

an object of little importance, and that the quantity of grain which would be shipped for our markets would not in any material degree affect the growers at home were it removed.

On the first of those assertions I remark, that it is not the amount of the duty we are so much to look to, as the effects it produces. Small as it is said to be, it prevents corn from coming from abroad, except at such a price as enables the home farmers to supply an equal article at a cheaper rate. It would not be of the slightest consequence were the duty diminished to a single farthing, if that farthing could still protect the home grower, and give him the command of the markets, as regards price.

If the dealers in home corn could offer this commodity one farthing below the foreigner, they must to a certainty command the sale of the produce of the lands in this country. But if the foreigner can bring his grain into our markets a degree cheaper, it matters not how small, if the quality is the same, is it not evident that the home grower must be driven from them? The present duty on the importation of grain from abroad is indeed not large, but it answers the end for which it was imposed, as it enables our agriculturists to dispose of the produce of their farms at something like a remunerating price. Remove this duty, however, and they are immediately placed in competition with foreign growers, who are, from the fertility of their soil, and the cheapness of labour, able to offer their grain at a price which must entail ruin on the farming interest of this country. Besides, if the duty is thought to be so small as to be of trifling import, why should the liberals, as they term themselves, insist so strenuously on its removal? If they argue that its removal can be no great loss to the grower of home corn, they must surely admit that it can be no great gain to the consumer.

If the duty does, in their opinion, neither good to the grower nor harm to the consumer, why press so perseveringly that it be removed, when almost every proprietor and farmer is convinced that it is the only barrier betwixt them