

and ruin. And they are right. If the protecting duty on corn be removed, ruin would spread its arms over the land and with one blow destroy the agricultural prosperity of Britain. It is no good argument, that the removal of this duty would be the sure preventive of famine. Every person is aware, that in proportion to the supply, so is the price. If the supply is small, the price increases, and no great scarcity could exist before the price of home corn rose to such a height as would make it an object for the foreigner—notwithstanding the duty—to ship his corn for this country to supply the deficiency. The second thing they insist on is, that a very small quantity of grain—not sufficient to affect the price—would, by the removal of the duty, be imported into our markets. The ground they assume for this assertion is, that the corn countries abroad do not produce a much larger stock of that article than the wants of their own inhabitants require. But what is the reason of this? Is it inability which prevents them from raising larger quantities of corn? No. It is simply because they cannot find a profitable outlet for it, should they raise it. Grain, to an enormous extent, could be produced abroad, and it is the protecting duty alone which hinders the foreign farmers from raising a large supply. It enables our own farmers to offer their grain at a cheaper rate than it can be imported, and the supply of home corn is so nearly proportioned to the demand, that it is only a small quantity of foreign that is required. It is therefore not an object with the foreigner to raise a larger quantity of grain than supplies the inhabitants of his own country. But remove the protecting duty, and it then becomes an object with him to raise the largest quantity possible, as he can, from circumstances arising out of his situation, undersell the growers in Britain, and thus at all times find a ready market for his superabundant produce. It must be obvious, therefore, that the prosperity of every person connected with agriculture at home, depends on such a duty being laid on the importation of foreign corn as shall enable the growers of that commodity to compete success-