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Mr. MACGREGOR'S

FOURTEENTH REPORT

TO

HER MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE.

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Mr. MACGREGOR'S

FOURTEENTH REPORT

TO

N.º 13

HER MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE,

TOUCHING

THE CUSTOMS' TARIFF, COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS, AND TRADE OF

PORTUGAL.

—

Second edition revised.

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BY

THEOPHILUS ISLES SMITH

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REMARKS

ON

Mr. MACGREGOR'S

FOURTEENTH REPORT

TO

HER MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE.

I beg to call the attention of the British Public to a Report, dated from the Board of Trade the 15th. April last, and addressed to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, by Mr. Macgregor; being the fourteenth part of a series presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of her Majesty, containing the Commercial Tariffs, and Regulations, of the Several States of Europe, and America, together with the Commercial Treaties between England and Foreign Countries.

This Report contains the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, in force between Great Britain and Portugal, and professes to give the Customs' Tariff Commercial Regulations, Monies, Weights and Measures, and various statements, relative to the Trade,

Navigation, Agriculture, Manufactures, and Finances of Portugal, and of the Portuguese Possessions.

After twenty six years of extensive practical experience of the Commerce of Portugal, I brought to the perusal of this important document the fullest expectation of accurate detail, and luminous reasoning, in respect of that Commerce; and, however disappointed in that expectation, I should not have obtruded my remarks but from a consideration of the implicit confidence given by the British Public, to the authority of the Secretary of the Board of Trade, which suggested the necessity of pointing out the numerous inaccuracies, and fallacious reasonings, which abound in his Report.

In the endeavour to perform this task I regret that I cannot, in fairness, omit to notice the frequent attempts to disparage the People, Government, Laws, and industrial capabilities, of Portugal: I shall, however, notice as briefly as possible certain insinuations many of which, if not wholly unmerited, are at least applicable only to by-gone times; and betray a total want of information or disregard, of the great improvements that have been made since the invasion of the French, and the domestic revolutions of Portugal; the former occurring in 1807 and the latter commencing in 1820.

The Report sets out with the declaration that the Treaty negotiated with Portugal, by Mr. Methuen in the year 1703, was, in spite of all the celebrity and applause bestowed upon it for upwards of a century, the most pernicious of any ever entered into by England with Foreign States!

The Treaty in question may be said to consist of only two articles; the first stipulated for the admission into Portugal of the Woollen Manufactures of Great Britain, which were before prohibited; and the

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second conceded, as an equivalent for that privilege, the admission of Portugal Wines to consumption in Great Britain, at a rate of Duty one third less than that levied on the wines of France.

One of the inconveniences of that convention is now said to be, that our Trade with France, a great Country, was restricted to propitiate that of Portugal, a small Country, and their power of consumption is referred to on a comparison of their respective populations! The fallacy of such an argument consists in seeking to inspire a belief, that the demand for our Manufactures by France would be regulated by her power of consumption, and not by her wants; those wants being for the most part satisfied by her own industry, which now rivals, and, in many instances, even excels that of England.

If then it be obvious that the industry of France is commensurate with her wants, as it respects Manufactures, it is not less obvious that the inclination of France is not to favor the industry of England, as the test of the last twenty years most abundantly proves.

When in the year 1825 England astounded all Nations, and no one more than France, by rescinding her celebrated Navigation-act, and proclaiming the new commercial system of Mr. Huskisson, many articles of French manufacture were admitted to importation into England, without any equivalent advantage being claimed in favor of British industry. On that memorable occasion, both the People and Government of France looked with surprise and suspicion on the gratuitous abandonment of the restrictive system; under, or in spite of, which England had assumed the first rank among Nations: and, during the twenty years that have since elapsed, France has never sought to reciprocate our relaxations in her favor; but, on

the contrary, every new arrangement of her customs appears to aim a fresh blow at the little Commerce that subsists with England; going far to exclude even Linen yarns, which afford a greater advantage to France, from the economy of spinning, than to England, from the mean profit of that single process; the same may be said of cotton Twist, and other exports to France, consisting chiefly of primary articles.

The experiment of challenging a reciprocal commerce with all nations was worthy of a Great Empire; and it may be assumed that, if the lamented individual who conceived so benevolent a policy, had lived to witness its results, he would long since have said to France and other Nations that have not responded to that challenge, "you have looked with indifference or suspicion upon our policy, which had for object to unite us in the lasting bonds of amity and Peace, by a commerce of mutual interest, which you have despised, and thus obliged me to recur to a system of restriction against all Nations, that refuse a commerce with England, on principles of a sincere reciprocity."

Another inconvenience is said to have arisen from the Methuen Treaty, from the preference given to the wines of Portugal before the more delicate growths of Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne.

But, it is not all the bias of the fourteenth Report in favor of French Commerce, that will ever deprive the enduring Wines of Oporto of their generous, and tonic character, so important in the climate of England: and delicate and elegant as a small portion of the wines of France are readily acknowledged to be, the British Public are convinced that the far greatest part of her growths are really so meagre and acid, that no rate of duty, however low, could introduce them to the general consumption of England.

During the late negotiations on the subject of a new Tariff it is understood that Portugal, besides extensive reductions of duty on the most important of all her imports, the Cotton Manufactures of England, offered to reduce the duty on fish to one half; and on woollens to three fifths of the present rates; which would have made the former less than thirty, and the latter equivalent to about thirty per cent *ad-valorem*. All these important branches of British Commerce are prohibited in France, whose wines are nevertheless admitted into England, at nominally the same rate of duty as those of Portugal; but, virtually at little more than one half the duty *ad-valorem* paid on Portugal wines. At the same time the chief stumbling block to the completion of a mutually advantageous Tariff, between England and Portugal, is said to have been the insisting on the part of England of its being founded on *ad-valorem* duties.

No reader of the fourteenth Report could suppose that the objections urged against Portugal were open to such a reply; but, speaking as an experienced Merchant, I fearlessly assert that the average return to Portugal, on all her shipments of wine to Great Britain, does not now exceed twenty two Pounds Sterling per pipe, of 115 imperial gallons; the duty whereon, at 5,6 per gallon with the late addition of five per cent, amounts to £ 33,4,,2 per pipe, or one hundred and fifty per cent *ad-valorem*.

Desirous to put forth only a statement of facts, and pledging myself to the accuracy of the above, as within my own experience, I would claim for the following statement, such credence as the most anxious endeavour to arrive at truth may entitle me to. And without pretending to that degree of certainty which accompanies my estimate of Portugal wines, I yet confidently appeal to every respectable Wine Merchant in England, to bear me out in the expression of

my belief, that the average cost of all French wines, imported for the *consumption of England*, exceeds £ 16 per hogshead * ; which, calculating the smaller capacity of French casks, would be equivalent to more than £ 41 per 115 gallons, and shew the duty on the wines of France, a Country that prohibits almost all our finished manufactures, to be only eighty per cent *ad valorem*; in contrast with one hundred and fifty per cent *ad valorem*, levied upon the wines of Portugal, an allied Country, admitting to the consumption of her People, and Colonies, almost every article of British manufacture.

The Report of the Secretary of the Privy Council for Trade is calculated to mislead that important Board, by asserting the present existence of regulations and abuses which, in some instances, never had any existence at all; and in others have long since been rescinded and abolished in Portugal.

At page 64 it is most erroneously asserted that the Wine Company of Oporto possesses a monopoly of brandy, and obliges the Merchant to purchase from their stores two almudes of brandy, about one tenth part of the volume of every pipe of wine he exports to Great Britain; or one almude, equal to about one twentieth part of the volume of every pipe of wine he exports beyond the limits of Europe; thus inculcating the fallacious opinion that the Oporto Merchant is compelled to give a double dose of brandy to all wines shipped to Great Britain. Happily for the interest and the health of the British Public it is notorious, that neither the pretended monopoly of Brandy, nor its forcible employment in the preparation of Port Wine, has the least foundation in fact; yet Mr. Macgregor states the existence of such regulations under date of April 1844, although the brandy mo-

* A very large portion of the Wine imported from France is of much lower price, but being too inferior for the consumption of England, is re-exported.

nopoly was abolished by Don Pedro in the year 1833; and ever since that period the Merchant has enjoyed, not only the liberty to supply himself with the excellent brandies of Portugal wheresoever, and from whomsoever he pleases, (the trade in that article having been for upwards of ten years wholly free) but also the perfect discretion to employ little or much in the preparation of his wines, whether for export to Great Britain or any other Country.

Moreover, brandy being a product of wine, and therefore more costly than wine itself, every known principle of commercial economy gives assurance to the Public, that no more brandy will ever be used in the preparation of Port wines than may be necessary to preserve the rich quality of the wine, and satisfy the taste of the consumer.

The statement made by Mr. Macgregor, at page 65, upon what he is pleased to call undoubted authority, that Port wines are prepared with the view to introduce into England a large portion of brandy at the wine-duty, for the purpose of subsequent increase of quantity by an insertion of water; appears to be more applicable to certain practices lately charged against the wine Merchants of Paris and Rouen, of adulterating their wines by such an admixture. But any such adulteration could not be practised in respect of Port wines, except for the temporary purposes of a limited consumption in draught; while it is a fact, too notorious even for Mr. Macgregor himself not to have known, that Port wines are consigned to the bottle, and often for years, before they are consumed.

Indeed, any admixture with water would not only prevent the incrustation of Port wines in the bottle, but also destroy their quality; and thus occasion the loss of the heavy duties that must be paid upon them before bottling.

After instituting an unfavorable comparison between

the wines of Portugal and France, Mr. Macgregor exaggerates the extent of a commerce with the latter Country, which he states to have been lost by the Methuen Treaty; and altogether overlooks the advantages secured to England by the Treaty of 1810; when Portugal agreed to admit every article of the production, and manufacture of England at the low duty of fifteen per cent *ad valorem*; while that of *thirty per cent was charged on the manufactures of all other Countries*. Yet the Methuen concession, in favor of Portugal wines, was not therefore increased; the duty thereon being merely retained at one *third less*, as it respected the wines of France *alone*; those of Spain being admitted on the same terms as Portugal wines, although Spain has for ever prohibited every article of British cottons, and levies on woollens an almost prohibitory duty.

For upwards of twenty years England, by means of the said Treaty of 1810, enjoyed an entire monopoly of the markets of Portugal, and a most extensive transit trade to Spain; the loss of that monopoly, and the great diminution of that trade, are chargeable upon England herself, from her gratuitous equalization of the duty on French wines; a measure of liberality towards France that yet remains unrequited; and which first suggested to the Portuguese the present Tariff, in retaliation of a voluntary disruption of the mutually beneficial principles which fostered an extensive commerce between England and Portugal *for upwards of a century!*

The fourteenth Report ascribes to the barbarism of the laws, and police of Portugal, an insecurity of person, and property, which, it may be affirmed, is wholly unfelt by the inhabitants; who, even Mr. Macgregor admits, have been greatly and unjustly abused; as every British resident may testify, from his own experience of the urbanity and benevolence of the Por-

tuguese character; which, amidst all the excitement of civil wars, would be grossly insulted by any comparison with the sanguinary habits of a neighbouring People.

He is further unfortunate in the exhibition of a strong bias in favor of French commerce, and the endeavour to create an unfavorable impression in respect of the capabilities of Portugal; although he is, at the same time, constrained to admit, that she ought to become one of the most trading Countries in the world, from her natural advantages and resources.

At page 5, of the fourteenth Report, the manufactures of Portugal are said to be "confined to some coarse and very inferior woollens, a few common cottons and linens, of the rudest kind; and a few other rudely made articles."

And, in support of this statement, the Secretary of the Board of Trade condescends to adopt the imperfect testimony of familiar letters, written from Lisbon upwards of twenty years ago, by Marianne Baillie; a Lady of amiable character, but whose account of the industry of Portugal is such as might be expected from the casual observation of a female writer. And, judging from the modesty of her preface, the fair Tourist could never have expected that the gossiping letters addressed to her Mother, would have been quoted by a political economist, with the view to instruct the Parliament of England, and regulate the commerce of Nations.

It is hardly necessary to say that such a description of the manufactures of Portugal is wholly unjust; as it could not possibly be correct in respect of any Country that, like Portugal, enjoyed for a great length of years the exclusive supply of vast and rich Colonies; to which

she exported, of *her own manufacture*, silks, velvets, gold lace, brocades and damasks; the rich adornments of the Brazillian Churches; linen to a large extent, and of excellent quality, the spinning of which occupied the leisure of the female population of Portugal; printed garments, linen thread, toweling, skein-silk, hats, cutlery, a large amount of iron-mongery, candles, cabinet-ware, plate, jewellery, and glass.

Mr. Macgregor's charge of uncleanness is becoming less merited every day; while that of indolence, however applicable to the dependants of a luxurious Capital, is wholly refuted by the busy sounds, of the anvil and the loom which both, early and late, greet the ear of every perambulator of the suburban streets of Oporto.

The commercial weights are equal throughout Portugal; but, Mr. Macgregor copies the error of Dr. Kelly in saying that an English ton is only $13\frac{1}{2}$ quintals; it being equal to about *seventeen* quintals of 128 lbs. Portuguese, one hundred of which are equal to 101,10 lbs. English. But the corn and liquid measures, so far from being uniform throughout the Kingdom, as erroneously asserted at page 45 of the fourteenth Report, differ in almost every Town and Province of Portugal; and, as in any enterprize founded on their supposed equality, the Merchant would be seriously misled, I think it right to give a table shewing their relation to the measures of Lisbon, at every sea-port of Portugal.

This table is put forth on the authority of a committee of Senators, appointed to correct former statements, in 1840.

		Almudes.	Alq. ^{es}
100 almudes	} of Oporto render at Lisbon.	162,8	123,2
100 alqueires			
	„ Aveiro „ „ „	100,7	95,4
	„ Caminha „ „ „	145,8	146,2
	„ Faro „ „ „	109,4	115,1
	„ Figueira „ „ „	133,1	106,9
	„ Lagos „ „ „	98,2	94,6
	„ Ovar „ „ „	163,6	119,3
	„ Peniche „ „ „	103,2	100,1
	„ St. Ubes „ „ „	98,5	95,7
	„ Tavira „ „ „	100,3	94,9
	„ Vianna „ „ „	139,2	123,6
	„ Villa Nova de Portimão.	114,7	105,1

In reducing the almude to English gallons the fourteenth Report employs the old gallon, ascribing 4,37 of that measure to the Lisbon almude; which would now be more accurately stated as 3,64 imperial gallons.

At page 33 Mr. Macgregor falls into a most serious error on a subject of the utmost importance; and which ought to have been treated of with the greatest attention, by stating the currency of Portugal to consist of one half in specie, and the other half in *paper-money*, at a depreciation fluctuating between 15 and 50 per cent: while the fact is that the said *paper-money* was *withdrawn from circulation* in the year 1834; and all contracts subsequent to that period have been made and satisfied in silver, of a sterling value equal to 54 pence per mil reis; which may now be considered as the par of exchange between England and Portugal.

The old par of exchange of $67\frac{1}{2}$ pence per mil reis, was founded on a former circulation of gold which, after a considerable augmentation of its current value, has totally disappeared.

At page 5 Mr. Macgregor states that the *declared* objects of Portugal, in raising the duty of import on fish and woollens, and other goods, was to protect her recently established fishing Company, and encourage her domestic industry: I think no one should doubt the sincerity of that declaration, or legitimacy of that object; although, from having no stations on the shores of Newfoundland for the better curing of the fish, or from the mal-administration of its affairs, the fishing company may have really proved a miserable failure.

But it is by no means so clear that her Tariff, if increased as a further retaliation of the denial of favor to her wines in England, might not, in a very few years, render Portugal almost as independent as France of the manufactures of England; as no one acquainted with Portugal, can deny the recent advancement of her domestic industry.

At the same page of the Report, the duty on fish is stated to be about one hundred per cent ad valorem; being an exaggeration, approaching to double its real amount.

This mistake is partly occasioned by a false calculation upon the old instead of the present par of exchange, the difference of which is explained above; and partly from the selling price in Portugal fluctuating considerably, according to the quality of the fish and amount of supply. The real duty of 1680 reis per Quintal, of about 130 lbs english, now levied on Cod fish, being, at the present market value, not more than fifty per cent. But an abundant supply, if

of inferior quality, would so reduce the selling price as to raise the duty ad valorem to near sixty per cent; thus the real amount of the present duty would, upon an average of years, be about fifty five per cent ad valorem.

Yet under this considerable impost does Portugal continue to import upwards of one hundred ship-loads, equal to twelve thousand tons weight of fish, annually from Newfoundland; still constituting her the largest market in the World for that commodity.

At page 47 Mr. Macgregor hazards the prediction that the high Tariff of Portugal, if persisted in, will finally ruin the export trade of Oporto.

Except as an expression of hostile feeling against Portugal, it is difficult to perceive the justice, or even understand the meaning, of such an assertion; as the wines of Portugal are now indebted to no favor, in respect of duties, in England; and the Tariff complained of still admits of the importation into Portugal of almost every article of British manufacture. The duties levied on cotton goods do not amount, upon an average of the whole, to more than thirty five per cent *ad-valorem*; for, although the impost is much heavier on some articles of small amount, the more important objects of velveteens, domestics, calicoes &c. forming two thirds of the whole importation, do not pay more than twenty five per cent. These duties are nevertheless so high as greatly to curtail the supply of British goods through Portugal to Spain; and operate as a bonus to the extensive contraband trade now carried on with that Country by France, across the Pyrenees.

And in this view the imposts of the Tariff are most impolitic; as depriving Portugal of the advantage to her revenue, formerly derived from a more moderate rate of duty, on a valuable transit trade; which afforded lucrative employment to numerous par-

ties engaged in the importation, and transporting throughout the breadth of Portugal, of large supplies of British goods, for the Spanish market.

The Tariff imposes, on the finer qualities of British woollens, a duty not exceeding twenty five per cent *ad-valorem*; and, although upon such inferior cloths as Portugal now manufactures for herself, the duty amounts to sixty per cent; the average duty, levied upon the total importation of woollens, may be estimated at less than fifty per cent; while in Spain the duty levied on British woollens is yet more considerable.

All British minerals are admitted into Portugal at a very moderate duty; that on iron, * at the present cost of six pounds sterling per ton for Bars, not exceeding eighteen per cent; and, with the exception of some finer qualities from Sweden, the whole consumption of iron in Portugal is supplied by Great Britain. Tin plates pay less than ten per cent, and bar and sheet lead only about three per cent *ad-valorem*.

Far from the Tariff being so prohibitory, as to justify the ominous prediction of Mr. Macgregor, that Tariff yet permits of importations into Portugal to such an extent, that the cotton goods alone are equivalent to the total amount of all her exports to Great Britain; an estimate fully justified by the continual drain of specie to cover the balance of the English trade. The legal exportation of silver to England, from Oporto only, in the years 1841 and 1842, having exceeded in each of those years, the sum of one hundred thousand pounds sterling. Nor does this important item fully develope the value of the trade to Portugal, as remittances are made to England (over and above the drafts for wines and other exports) in gold, and in bills of exchange, sent from Brazil

* The importation of Iron from England into Oporto, on an average of three years 1840, 1841, 1842, amounted to 4,732 Tons per annum.

The total importation from England into Portugal may be estimated at about 10,000 tons per annum; consisting chiefly of Bars, Nail-rods, Hoops, and Sheets.

for negotiation in Portugal, to an extent nearly equal to the remittances in silver; making the aggregate remittances in specie and bills in the above years, to approach the sum of £ 200,000 per annum, which may be considered to have been the balance of trade in favor of England from Oporto alone.

England having, by the Treaty of 1842, engaged that no favor should be conceded to the wines of any Country, without granting equal favor to those of Portugal, whether gratuitously or in return for equivalents; the mysterious allusion to a final ruin of the export trade of Oporto, if the present Tariff be persisted in, cannot be reconciled to any apparent tendency or known principle of commerce; as the Tariff of Portugal is yet far more advantageous to England than the existing commercial regulations of the other wine growing Countries, France and Spain. But admitting the possibility of such a prediction being realized, as Portugal would, in such case, be soon drained of her specie, and then, having nothing of any consideration but her wines to give in exchange, it may be asked how the loss of such a market for her manufactures could supply a motive of satisfaction to England?

Again, if it were conceded to Mr. Macgregor that the manufactures of Portugal are really so limited and rude as he delights to describe them, it would follow that the interest of England might be greatly advanced, by encouraging and extending a reciprocal commerce with a Nation so backward, and dependent upon a supply, that no Country could furnish so readily and so advantageously as England.

As Mr. Macgregor omits to mention, or but vaguely alludes to, certain fiscal regulations touching the trade of the Douro, in respect of which I had recently the honor to receive a communication from Lord Aberdeen, I refrain from making any addition to the statements which, on those subjects, I submitted to the

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consideration of Her Majesty's Government during the last year.

In recapitulation of the inaccuracies of the fourteenth Report, it may be briefly said that it tends to disparage the Government, laws and industry of the Portuguese; and to institute an unfavorable comparison of the value of our commerce with Portugal and France.

A strong bias in favor of the latter Country is evinced by vain lamentations over the Methuen Treaty, as having prevented an extensive trade with France; and even the more recent statistics of the trade between England and Portugal are derived from French authority, instead of the respectable Consuls or experienced Merchants residing in Portugal, from whom authentic returns might have been obtained, as proved by the few tables which I annex, of the imports and exports of Oporto.

The laws of Portugal which, at page 3 of the Report, are said to be so barbarous as to afford security to neither person nor property, are founded on the same principles of universal law that govern the legislation of the rest of Europe; and, besides enjoining the equity of the Roman law, permit reference to the laws of the most civilised Nations, in all cases where the Ordinances of the Kingdom are considered to be defective or inapplicable.

The commercial law of Portugal, which has been recently reduced by the late celebrated juriconsult José Ferreira Borges, to a defined Code, is now administered to the satisfaction of the community; and the trial by Jury has been attended with proofs of courage, and integrity, which would do honor to any Country.

By two decrees of Dom Pedro, capital punishments are abolished in Portugal; except in the three

cases ; of deliberate murder , incendiarism , and inciting to desertion in time of war ; and even in these cases they are most reluctantly inflicted.

Any defect in the administration of the criminal law should have been ascribed less to venality , than to a repugnance to the punishment of death ; which appears inherent in the Portuguese character.

And that feeling , in cases of robbery , often restrains offences against the person ; and renders a comparative impunity less dangerous to society in Portugal , than it would be either in France , or England ; where all the terror of the laws inspired by their inexorable execution , scarcely procure for the people a higher degree of security than is enjoyed in the Towns of Portugal.

Even in the Provinces , where Banking Establishments and Bills of exchange are unknown ; and , therefore , a large amount of trade is represented by the transit , over a thinly populated and mountainous Country , of a ponderous silver money , which is carried on mule-back , visible to the eye , and the conductors universally known as money-carriers , from constantly traversing the roads in the same pursuit :— I say , that in a Country where the rustic population is so poor , the perfect security of such a traffic argues more than volumes of panegyric in favor of the integrity and forbearance of the Portuguese.

Whether politic or impolitic , in the year 1703 , to conclude the Methuen Treaty , which it is now the fashion to decry , it must be admitted that the experience of the thirteen years , which have elapsed since its abrogation , shews no improvement in our exports to France , at all adequate to the consequent loss of our monopoly of the Portuguese market , and great diminution of our indirect trade with Spain ; and

it would now be both impolitic and useless to attempt the subversion of such interests as have sprung up, or been advanced, by the operation of that Treaty.

The industrial establishments of France will assuredly not retrograde; *and as they have already placed her in the inevitable position of a Rival, rather than a Customer*, the importance of a trade with that Country, must now be estimated by her present position and wants; and not by speculations as to what they might have been, had England, for the last one hundred and forty years, given that preference to her wines, which Mr. Macgregor now endeavours to inculcate, by a vain attempt to depreciate those of Portugal.

At page 68 of the Report, the very interesting returns of the trade with Portugal from 1700 to 1821, shew an uniform excess of exports from England, which, in some years, surpassed the amount of imports from Portugal, by more than a million sterling.

From the year 1703, distinguished by the conclusion of the Methuen Treaty, the exports to Portugal were raised, by the immediate operation of that Treaty, to more than £ 700,000 per annum from £ 370,000, their average amount during the three preceding years.

And whatever may have been its effects upon the trade between England and France, it should not be forgotten that the Treaty with Portugal, in return for a limited favor to her Wines, gave great extension to an uninterrupted Commerce with a friendly Nation, that during the period embraced in the tables referred to, rewarded Great Britain by a demand for her produce and manufactures, to the extent of more than one hundred millions sterling.

And the details of that commerce, as exhibited in the tables at page 68, shew the average of imports

and exports, by a calculation of 16 periods; which, if extended to the 122 years they embrace, would shew the total amount of exports to Portugal to exceed 115 millions, and of imports to be only 53 millions; the balance of which must have been satisfied by payments in Bullion, to the extent of 62 millions.

Or, allowing a liberal consideration to the attenuating remarks at page 68 that, for a certain period, previous to 1821, the official values exceeded the declared values of exports; and making no account of the ten years further duration of the Treaty, it would still appear that *during the period the Methuen Treaty governed the commerce between England and Portugal, the balance of that commerce contributed to the Wealth of Great Britain by a remittance of the precious metals exceeding fifty millions sterling.*

However it may expose me to a charge of repetition, it can hardly be too often remarked that, the Report most industriously attempts to estimate the value of a trade with France by the standard of her power to consume our manufactures; the utter fallacy of which may be further shewn by the familiar example that, to constitute a purchaser, it is not enough that he should have the means of consuming, or of paying for a given object; but, it is necessary that he also feel a want of, and an inclination to acquire that object.

The jealousies and restrictions of France indicate no such want of, or inclination for the objects of British industry.

Yet does Mr. Macgregor, in his anxiety to exalt the value of an unattainable Treaty with France, perseveringly endeavour to throw a dark veil over the sterling advantages, shewn to have accrued to En-

gland from the Methuen Convention; which, at page 5, he rejoices to state, "has no longer any existence to shackle our negotiations whith other Wine-producing countries."

When the force of that Treaty was destroyed in 1831, by the voluntary denegation by England of her part of its obligations, which conceded but a partial advantage to Portugal Wines; the produce and manufactures of England, were admitted at one half the duty levied upon those of other Countries; and, as even that impost was founded upon a low Tariff, the real amount of duty paid upon British manufactures, did not exceed *twelve per cent ad valorem*; it may be asked of Mr. Macgregor, in reply to the boasted freedom of future negotiations, whether England would now venture to propose any such terms, to either France or Spain? If then, it be now too late to command a trade in our manufactures with France, it is not yet too late to preserve and extend a still important Trade with Portugal; which trade has suffered greatly from the unsuccessful termination of the late negotiations for a modification of the existing Tariff. Nor is it too much to suppose that their unfavorable issue may have been influenced by such imperfect views, and inaccurate representations as abound in the fourteenth Report, when it is considered that the author of that Report has hitherto enjoyed the highest reputation for a practical knowledge of commerce, and that the chief difficulties in the way of the Tariff were offered by the Board of Trade.

If Portugal, rendered diffident in her negotiations by the intrigues of France, and the outcry got up by a few interested parties, hesitated to make the full amount of concession demanded of her by England; she, nevertheless, made great advances towards that point, as was admitted by her Majesty's Ministers in Parliament.

Something might have been considered as due to the altered condition, and diminished resources of an old and valuable Ally; and if terms of advantage had attended the conclusion of a new Tariff, they would have supplied additional security to her means, and I hope there can be no doubt of her inclination, to satisfy the dividends on her heavy debt to England.

The general resources of Portugal having declined from the loss of her exclusive trade with Brazil, it has become her more obvious interest to secure the utmost advantage to her all important Wine-Trade; which would be best promoted by exempting that Trade from restrictions, impolitic in themselves, and so offensive to England as to afford a further pretext for the preference now assiduously cultivated, in favor of the wines of France.

In concluding these Remarks, I would disclaim any feeling of disrespect towards the Author of the fourteenth Report; whose task must be allowed to have been extremely arduous, in furnishing Her Majesty's Government with returns of the Tariffs, Trade, monies Weights &c. of all Nations. Yet in respect of a proximate and friendly Country, with which a weekly communication is maintained, more accurate information might have been expected from an authority with such means of acquiring it at his command.

His remark at page 41, that "the British Consuls, in their returns, invariably state they cannot obtain any values or quantities of imports and exports from the Customs' authorities in Portugal," suggests the utility of inviting British Merchants residing abroad to supply, from local experience, their quota of accurate information which, above all Countries, ought to be possessed by England; in order to the full development of her gigantic means, and the safe direction of her abounding enterprize.

THE END.

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Imports of Oporto in the year 1840.

FROM	Foreign Ships	Portuguese	Total Value
	Value.	Ships	of
	£	£	Imports
	£	£	£
ENGLAND	282.358	308.388	600.746
NEWFOUNDLAND ...	101.081		101.081
BRAZIL... ..	17.643	189.331	206.974
RUSSIA	92.475	2 565	95.040
PRUSSIA..	22.326		22.326
FRANCE..	776	15.976	16.752
HAMBURGH	2.845	11.396	14.241
HOLLAND.	283	12.233	12.516
ICELAND	1.871		1 871
SWEDEN	26.057		26.057
UNITED STATES ..	18.724		18.724
SPAIN	2.032	1.316	3.348
GENOA		4.111	4.111
TRIESTE	4	2.683	2.687
AUSTRIA	2.135		2.135
OTHER COUNTRIES	56	22	78
	570.666	558.021	
	Total £		1.128.687

Exports from Oporto in the year 1840.

TO	Value
ENGLAND Merchandize... ..	£ 617.342
" Bullion	91.630
BRAZIL Merchandize	136.604
UNITED STATES... ..	23.832
HAMBURGH	16.444
POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA	11.739
SWEDEN	4.598
AUSTRALIA	3.413
RUSSIA	3.336
DENMARK.	2.839
FRANCE	2.769
HOLLAND..	2.633
CANADA	2.366
GENOA	1.712
NEWFOUNDLAND	1.605
MONTE VIDEO	1.519
PORTS OF PORTUGAL.	1.042
OTHER PORTS	238
	Totla
	£ 925.66 1

Imports of Oporto in the year 1841.

FROM	Foreign Ships	Portuguese Ships	Total Value
	Value	Value	of Imports
	£	£	£
ENGLAND	117.366	505.817	623.183
NEWFOUNDLAND ...	84.979		84.979
BRAZIL	17.204	182.065	199.269
RUSSIA	34.497		34.497
PRUSSIA	32.924		32.924
FRANCE... ..	76	16.240	16.316
HAMBURGH... ..	31	12.388	12.419
HOLLAND	4.436	7.542	11.978
ICELAND & NORWAY	8.828		8.828
SWEDEN... ..	8.732		8.732
UNITED STATES ...	2.183	3.254	5.437
SPAIN	1.946	68	2.014
GENOA	2.154	6.468	8.622
	315.356	733.842	
Total... £			1,049.198

Exports from Oporto in the year 1841.

TO	Value
ENGLAND Merchandize	£ 637 691
" Bullion	127.284
BRAZIL Merchandize	97.913
UNITED STATES	21.219
HAMBURGH... ..	16.363
NEWFOUNDLAND	5.981
SWEDEN & NORWAY	3.603
POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA... ..	3.475
RUSSIA	2.098
AUSTRALIA	2.083
MONTEVIDEO	1.810
DENMARK	1.653
HOLLAND	1.638
FRANCE... ..	1.012
PORTS OF PORTUGAL	952
GENOA	97
OTHER PORTS... ..	102
Total	£ 925.734

Imports of Oporto in the year 1842.

FROM	Foreign Ships	Portuguese	Total Value of Imports
	Value	Ships Value	
	£	£	£
ENGLAND	329.319	69.766	409.085
NEWFOUNDLAND ...	92.936	"	92.936
BRAZIL	29.128	133.781	162.909
RUSSIA	47.713	"	47.713
PRUSSIA	5.617	"	5.617
FRANCE... ..	49	18.527*	18.576
HAMBURGH.. ...	1.136	954	2.090
HOLLAND.	4.301	731	5.032
SWEDEN... ..	10.847	"	10.847
UNITED STATES ...	12.961	2	12.963
SPAIN..... ..	2.079	1.735	3.814
MONTEVIDEO ...	"	3.393	3.393
TRIESTE... ..	45	536	581
GENOA	12.160	1.443	13.603
	558.291	230.868	

Total £ 789.159

Exports from Oporto in the year 1842.

TO	Value
ENGLAND Merchandize	£ 526.740
" Bullion	79.892
BRAZIL Merchandize	119.767
UNITED STATES	18.362
HAMBURGH... ..	14.444
POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA... ..	8.835
NEWFOUNDLAND	4.367
SWEDEN... ..	4.097
RUSSIA	3.100
FRANCE... ..	2.510
GENOA	1.991
DENMARK	1.778
TRIESTE... ..	1.428
PORTS OF PORTUGAL	955
MONTEVIDE@	773
SUNDRY PLACES	201
Total	£ 789.240

Imports of Oporto in the year 1843.

FROM	Foreign Ships	Portuguese Ships	Total Value
	Value	Value	of Imports
	£	£	£
ENGLAND	582.240	3.926	586.174
BRAZIL... ..	16.020	161.099	177.119
DENMARK	10.162		10.162
FRANCE	408	16.969	17.377
GENOA	5.962	5.022	10.984
HAMBURGH	5.021	4.777	9.798
SPAIN	2.008	185	2.193
HOLLAND	8.366	19	8.385
AFRICA		71	71
PRUSSIA	20.349		20.349
RUSSIA	91.833		91.833
SWEDEN... ..	10.836		10.836
NEWFOUNDLAND... ..	98.460		98.460
AUSTRIA	828		828
UNITED STATES	5.645		5.645
	858.146	192.068	
			Total £ 1050.214

Exports from Oporto in the year 1843.

TO	Value
ENGLAND Merchandise	£ 413.585
" Bullion	92.563
BRAZIL Merchandise	90.700
HAMBURGH ,,	19.539
SPAIN	9.714
UNITED STATES... ..	9.189
POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA	4.939
NEWFOUNDLAND	4.427
FRANCE	2.554
DENMARK	2.257
RUSSIA	2.174
HOLLAND... ..	1.642
SWEDEN	1.520
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	997
GENOA... ..	981
TRIESTE	958
PORTS OF PORTUGAL... ..	660
MONTEVIDEO... ..	306
GIBRALTAR	102
	Total £ 658.807

Wines exported from Oporto in the following years.

DESTINATIONS	1840	1841	1842	1843
	Pipes	Pipes	Pipes	Pipes
ENGLAND	25.678	21.011	21.728	21.244
BRAZIL	2.793	1.879	2.220	2.541
UNITED STATES... ..	1.400	1164	1.005	54
ANGOLA	903	254	171	„
HAMBURGH	645	674	564	879
CANADA	285	—	—	„
AUSTRALIA	262	118	—	„
JERSEY & GUERNSEY.	221	66	70	52
PORTS OF PORTUGAL	208	235	382	157
RUSSIA	164	112	98	32
DENMARK... ..	159	—	325	128
SWEDEN & NORWAY ...	151	229	—	85
FRANCE	11	3	6	6
NEWFOUNDLAND... ..	—	309	190	130
MONTEVIDEO... ..	—	126	69	„
BENGAL	—	—	373	„
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.	—	—	101	„
HOLLAND	—	—	81	75
SUNDRY PLACES	310	175½	48½	524
	33.190½	26.355½	27.431	26.400

