

exposed from the tenant's point of view, and fully and fairly discussed in Parliament by those practically acquainted with the hardship and injustice to which the tenant is subjected under the existing laws.

With the House of Commons composed as at present, there is certainly very little prospect of this being accomplished, for, while no class in the community possesses more influence in Parliament than the holder of the land, there is none less adequately represented than its cultivator; and the reasons are not far to seek. Under the protective economy which obtained prior to the abolition of the Corn Laws, the political interests of landlord and tenant were identical. The landlord in defending a protective policy, believed he defended his rent-roll, and the tenant, fancying that he was indebted to the landlord's protective policy for the price of his corn, faithfully voted for the landlord's nominee.

But the Free Trade Policy of the last twenty-five years has radically changed the relative position of landlord and tenant, and Free Trade in Corn must be followed by Free Trade in Land. Mr Cobden, the great and honoured champion of Free Trade, shortly before his death, gave utterance to this prophetic sentence:—"I have fought one great battle, but there is another left behind that will perhaps require great efforts to achieve a triumph, and that is to secure Free Trade in Land."

In the battle in which Mr Cobden triumphed, the landlord and tenant defending the protective Corn Laws and the economy they represented, stood opposed to the manufacturing, commercial, and labouring classes fighting for a Free Trade Policy; in that to which he alludes as still to be fought, the landlord, protecting land laws and exclusive privileges, will stand alone; whilst on the other side, will be ranged the tenant contending for his right to reap the full return for the capital and labour expended by him on the soil; the capitalist for Free Trade in Land; and the public generally for the principle that the land of the

nation shall be used so as to yield the greatest amount of good for the nation.

The protective legislation which the triumph of the popular cause will abolish is embraced by (1) The Law of Hypothec; (2) The Game Laws; and (3) The Laws of Entail and Primogeniture.

The Law of Hypothec, by creating a fictitious competition, raises the rent of land above its fair market value, and protects the landlord by securing to him full payment of this excessive rent at the expense of the tenant's other creditors.

The Game Laws, by creating fictitious offences, aid the landlord in levying two rents from the same subject, and, combined with the Common Law, protect him from liability for damages caused by his game.

The Laws of Entail and Primogeniture protect the landlord from the consequences of his own folly and imprudence, assist him in appropriating the benefits of such permanent improvements as the enterprise of the tenant may overcome his prudence in making, and form all but insuperable obstacles to the transfer of land.

We do not propose at present to advert to the injustice inflicted on farmers under the cover of these laws, nor the incubus they are on the progress of agriculture, and the consequent loss occasioned to the community. Our object is (1) to show that the abolition of these laws can only be accomplished by returning as representatives to Parliament men who shall faithfully represent the farmers' views regarding these laws; and (2) to enquire where such representatives are to be found.

According to the theory of the British constitution it is expected that the Parliamentary electors will return as their representative the candidate that does *really represent* them, that is their views and opinions generally, and more particularly on the questions which directly affect their interest; and if the county members do not vote and agitate for the abolition of these obnoxious laws it is legitimately enough inferred that their constituents have no grievances to complain of in respect to them, or at least do not wish for their abolition.