reason to think they were his honest and deliberate opinions, for in expressing them he placed himself in antagonism to the Government which he supported. In 1877 that hon. gentleman made another speech from directly the opposite standpoint. The speech to which the House had listened this session was not the first Free Trade speech which the hon. member has made. In an address last session, he expressed practically the same views which he enunciated and expounded with such ability a few evenings since. Between the sessions of 1876 and 1877 that gentleman's views upon a question with which he had been familiar for many years, and which he had made a special study, changed to the right about, and from being an intelligent Protectionist, as he was in 1876, he became an ardent Free Trader in 1877. I would be the last to question any one's undoubted right to change his opinions upon any question, however much he might have considered it. The hon. member for North Norfolk justified his change of position by a comparison which hon. members who heard it, would remember. The hon. gentleman said the child was told by its nurse that the moon is made of green cheese and believed it, that when the child grew to be a man he knew the moon was not made of green cheese, for he judged for himself. If that illustration has any point or meaning, the hon. member desired the House to believe that in 1876 he was in the green cheese period and in 1877 the maggot in the cheese had by some miracle changed into a butterfly, that was ranging the heavens; that the scales dropped from his eyes between 1876 and 1877, whether on his way to Damascus or not we are not informed, and what had appeared to be green cheese in 1876 he could discern clearly by a different vision to be the moon, in 1877. He could not only tell us the moon was not made of green cheese, but he could count the inhabitants, and give us statistical data