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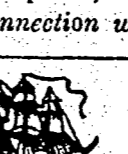
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claims. There was some danger in the introduction of the narrow end of the wedge of free trade, but there was more in nailing down the safety valve. It was

not tea, coffee, or sugar, the agricultural interest was afraid of, and of radicalism, and therefore they supported the Government.

Lord ALFORD opposed the amendment as not anticipating any serious importation of cattle.

Mr. OWEN STANLEY was satisfied that we had no right to create a market in order to receive from abroad at least one hundred thousand head of cattle.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL contrasted the arguments of those who opposed and those who supported the amendment, and regarded the speech of Mr. Miles as most convincing against the amendment. Surely the great object of the tariff was to protect the country against the welfare of the community, and compelling them to pay a higher price for meat than they otherwise might. Increase the comforts of the working classes, and the agricultural would derive its advantage from improved conditions of life, and it would be nevertheless looking at the arguments with which the present proposition of the Government was supported, or at other parts of the tariff, he could not reconcile them with other parts of our legislation, especially the Corn Laws. Improved conditions of life would apply similar and equal principles to manufactures as well as to agriculture; and if the British grazier was to compete with the continental ones, why not permit similar competition in corn, sugar, and other articles?

Sir ROBERT PEEL thought that the author of an eight-shilling duty on the importation of foreign corn was hardly entitled to claim the merit of being a friend to the entire freedom of trade. Limiting himself to the duty of five shillings, he expressed his regret at the propriety of removing the prohibition on the importation of foreign cattle, he expressed himself grateful for the generous offer which he had received from the body of agriculturists, and he hoped that the House would show their difference from those who were so ready to pass—*a difference* which he hoped would not last beyond the evening. The interests of the community imperatively demanded the change now proposed, and he appreciated the sentiments respecting it, were perfectly unselfish, and that the Government were proceeding in Hamburg or other places must be taken into account in estimating the effect of the petition with British stock; while what had hitherto been made a monopoly of the lower part of the country, the Treasury, of importing, and finally all the continental stocks to improve our own breeds, was now to be afforded to the entire agricultural community. He had not yielded to the solicitations of many esteemed friends, but he felt that the Government were bound by their consciences belief was that a duty of £1 per head was amply sufficient, and he was of opinion that the population of this country was increasing at a rate more alarming and more rapidly than many were aware of, and that the Government were bound to do what they would affirm the government proposition.

Mr. MORGAN J. O'CONNELL asked who desired the panic alarmed to exist? The farmers' friends! If it was the friends of the poor, let the general election take place, and let the agriculturists be free to submit such proposals as they pleased. The farmers' friends would have occupied the place of the poor. He regretted that Mr. Gladstone's speech had not been made on the motion for a fixed duty of five shillings, but he trusted Mr. Miles's motion, as it would have been conclusive in their favour, [The House became very impatient during Mr. O'Connell's speech.]

Lord WORSLEY did not think that the amendment had been fairly met.

Mr. VILLIERS considered that it had been treated with great respect. It was not entitled to any consideration at all, when the state of the country was considered, with a starved and starving population, and a disease of the kind which was spreading over food. Yet five hours were consumed in debating whether or not they should have found a little cheaper!

Mr. SCOTT (Roxburgh) indignantly repudiated the accusations of Mr. Villiers as a foul calumny. Atrocious as the charge was, yet Mr. Villiers said in his inquiries, and Gore said that the larger farmers approved of the Government proposition, which he supported on the score of justice to the poorer parts of the country. A large number of the lower part of the country manifested during the observations of some of the preceding speakers, and Mr. HUME, who rose to address the Committee, and was greatly interrupted, threatened to move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. MILES replied; and on a division there appeared a majority of 106 to 97.

For the amendment ..... 113  
Majority..... 205

The Chairman reported progress; and after some other business, including leave given to Mr. ROBECK to bring in his Indemnity Bill, the House adjourned.

PROOF OF THE MAN'S BEING ABLE TO READ AND WRITE.—At the Eion Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, the list of persons nominated to serve the office of Justice of the Peace for the County of Wicklow, under the Bench of Magistrates. A Magistrate sitting on one of the lists, enquired of the constable if John Doo-so-and-so could read and write? "I should just like to know," replied the constable, "if you can read your Worship." "No, I cannot," he looks startled. "Have you no other reason for not thinking so?" "Oh, yes, your Worship." "Well, what is it?" "Cause, he's married to a werry bad woman, and she sort of keeps him from reading; was conclusive; and the man who married 'er, werry respectable sort of a woman" was duly appointed.

THE INCOME TAX.—Fifty-eight operatives of Worcester have addressed Sir Robert Peel, to express their thankfulness to him "for proposing a direct tax on the income of the country, instead of indirect taxes that will compel absentees to contribute their quota to the exigencies of the country; a tax that shall affect the fundholder, and throw the burden of the war on those who are well able to bear them." In a brief but courteous reply, the Minister says:—"It is my earnest wish to propose, and to pass into law, such measures as may tend in their result to lighten the demand for labour, and to increase the comfort and happiness of our community."

FIREFIRE HER MAJESTY'S PLANTATIONS REBORN.—A plantation called the "Old Chase," belonging to her Majesty, at Virginia Water, was recently discovered to have been fired at an early hour in the morning, and before any considerable portion was actually procured, a very considerable amount of the trees were killed. There being strong reasons to lead to the conclusion that the plantation had been wilfully and maliciously fired, the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests have just offered a reward of £1000 for the discovery of the person or persons who furnished information as may lead to the discovery and conviction of the parties guilty of the offence.

LUDICROUS CIRCUMSTANCE IN A CHURCH.—Speaking of first impressions at church brings to my mind a ludicrous circumstance that happened some fifty years ago in a Scotch church. The rectory, through a momentary oversight, learned that a party of the name of Macgregor, of such eccentric habits as often to create a doubt among the vulgar whether he was a tall comports *sane mentis*. Having remarked for several times on Sundays a gentleman who was a prisoner, invariably appearing in the same dress, that in which a young widow lady had her sitting he intently eyed him; and at one time detected the young gentleman smiling down the lady's gown, and he thought the poor fellow she was allowed to place on the floor, and she was very delicately fair, and placing in it a small neatly folded note. By and by the lady's Prayer Book fell off of course accidentally—from the ledge where it stood—and she picked it up, and found beneath a leaf turned down, and written in pencil, a passage, which evidently caused a smile of complacency. Our minister saw all their shy proceedings, and continued to watch them with scrutiny, until he saw the lady pick up the book, and then, third, as soon as the collects were read, and with the headle yet obviously waited to attend him to the chancel, our ecclesiastic pastor, in a strong and energetic manner, and publick the bans of matrimony between Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor, and the names of the parties, if any of you know just cause." &c., &c. The eyes of the whole congregation were turned on the young and gay Lothario, who, fully sufficed with blushes, and the gentle minister, with a smile, and a look of sympathy with vehemence, and ho opening and shutting the pew door with rage and violence; the minister meanwhile proceeding through his accustomed duties, and concluding his service and ease as if nothing had occurred. The sermon preached and the service ended, away to the vestry rush the party at the heels of the pastor. Who authorised you, Sir, to make such a publication? And you, my dear lady, why both in a public way, and in private? "Authorised me!" said he, the minister, who lightened their confusion. "Yes, Sir, who authorised you?" "Ah!" said the minister, with a slight glance alternately at each, "if you don't approve of my doing so, you had better wait till I have told the lady." "You have been too officious already nobody requested you to do any such thing; you had better mind your own business!" "Why, my pretty dear," said he, patting her on the cheek, "don't you do so, my dear, I am not a meddling person; and if you do not like to wait for three publications, I advise you, Sir," turning to the gentleman, "to procure the license, the ring, and the fee, and then the whole matter may be settled as usual." "And you, my dear lady, if you will permit me, addressing the widow, "with your permission I will get them, and we may be married in a day or two." "Oh! you may both do as you please, pettishly, yet nothing loathing," replied the lady, and she went home, and the bridegroom procured the parson ready to perform, and the bride, and the widow, for the next time, threw her gloves over the back of the pew, and they afterwards said that all parties were satisfied.



