

FREE TRADE IN ENGLAND.†—We heartily commend this little book to all readers. Whether interested in questions of political economy or not no one can fail to be interested in this story of a great political revolution. The author well says, "a political revolution is none the less real or the less important because it is bloodless; and the same interest which attaches to those armed conflicts which decide the fate of a campaign ought surely to attach to the intellectual encounters that decide the fate of a momentous political measure." The author enters into the story with all the ardour of one who participated in the conflict, and the course of the battle is described with great vividness. He has strong temptations to digress upon important measures which engaged the attention of the British parliament, during these eventful years; reform in representation, Catholic emancipation, foreign complications, etc., but he steadfastly adheres to his subject and treats of other subjects only as they have a bearing on his theme.

Beginning with a statement of the condition of England under the high protective system in force in 1824, and sketching briefly the first faint attempts at change; he comes in 1838 to the foundation of the Anti-Corn Law Association, when the contest began in earnest under the leadership of Mr. C. P. Villiers, M.P., and of Mr. Richard Cobden, not yet a Member of Parliament; public meetings were held, free trade principles discussed, pamphlets distributed, newspaper articles printed and circulated. Mr. Villiers lost no opportunity in Parliament to discuss free trade principles, and Mr. Cobden did so still more forcibly when in 1841 he became a member of that body.

* *The five great Monarchies of the ancient Eastern World*; or, the history, geography, and antiquities of Chaldea, Assyria, Babylon, Media, and Persia. Collected and illustrated from ancient and modern sources. By GEORGE RAWLINSON, M.A., Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, late fellow and tutor of Exeter College. With maps and illustrations. In three volumes 8vo. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1881.

† *History of the Free-Trade Movement in England*. By AUGUSTUS MONGREDIEN, Author of "Free Trade and English Commerce," etc. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1881. 188 pages, 12mo.

In 1846, under the administration of Sir Robert Peel, and upon his motion it was voted to repeal the Corn Laws entirely in 1849; duties on other articles were reduced materially. The principle was established that Englishmen should have the right to buy where they could buy the cheapest, and gradually the whole system of protection was given up. He shows that in 1879 the tariff was truly and thoroughly a free trade tariff.

Not the least interesting chapter is the last in which he argues that the country is more prosperous under this free trade tariff than ever before and the figures by which he supports his argument are very striking.