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ADDRESS

Of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Domestic Industry, to the Citizens of the United States.

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We proceed to take a view of the system of political economy, pursued in England, which has elevated that country to a degree of wealth, power, and influence, far beyond what her population or natural resources would entitle her to.

The grand and leading object of this system, into which all its subordinate regulations revolve themselves, is to encourage domestic industry, and to check and restrain whatever may injure it.

I. To facilitate the importation of raw materials, for employment of her artisans and manufacturers;

II. To encourage, or wholly prohibit, the exportation of raw materials;

III. To export her manufactures in the most finished form possible;

IV. To prohibit, or heavily burden with duties, the introduction of all manufactured articles with which her own subjects can supply her;

V. To prohibit the emigration of artists or mechanics, and the exportation of machinery.

To accomplish these purposes, she has steadily employed the powerful means of—

1. Bounties on, or encouragements to, the establishment of new manufactures;

2. Absolute prohibition of the importation and exportation of certain articles;

3. Such duties as nearly amount to prohibition;

4. Drawbacks, on exportation, of the whole or the chief part of the duties paid on importation.

All great undertakings, such as the establishment of extensive manufactures, require heavy disbursements previous to their commencing operation; and in their incipient state are attended with great difficulty, in consequence of which they too frequently fail of success in all countries, and involve the undertakers in ruin.

It was by these that the woollen manufactures were first established in England. Edward III. a wise prince, held out great inducements to the manufacturers in that branch to remove from Flanders to England.

Further to favor and foster this infant manufacture the exportation of wool, and the importation of foreign cloths was prohibited.

Such was the degree of care and attention undeviatingly bestowed on it, that "in the short and turbulent reign of Henry IV." who reigned but fourteen years, and was almost constantly at war, "there were no fewer than 12 acts of parliament made for the regulation and encouragement of that manufacture; for preventing the exportation of wool and importation of cloth; and for guarding against frauds in the fabrication of it at home."

It is obvious that the continuance of bounties beyond the infancy of manufactures, would be oppressive to a nation, and waste its treasures. And therefore as soon as they are established, the English government has usually adopted a more effectual mode of fostering them, by the total prohibition of the rival articles, or by the imposition of such heavy duties as nearly amount to prohibition, and thus securing to its own subjects the whole or principal part of the domestic market.

In the year 1463, under Edward IV. the wisdom and policy of fostering domestic industry having become generally understood, the prohibition of importation, which had previously been confined chiefly to woollens, was extended to a very great variety of articles.

The list of articles at present prohibited to be imported into Great Britain, is not so formidable as that of Edward IV.—They are as follows:

- Broches Laces
Calicoes Needle-work
Chocolate and cocoa Plate
paste Ribands
Cocoa nut shells or husks Laces
Embroidery Shapes for gloves or mits
Fringe Silks
Girdles Silk stockings
Silk or leather mits and gloves Thread
Manufactures of gold, silver or metal Tobacco-stalks and Velvet and Wire.

The penalties for the importation of some of these articles are very severe.—Besides the confiscation of the goods, there is a forfeiture of two hundred pounds sterling for every offence in the case of leather gloves.

The most general mode, however, of encouraging domestic industry in Great Britain, at present, is by the imposition of such heavy duties, as in most cases amount to prohibition; or if the rival articles will still admit of importation, they cannot, from the necessary advance of price, materially affect the native manufacture.

Here an important consideration arises, that demands the most sober and serious consideration of the people of the United States, in their future policy. An idea has been long entertained by many well meaning people, that to secure the home markets to our own manufacturers, operates merely to enable them to prey on and oppress their fellow citizens, by extorting extravagant and exorbitant prices for their productions.

It is a trite but indisputable truth, that one solid, well established fact, bearing upon any particular point, will counter-vail a long train of arguments, however plausible, which militate against that fact. Behold a case which must operate to open the eyes of every man accessible to conviction. There is probably no country in the world where the system of prohibitions and heavy prohibitory duties is carried farther than in England; and yet, notwithstanding this circumstance, and the enormous burthen of taxation which she sustains, as well as the boundless extent of her paper money, which must enhance the expenses of living, she is able to meet in their own markets, and undersell a large proportion of the manufacturers of all the other nations of Christendom.

Though it were true, that the immediate and certain effect of regulations controlling the competition of foreign with domestic fabrics was an increase of price, it is universally true, that the contrary is the ultimate effect with every successful manufacturer. When a domestic manufacture has attained to perfection, and has engaged in the prosecution of it a competent number of persons, it invariably becomes cheaper.—Being free from the heavy charges which attend the importation of foreign commodities, it can be afforded cheaper, and accordingly seldom or never fails to be sold cheaper, in process of time, than was the foreign article for which it is a substitute.

The true tests of the excellence or folly of any system are its results when carried fully into operation. These confirm sound theories, however unpopular they may appear on a superficial view; and set the seal of reprobation on pernicious ones, how plausible soever an aspect they wear on paper.

By this stone let us judge the political economy of England, and on a fair examination, we shall unhesitatingly as-

to the most unqualified plaudit on her parliament for the admirable and incomparable system it has devised. We may fairly assert, without the least danger of contradiction, that there never existed a legislative body which bestowed more attention on the solid, substantial, and vital interests of its constituents, so far as respects domestic industry in all its various forms.

We might extend the consideration of the wonderful excellence, and immense advantages of the British policy respecting manufactures, trade and commerce to volumes. The subject appears inexhaustible. But our limits forbid much detail, and constrain us to confine ourselves to two points:—

I. The immense wealth Great Britain acquires by her system; and

II. The astonishing increase of power it has secured her.

I. We shall, on the first point, confine ourselves to the four great manufactures linen, cotton, woollen and leather, and make no doubt, the statement will astonish our fellow citizens, and remove all doubt of the correctness of the high eulogiums we have hazarded on the British policy.

According to Colquhoun, the proceeds of cotton manufactures are 29,000,000; of the woollen, 26,000,000; of the linen, 15,000,000; & of the leather 15,000,000; being, in the whole, 85,000,000 sterling; whereas the cost of the raw materials is only 22,000,000; of which sum, the cotton amounts to about 6,000,000; the woollen 8,000,000; the linen to 5,000,000; and the leather to 3,000,000.

What stupendous facts! What a lesson to the legislators of other countries, particularly the United States! We possess the capacity of raising the raw material of the cotton manufacture, the chief of the four kinds above stated, to an extent equal to the demand of the whole world; and we could with ease, if proper encouragement were afforded, produce the materials of the other three, in sufficient quantity for all our purposes.

II. The second point to which we wish to turn the attention of our fellow-citizens, in order to establish the soundness of the system of political economy pursued in England, is the wonderful increase of power it has secured her.

For twenty years she was the main support of a war of unexampled expenditure, against the most gigantic combination of power, and the most formidable monarch Europe has beheld for a thousand years.

Her enormous debt, which according to Colquhoun, amounted at the close of 1813 to above 900,000,000, is wholly owned by her own subjects, except about 17,000,000 purchased, and owned by foreigners.

It is no impeachment to the merits of her system, that her paupers amount to above 1,500,000 and her poor tax to 5,000,000 of dollars. This lamentable feature in her affairs, arises from the wasteful & ruinous wars she has maintained, which alone have prevented the country from being an earthly paradise.

Since the war, she has been enabled to lay this country under heavy contribution, so that there is an enormous debt due her, notwithstanding she has possessed herself of a very large portion of our bank and public stocks, which will yield her a great and permanent income at the expense of the United States.

To her support of domestic industry alone, she chiefly owes these capacities and advantages, and the inordinate power she possesses. Where she to abandon her system, and adopt that of Adam Smith, she could not fail, in a few years to be reduced to a level with Spain and Portugal. All her treasures would be drawn away to the East Indies, France, Germany, &c.

Trusting to the good sense of our fellow-citizens, for duly weighing the great and important facts presented to their view, we shall close with a comparison between the policy of Great Britain and that of the United States, on a few plain and simple points:—

GREAT BRITAIN. THE U. STATES.
Prohibits the importation of calicoes, silks, ribands, what threads, ribands, velvets, &c. even from her dependencies, to supply them.

She imposes a duty of 85 per cent. ad valorem on various articles of cotton, the produce of those dependencies.

She imposes a duty of 79 per cent. ad valorem on earthen ware.

She imposes a duty of 142 1/2 per cent. on leather manufactures.

Table with 2 columns: BRITISH DUTIES and U STATES DUTIES. Rows include Woolen cloths, Hats, Glass bottles, Linens, etc.

The annals of legislation and revenue cannot produce a stronger contrast between the most profound policy and its direct opposite.

Thus we see that Great Britain, possessing machinery which increases her powers of manufacturing at the rate of two hundred for one, does not rely on that for the protection of her domestic industry; but interposes the powerful shield of prohibition and enormous duties, to preserve them from danger; while the United States, which had, at the close of the war, a great number of important and extensive manufacturing establishments, and invaluable machinery, erected and advantageously employed during its continuance, and although blessed by a bounteous Heaven with a boundless capacity for such establishments have, for want of adequate protection, suffered a large portion of them to go to decay, and their proprietors to be involved in ruin, the helpless victims of a misplaced reliance on that protection.

The comparison might be pursued to a very great extent; but we trust there is enough stated, to enable our fellow-citizens to account for the prostrate situation of our affairs. No two nations ever carried on intercourse on terms more entirely destitute of reciprocity: and hence our citizens on the banks of the Mississippi are clothed with fabrics manufactured in Hindostan, while thousands of useful men, and women and children, capable of furnishing superior goods, at equal prices, are literally pining in wretchedness, in our towns and cities, for want of employment, and many of them driven to mendicity, to support a miserable existence, and while our country is impoverished, and its wealth exhausted to support the manufactures of the East Indies and every part of Europe.

Every prudent merchant, farmer or planter, commencing his career of business, will naturally inquire into the plans acted on by those engaged in similar pursuits, before he determines on his own.

Those dictated by wisdom, tested by long experience, and attended with success, he will study as rules by which to regulate his conduct. Those emanating from folly, sinister views or empiricism, he will regard as beacons to warn him to beware.

This conduct, indisputably wise in private life, is imperiously the duty of those on whom rests the high responsibility of regulating the career of nations, particularly in their infancy or youth.

We trust, therefore, that a calm and candid observation of the fatal consequences of adopting the doctrines of Adam Smith, as well as of the transcendent benefits, public and private, resulting from the English system, which is in undeviating boldness with that of the doctor, will serve to display the true policy which this country ought to pursue, in order to fill the high destiny which appears allotted to her in the course of human events; and induce the legislature of the Union, to devote that attention to the protection of domestic industry, without which the United States can never hope to be really independent, or to enjoy that degree of prosperity and happiness which God and nature have placed within their grasp; and which cannot be neglected without a most culpable dereliction of our duty to ourselves and our posterity, on whom the folly or wisdom of our counsels will operate when we are consigned to the peaceful grave.

BLANKS,
Of all kinds, for sale at this Office.

BY AUTHORITY.

An act for the relief of Nathan G. Birdseye and Daniel Booth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the marshal of the district of Connecticut be, and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to release, by proper deed or deeds, unto Nathan G. Birdseye and Daniel Booth, all the right, title and interest, acquired by the United States in and to certain lands and buildings, situated in Derby, in the state of Connecticut, by the levy of an execution, on the fourth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, against Nicholas Moss, on a judgment of the district court of the district of Connecticut, in August, one thousand eight hundred and nine; the President of the United States having, on the fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, pardoned and remitted to the aforesaid Moss the judgment aforesaid; and the aforesaid Moss having, by deeds duly authenticated, for a good and sufficient consideration, on the twenty-ninth December, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, conveyed the premises to the aforesaid Birdseye and Booth.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of John M. Canstond.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be paid unto John M. Canstond, or his legal representative, the sum of ninety-six dollars; being the amount of a million fine improperly assessed on him in the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen; and that the same be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of Robert Kid, Seth Webber, and Thomas Page.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be refunded and paid to Robert Kid, of Philadelphia, the sum of six hundred and fifty-three dollars and twenty-nine cents, and to Seth Webber and Thomas Page, of Boston, the sum of three hundred and thirty-eight dollars and sixty-six cents; the said sums of money having been paid, by the persons above mentioned, to the collectors of Philadelphia and Boston, on the importation into the United States of sundry copper buttons and bolts or bars, the same not being by law subject to the payment of duties.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of James Orr.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to pay to James Orr, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, two hundred and fifty dollars, the value of a certain schooner called the "Telegraph," taken and sunk for the defence of the harbor of Baltimore, in the year eighteen hundred and fourteen.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of Daniel Moss.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to issue to Daniel Moss, of the city of New York, a military warrant for one hundred acres of land, for revolutionary services, in lieu of a warrant alleged to have been issued to said Moss in one thousand eight hundred and seven, and to have been lost.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of B. and P. Jourdan, brothers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury department be, and they are hereby, authorized to settle and adjust the accounts of B. & P. Jourdan, brothers, of the State of Louisiana, not exceeding in amount the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars; and that the same be paid out of any unappropriated moneys in the treasury.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

An act for the relief of John B. Timberlake.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury be, and they are hereby, authorized and required, in the settlement of the accounts of John B. Timberlake, a pursuer in the navy, to allow him a credit of three thousand eighty-four dollars and thirty cents; this sum having been drawn by the late Lieutenant John Trippe, while in the command of United States schooner Enterprise, over and above his pay and emoluments, from the said John B. Timberlake, the pursuer of the said vessel.

Approved—March 3, 1819.