

According to Secretary Wilson the **REVERSE RECIPROCITY** of Germany in refusing entrance to meats, treated with boracic acid, practically shuts out American pork. If this "Foxy Grandpa" way of getting the better of the United States in the German markets is not stopped, Prince Henry will be called upon to play a return engagement here in order to heal the wounds. Meanwhile, as several articles of food annually imported from Germany are treated with the same innocent stuff, it behooves those in power to take the imperial health officers at their word and protect American digestive organs from contact with boracic acid—especially such as smacks of Germany. In this good-natured commercial war, it will not do to display less *finesse* than our German opponents.

THE TOTTERING EDIFICE OF PROTECTION.

BY WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

"The whirligig of time brings in his revenges," and to the veterans of the free trade agitation this is a day full of encouragement. And amusement mingles with hope. For, lo! the active combat is removed from the old field and transferred to the ground of protection. The attacking party is still outside the breastworks, but it has the satisfaction of hearing the shrill dispute and turmoil within. The household of monopoly is divided, and the proverb assuring honest men of their dues when certain other men fall out is now receiving the approval of fact.

The successful overthrow of any great social wrong, wherein self-interest and passion have mingled, has usually proved a case of self-destruction. Reformers may discern and announce the inevitable moral law, may cite parallels, and supplement reason with laboriously gathered facts; but to the great public they will remain visionaries and fanatics, and their warnings will be sneeringly styled "academic." Compared with the self-confident "practical" man, how poor a thing is a theorist! Thus is the present magnified, the future dwarfed, and the perspective lost; but only for a time.

The abolition of the British Corn Laws was not accomplished by the arguments of Cobden and Bright, luminous and unanswerable though they were. It required the demonstration of commercial distress to make clear the destructive nature of restriction. When disaster came to manufacturers, idleness and starvation to the worker, the system collapsed.

American slavery withstood the abolition assaults of forty years, although brilliantly conducted by leaders of exceptional power and character. So impregnable did the institution seem on the very eve of its destruction that its

permanence was freely predicted. The writer remembers the prophecy of a despondent anti-slavery orator at that time, to the effect that the youngest person in his audience would not live to see the oppressive system abolish. Seven years later, the emancipation proclamation was issued and the slaves were freed. The orator himself lived a generation after the event,—so long that his connection with the great struggle was almost forgotten.

It is well for free traders, when tempted to take depressing views of the situation, to recall these instances of successful movements analogous to their own. The same world forces are active, the same victories are in process of realization. If the Free Trade League is less in evidence than during exciting political campaigns, when parties can make capital out of their issue, it is not because the cause is losing headway, but rather for the reason that their doctrines have permeated the high tariff ranks. In the party which has made protection a fetish there was never so much sober thinking upon the question as now.

Honest and able men who have been born into acceptance of this false economic creed, and have never been forced to examine it in the light of duty and conscience, are now brought face to face with it for the first time. It is evident that many of them are startled at its hideousness. How can they fail to see the true spirit of the demon now unmasked and remorseless? What are the well-being and liberty of Cuba, the good faith and name of the nation, in comparison with the profits of the beet sugar industry and the tobacco growers of the Connecticut valley?

But the lively dissensions in the republican party, however, do not indicate a change of heart. It is self-interest that has changed. Where once the exclusion of foreign commodities benefited certain manufactures, the new conditions of production make such exclusion menacing. The dollar, as well as righteousness, is now demanding lower tariffs in self-defense. The price of open doors abroad to admit our surplus goods is an open door in the United States to foreign goods. It must be paid. Thus far we have had the assurance to demand unobstructed entrance to foreign markets while closing our ports to alien nations. The game is failing to work. All thanks to Russia for her effective action and rebuke! May she have many followers! Only the slamming of commercial doors in our arrogant faces will make manifest the fallacy of selling without buying. As well attempt to square the circle or to discover the philosopher's stone.

It marks a decided advance in the cause of free trade when the burden of conflict is at length made to rest upon the right shoulders. When the

beneficiaries of monopoly are "by the ears," the victims may well take heart. Two years ago it was the common sentiment in business circles, where short views usually prevail, that the question of protection was settled for an administration at least, probably for many more. Trade was to vindicate the wisdom and power of protection as never before. Outwardly the edifice had the stable appearance of a granite boulder. Yet, in less than a twelvemonth, the great wool interest, which has furnished the extremest advocates of the high tariff, encountered the most disastrous year in recent history.

More strange and unexpected than all else was the last speech of President McKinley, the recognized embodiment and representative of the system to which his name is indissolubly linked. It was an utterance that would have been scouted if made by free trade lips. Nevertheless it showed that sagacity in discerning popular tendencies so exceptionally developed in that remarkable man, and his prevision is justified by events now transpiring. He saw and pointed out the warning cracks in the protective structure; to these the body of his political adherents were blind. As the artificial creation topples to its fall, it threatens to crush the party which reared it. Hence the consternation in the camp of protection.

CORONATION CHAIR.

When Edward VII. is crowned king of England by the archbishop of Canterbury next June he will sit in a famous coronation chair in which for 600 years kings and queens of England have sat on like memorable occasions.

The chair is built of English oak, plainly, even rudely, constructed, a venerable relic of the past, which once only has been removed from Westminster Abbey. That was when Cromwell was made lord protector. He had the historic chair taken into Westminster hall, that the old customs demanding that the rulers of England and Scotland should receive the authority of their high position while seated in it might be preserved unbroken.

FATED GRAND VIZIERS.

Of the latest 200 grand viziers of the Sultan of Turkey not more than twenty-four, says a French statistician, have died naturally. One hundred of them, he asserts, were poisoned, and thirty-six of the others were either beheaded or drowned in the Bosphorus. Of the remaining forty he has not been able to find any trace, but from the silence of Turkish historians on the subject he concludes that their end was not happy. One of the viziers was only four hours in office, and another occupied the position for only ten minutes, being strangled at the end of that time.