

## Chapter 1 : Andrew Bisset (barrister) - Wikipedia

*General Thomas Perronet Thompson was born at Hull on the 15th of March, He was the eldest of three sons of Thomas Thompson, a merchant and banker of that town, and for several years M. P. for Midhurst, a borough which, before the Reform Bill of 1832, belonged to his partner Robert Smith, created Baron Carrington of Upton, Co. Notts, October 20th,*

Corn Laws[ edit ] The Corn Laws were taxes on imported grain introduced in 1800, [1] and designed to keep prices high[ citation needed ] for cereal producers in Great Britain. The laws indeed did raise food prices, and became the focus of opposition from urban groups who had less political power than rural Britain. The corn laws initially prohibited foreign corn completely from being imported at below 80s a quarter, [2] a process replaced by a sliding scale in 1815. The laws were supported by Conservative and Whig landowners, and opposed by urban industrialists and workers. It was a large, nationwide middle-class moral crusade with a utopian vision. Its leading advocate Richard Cobden , according to historian Asa Briggs , promised that repeal would settle four great problems simultaneously: First, it would guarantee the prosperity of the manufacturer by affording him outlets for his products. Third, it would make English agriculture more efficient by stimulating demand for its products in urban and industrial areas. Fourth, it would introduce through mutually advantageous international trade a new era of international fellowship and peace. A representative activist was Thomas Perronet Thompson , who specialized in the grass-roots mobilisation of opinion through pamphlets, newspaper articles, correspondence, speeches, and endless local planning meetings. Its candidate was defeated and it was unable to convince voters regarding free trade. However, the League did learn lessons that helped to transform its political tactics. It learned to concentrate on elections where there was a good expectation of victory. Chaloner argues that the repeal in 1846 marked a major turning point, making free trade the national policy into the 20th century, and demonstrating the power of "Manchester-school" industrial interests over protectionist agricultural interests. He says repeal stabilized wheat prices in the 1840s and 1850s; however other technical developments caused the fall of wheat prices from 1870. It elected men to Parliament. Many of its procedures were innovative, while others were borrowed from the anti-slavery movement. It became the model for later reform movements. It later became the National Public School Association. It had little success because national secular education, was a divisive issue even among the radical groups. However it did help convert the Liberal Party from its laissez-faire philosophy to that of a more interventionist character. Although its potential was not realized, it had shown the capacity for an extra-parliamentary middle-class organization to reshape politics so as to reflect the anti-aristocratic objectives of a determined band of entrepreneurial politicians. The league had only temporarily reshaped the landscape of parliamentary politics but it had helped create a vibrant popular attachment to free trade within British political culture that would last well into the twentieth century. Surtees satirized the league in his novel, Hillingdon Hall. Whatever is wrong, lay it to the corn tax.

## Chapter 2 : Cobden and the Anti-Corn Law League - Online Library of Liberty

*In revising my MS. of "Notes on the Anti-Corn Law Struggle," I am struck with the fact that one-third or more of the book is the work of him who was throughout the whole of the Struggle the advocate in Parliament of the Repeal of the Corn Laws; and is now the only survivor of a group of.*

The Anti-Corn Law League The League Prentice, Archibald. History of the Anti-Corn Law League. The Struggle Thomas, J. Life and Correspondence of H. A History of the English Corn Laws from Harmonies of Political Economy. What is Seen and What is not Seen: Notes on the Anti-Corn Law Struggle. Supplement VIII , Broughton, Lord John Cam Hobhouse. Recollections of a Long Life. Edited by Louis J. Manchester and the Manchester People, etc. The Economist Engels, Friedrich. The Condition of the Working Class in England in Translated by Florence Kelley Wishnewetzky. The Corn Laws and Social England. History of the Chartist Movement. The Life of W. The Growth and Fluctuations of the British Economy Edited by Henry Reeve. The Age of Peel and Cobden. The Growth of Philosophic Radicalism. Translated by Mary Morris. The Age of the Chartists The Town Labourer, A History of Factory Legislation. Considerations on the Protection Required by British Agriculture, etc. Economic Thought and Policy. The Life of Benjamin Disraeli. The Life of William Ewart Gladstone. Letters upon Corn and Currency, etc. The Non-Conformist Page, William, ed. Tables of Statistics for the British Empire from Sir Robert Peel from his Private Papers. Uncatalogued clippings, pamphlets, letters, etc. The Political Economy Club. Names of Members In Continuation of Volume I Published in , etc. National Reform Tracts, Nos. The Crown of Wild Olive. Letters to the Workmen and Labourers of Great Britain. Six Essays on the Elements of Political Economy. Recollections and Suggestions, Historical and Philosophical Essays. Economic Annals of the Nineteenth Century. The Man versus the State. Early Victorian England, Ricardian Economics, a Historical Study. Essays in Political Economy. Memoirs and Correspondence of Francis Horner, M. Edited by Leonard Horner. Views on the Subject of Corn and Currency. A Letter on the Corn Laws. An Inquiry into the Nature and Progress of Rent, etc. Observations on the Effects of the Corn Laws, etc. Translated by Florence Kelley Wishnewetzky. Principles of Political Economy. The Life of John Stuart Mill. An Essay on the Influence of a low Price of Corn on the Profits of Stock; shewing the inexpediency of restrictions on importation; etc. Edited by Piero Sraffa and M. The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation. On Protection to Agriculture. Free Trade and Safe Government, etc. Free Trade in Corn, etc. July , pp. The Wealth of Nations. Tracts on Political Economy. The Consequences of the Repeal of the Corn Laws. On the Currency in Connexion with the Corn Trade; etc. A History of Prices, and of the State of the Circulation, from to ; etc. An Essay on the External Corn Trade. A Letter to Senior, etc. Price of Corn and Wages of Labour, etc. Last modified April 13,

**Chapter 3 : Notes on the Anti-Corn Law Struggle/Introduction - Wikisource, the free online library**

*Notes on the Anti-Corn Law Struggle: [Andrew Bisset] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Originally published in This volume from the Cornell University Library's print collections was scanned on an APT BookScan and converted to JPG format by Kirtas Technologies.*

He was the eldest of three sons of Thomas Thompson, a merchant and banker of that town, and for several years M. Notts, October 20th, His name appears in the Cambridge University Calendar in the list of honours for the year , as Seventh Wrangler. Notwithstanding this difference of rank in the Cambridge list of honours, the Seventh Wrangler always spoke of his brother Charles as a man very superior to himself in ability. He was killed in action near Biarritz in the South of France on the 12th December, He was standing at the head of his company, who were kneeling and firing at a house occupied by the French, who were tiring also. He did so, and immediately after a ball went through his brain. Lieutenant Thomas Perronet Thompson, "in the irresistible desire of seeing his face once more," says General C. Thompson in his Obituary Notice of his fatherâ€”but, as stated in a letter which I have seen, part of the inducement was the desire of recovering a small bit of gold which he wore attached to a piece of ribbonâ€”had him taken up a few days after and re-interred in the garden of the Mayor of Biarritz, where he rests with two other officers of the same regiment, over whose graves the owner of the garden has placed a stone with an appropriate French inscription. I may add that if he, like other men after a life not only long but adventurous, had many memories of the past which he was apt to recall to himself and others, he told his stories or anecdotes with clearness, conciseness and point. At one of Mr. Pell of the Pickwick Papers, a practitioner in the London Insolvent Court, who represented himself as standing so high in the estimation of the Lord Chancellor, that his lordship said, "Mr. Pell of the Pickwick Papers, according to the description of Mr. Weller, senior, who gives the following extract from Mr. I remember dining with him on one occasion: Being rather under the average height he nearly lost his life from having been unable to obtain the support intended to be given by the rope under the yard-arm from the outer extremity, of which he had to make his wayâ€”so that he said he was so exhausted that he thought he should have to let go his hold and drop into the sea. In he joined the "old 95th Rifles" as a second lieutenant. In the Spring of he was sent, at the age of twenty-five, as Governor to Sierra Leone, through the influence of Mr. As he related the incident to me, some one had given the panther the whole carcase of a kid with which the panther retired into the council-room which was unoccupied. The Governor went into the council-room and took the kid from the panther which did not make much resistance; but walked quietly two or three times round the room, and then suddenly sprung upon the Governor who had taken the carcase of the kid from it. After a struggle they came down together, and the Governor said he felt the claws of the panther upon his shins as if they were razors. Fortunately some persons came to his assistance, and the panther was prevented from doing further mischief. In he joined the 14th Light Dragoons in Spain as lieutenant, and was present at the actions of Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse, for which he received the Peninsular War-medal with four clasps. During the campaign of , he was taken off regimental duty and attached to the staff of General afterwards Sir Henry Fane, of whose kindness and ability he preserved a grateful recollection. There is, however, one incident of his military life which may be glanced at as throwing some light on the late fighting in the Soudan. General Charles William Thompson, in a letter to me dated 28th March, , says: I see that someone else has been struck by the resemblance, and has published a letter which I send, and which you can keep if you like, as I have another copy. It is fairly written and pretty correct, except a few mistakes which I have corrected in the margin, without altering the text. Thompson "15th March, By a strange coincidence also it was the 1st Tork and Lancaster then known as the 65th Regiment , that before took a prominent part in the sanguinary fighting. The letter as corrected thus proceeds: On the 9th November, the opposing forces came into conflict, and the Arabs broke into the British column wheeling into line, and a terrible scene of slaughter took place. Six out of eight officers engaged and two hundred and seventy men were slain, besides the loss suffered by the forces of the Imaum, who was himself wounded while endeavouring to save an Artilleryman, for which Act of gallantry the Governor-General of India presented his Highness with a magnificent sword.

The Bombay Government speedily despatched an Expedition, under Sir Lionel Smith, consisting of one thousand seven hundred Sepoys and one thousand three hundred European soldiers, including the 65th Regiment, the 1st Bombay Fusiliers, a troop of Horse Artillery, and an Indian Naval Brigade, with guns. On the 10th February, , the Arabs made a night attack on the British camp similar to what was attempted, with ill success, on Wednesday last , in which our loss was one officer and sixteen men killed, and three officers, including Brigadier Cox, and twenty-three men wounded. On the 2nd March took place the decisive action, when the Arabs sought to repeat their tactics of charging the British square, broadsword and target in hand. But the 65th and 7th Native Infantry, forming the Right Brigade, on whom the main attack was directed, proved steady, and repelled the Arabs, who, out of less than one thousand warriors, left five hundred on the field, the British loss being twenty-nine killed and one hundred and seventy-three wounded. This attempt at negotiation failing through the murder by the hostile tribe of the messenger bearing the letter, the injunction to communicate appeared to be fulfilled and answered. Military men will see the duty of acting with decision under these circumstances. The force of the enemy was reported to be nine hundred bearing arms. On the 9th of November, , as the column was toiling through the sand, the hostile sheik, Mohammed Ben Ali, advanced to the attack, sword in hand. The instant I heard a shot from the light troops, which showed the Arabs to be in motion, I ordered the Sepoys to charge with the bayonet. Not a man moved forward. I then ordered them to fire. They began a straggling and ineffectual fire, aided by the Artillery, the Arabs all the while advancing brandishing their swords. The Sepoys stood till the Arabs were within fifteen yards, when they turned and ran. I immediately galloped to the point where the Sepoys were least confused, and endeavoured to make them stand; but they fired their muskets in the air and went off. The people just ran like sheep. I saw some of the European Artillerymen and ran to endeavour to make them stand; but they were too few to do anything. There is this difference between the Government of India of , and the English Government of , that the Government of India of left Captain Perronet Thompson no option of engaging the Wahabeesâ€™Arabs of the Desertâ€™with an army of Sepoys, while the English Government of left it to the option of Generals Hicks and Baker to engage the Soudan Arabs with an army of Egyptians who appear to be much lower in the scale of soldiers than Outram placed them. Napoleon used to say there were only two sorts of troopsâ€™good and bad. The Egyptians have proved themselves to belong to the latter category. Till lately little or nothing seems to have been known about them. The words I allude to are these: More than a year was consumed in reaching England. In he was promoted to a majority in the 65th Regiment, then in Ireland, and in to an unattached lieutenant-colonelcy of Infantry. His subsequent promotions bore dateâ€™colonel, ; major-general, ; lieutenant-general, ; and general, This work he republished in under the title of " The True Theory of Rent ," in opposition to Mr. This work will be found in the fourth volume p. But James Mill, though his mind was both powerful and original, and conscientiously sought after truth, was impatient of contradiction, and might consider it a piece of presumption in Colonel Thompson to put forth a "true theory" in opposition to him and Ricardo, which title implicitly calls their theories false, and he differed from his son in some points very much. For James Mill might see where Thompson was wrong, but either did not see, or did not admit that he saw, when he was right, whereas John Stuart Mill, while he shows wherein he considers the author of the pamphlet wrong, does him ample justice in the criticism of his " Catechism on the Corn Laws. John Stuart Mill, in an article on the Corn Laws, in the thirteenth number of The Westminster Review, which came out in January, â€™the book named at the head of the article being the "Catechism on the Corn Laws," third edition, London, â€™in the course of some remarks on the new proposal for the amendment of the Corn Laws, says: Canning commenced his speech by declaring that the conflicting opinions did not differ so widely as was commonly supposed. He proceeded to explain himself by saying that no person advocated a perfectly free trade in corn; that the necessity of some protection to agriculture was universally acknowledged, and that the only question was how much. We will take upon ourselves to affirm that not only some, but almost all the writers against the Corn Laws, have advocated, and do advocate, a perfectly free trade in corn. From Adam Smith to the author of the tract which we have prefixed to this article, they have universally represented any tax on the necessaries of life as among the most impolitic and injurious of all modes of taxation," J. The author who signs himself T. Perronet Thompson [1] has given, after some prefatory matter, of which we do not think

so highly as of the work itself, an enumeration of a hundred and sixty fallacies on the Corn Laws: Thompson is master of his subject, and has disposed of the fallacies with great philosophical accuracy, and considerable clearness, conciseness, and felicity of expression. As this mode of combating those Proteus-like fallacies, which are formidable less from their native strength than from the multiplicity of shapes in which they appear, seems to us to have peculiar advantages, we shall make room for the exposure of some of the most potent among these instruments of deception. The reviewer then devotes more than half-a-dozen pages to extracts from the "Catechism on the Corn Laws. The reviewer concludes with observing that the "Catechism" had attracted the attention of Lord King, who had fought the battle of Free Trade in the House of Lords, and recommends it as a speculation worthy the attention of a bookseller to make a collection of all that Lord King has said on this subject in Parliament since it began to be discussed in , find print it in a pamphlet as a companion to the "Catechism on the Corn Laws. Whitmore and of Lord Milton deserve no less praise; and their merit is enhanced by the disgraceful receptionâ€”disgraceful even in the eyes of indifferent spectatorsâ€”which they have experienced from the House. But their country will weigh them and their opponents by a different standard, and will esteem and venerate them as deeply for having set at defiance the fury of the band of enraged monopolists by whom they have been insulted, as it would have despised them if they had stooped, with the vulgar herd of public men, to court the applause of those monopolists by the sacrifice of the best interests of their country. If Malthus and Ricardo had been clear writers, a good deal of controversy on the subject might have been avoided. And here the debate must be cut short by coming at once to the question of utility, and asking whether honest rent is to be left in the hands of the owner of the land, or is to be given to a Saint-Simonian committee that wants to have the disposal of it. Augustus Comte commenced his career in the manufacture of a new religion and pseudo-philosophy as a disciple of this Saint-Simonian scheme of government. Comte has been thought by some to have been more indebted to Saint-Simon for his speculations than he was disposed to admit. The latter modified very much his opinion of Comte, as is shown by comparing the later editions of his Logic with the first edition. Yet in his final estimate of Comte, Mill says, "We think M. Comte as great as either of these philosophers Descartes and Leibnitz , and hardly more extravagant. Villiers made his first motion and his first speech on the Corn Laws. And they afterwards rendered it impossible that I should avoid the contest by advancing against me disreputable charges, of no one of which did they attempt any proof before the Committee. There are few terms of disgrace which public opinion would not justify me in applying to such conduct; but I choose, for conciseness, to comprehend them all by stamping each and every of the parties concerned with the elaborate infamy of robbing by means of charging with disreputable offences. You are free to elect whom you please, under the understanding that he shall be mulcted in his personal property to any extent the adversaries may choose to effect by the expenditure of perhaps a much inferior sum of their own. To take the present case: For that the ostensible instruments are not the substantial ones is matter of public evidence and notoriety. And this is your freedom of election. I do not advise you hastily to lay aside altogether the pursuit of improvement by the first and feeble mode, but I do advise you to make it entirely subordinate to that more politic and useful mode in which your natural strength lies, and to give no effort to the one, except what you have not the means or opportunity of applying to the other. We had the option of expending perhaps ten thousand pounds more, for the chance that the Committee would give us a claim on, it may be, half that sum lodged as security. In a letter dated London, February 11, , he says: The school-boys, in the House and out of it, will be the death of us. In a letter to his constituents dated "London, March 18, ," General Thompson gives a description of the reception a motion for an alteration in the Corn Laws met with in the House of Commons in in the following wordsâ€”and as Mr. Villiers made his first motion in the following year he might have a foretaste of what he was to expect: Clay brought on his motion for an alteration in the Corn Laws. As soon as Mr. Clay had finished speaking, an agricultural member Mr. Cayley rose with the seconder, and endeavoured to stop proceedings by counting out the House. The number was found above forty, and the seconder went on.

## Chapter 4 : Anti-Corn Law League - Wikipedia

*Notes on the anti-corn law struggle 3/ 5 Omitted chapters of the history of England from the death of Charles I to the battle of Dunbar / 5 Omitted chapters of the history of England from the death of Charles I to the battle of Dunbar / 5.*

First verse and chorus: Attend a while and you shall hear, The glorious day is drawing near, When you may banish grief and care. They must abolish the Corn laws; The evil we have encountered long, Petitions to the throne does throng The nation is excited strong. It was often used by reform groups for the public meetings, such as the Protestant Reformation Society and the Anti-Slavery Society. This image shows a meeting of the ACLL in early They were not the first to use this tactic to bring pressure on the government as the Anti-Slavery Society had done the same 40 years earlier. What had changed since then was the expansion of the vote to include much of the middle class in the Reform Act of which meant that many more of the names on the petition drives could actually vote and perhaps threaten the survival of any given politician. Note that women were listed "last, because they are the BEST of our auxiliaries. Supporters would donate goods which would be sold to make money for the ACLL. The League also had their own merchandise for sale such as buttons, badges, envelopes, books, and perhaps even china wear like plates and figurines. A china figurine of Richard Cobden. Note the central table with banners, the family groups wandering around, some people are reading books or pamphlets, and the proximity of the Post Office on the right to send friends ACLL designed letter envelopes. Below is a cartoon from the satirical magazine Punch which makes fun of the ACLL merchandise such as dolls and figurines. Here is an invitation to a formal Tea Party for 6 p. After Tea the patrons could enjoy a Meeting at which both Cobden and Bright would speak. Note that potential guests are assured that the hall has been "well aired" and would be heated. Envelopes, Figurines Illustration At the bottom centre is a globe with a sash on which is written "Free Trade". To the left is a female figure pointing to some cargo which will be soon loaded onto the ship behind her; to the right is another female figure who is holding a hand scythe used to harvest grain, behind her is a field with a wheat sheaf and a windmill. This is a simpler design with ears of wheat forming a border around the envelope. At the top and bottom centre are the words "Free Trade. Repeal in , Free Trade Treaty in Illustration He was influential in getting the Repeal of the Corn Laws passed against much opposition from within his own party he was forced resign soon after the Repeal passed. It became law when the House of Lords voted for it on 25 June. Sir, I have explained more than once what were the circumstances under which I felt it my duty to take this course. I did feel in November last that there was just cause for apprehension of scarcity and famine in Ireland. I am stating what were the apprehensions I felt at that time, what were the motives from which I acted; and those apprehensions, though they may be denied now, were at least shared then by those hon. Gentlemen who sit below the gangway the protectionists. Member for Somersetshire expressly declared that at the period to which I referred he was prepared to acquiesce in the suspension of the Corn Laws. Member also, a recent addition to this House, who spoke with great ability the other night, the hon. Member for Dorsetshire Mr. Seymour distinctly declared that he thought I should have abandoned my duty if I had not advised that, considering the circumstances of Ireland, the restrictions on the importation of foreign corn should be temporarily removed. I may have been wrong, but my impression was, first, that my duty towards a country threatened with famine required that that which had been the ordinary remedy under all similar circumstances should be resorted to—namely, that there should be free access to the food of man from whatever quarter it might come. Sir, I do not rest my support of this Bill merely upon the temporary ground of scarcity in Ireland. I do not rest my support of the Bill upon that temporary scarcity; but I believe that scarcity left no alternative to us but to undertake the consideration of this question; and that consideration being necessary, I think that a permanent adjustment of the question is not only imperative, but the best policy for all concerned. And I repeat now that I have a firm belief that it is for the general benefit of all—for the best interests of the country, independent of the obligation imposed on us by temporary scarcity, it is for the general interests of the great body of the people that an arrangement should be made for a permanent removal of the restrictions upon the introduction of food. A passage from the concluding speech by Mr. Villiers before the vote was taken: Gentlemen opposite

to pause before they proclaimed themselves to the country, and transmitted their names to posterity, as having to the last endeavoured to withhold from the people the unquestionable right, the undoubted privilege and great advantage, of carrying the fruits of their industry to the highest market, and of allowing them the freest access to the bounties which Providence, through the industry of other nations, had provided for them. Let them reflect before they vote, that the law of which they are so tenacious has been discredited by all experience, denounced by every intelligent authority, and has, upon facts undisputed, because they are indisputable, been shown to have brought upon the poorest of our fellow creatures as much misery, affliction, destitution, and crime as was ever produced by any pestilence or calamity with which the country was visited. Let them pause then, he said, before they offer to the country and posterity no other or better testimony of their efforts in public life than that of endeavouring to withhold from them a great advantage, and to perpetuate on the poor an enormous wrong. HC Deb 15 May vol 86 cc It cemented low tariffs for trade between the two leading economies of western Europe and established a number of principles which were adopted by other nations in their bi-lateral trade treaties such as the "most favoured nation" clause which applied the lowest tariff which was agreed with one nation to be applied to another nations automatically. Initially he was a Saint-Simonian socialist but was converted to the free trade cause. Satirizing Cobden and Bright: The treaty was signed on 30 March at the Congress of Paris. Cobden lost his seat in Parliament in because of his opposition to the War; Bright held his seat but was one of the very few peace MPs in the chamber. Daumier depicted Cobden as tall and lanky and had him wear load checked or tartan trousers and a hat. Bright was short and dumpy and often wore the black broad-brimmed hat of the Quakers Bright was Quaker. Song of Jubilation 11 Feb. The Return of the Golden Age 12 Feb. Triumphal March 25 Feb. Cobden, Bright, and Gibson. Cobden, Bright and Gladstone only moderately happy 14 Apr. Cobden, Gladstone, and Bright showing themselves to be only moderately satisfied with the arrival of Peace? Cobden, Bright, and Sturges have too much leisure 18 Apr. Cobden, Bright, and Sturges are starting to realise taht peace has given them too much leisure" Daumier 7: Cobden, Bright, and Sturges no longer having anything to do in Europe 19 Apr. Cobden, Bright, and Sturges no longer having anything to do in Europe, set sail to pacify China. Cobden finding things to do in Peace time 23 Apr. The first meeting of the club was held at the Reform Club in London on 15 May and the first club dinner meeting was held on 21 July at the Star and Garter Hotel in Richmond which was presided over by William Ewart Gladstone who would serve as Prime Minister in " During the late 19th century and early 20th century the Cobden Club published a series of books and pamphlets defending the principles of free trade as the tide was turning against it throuhgout Europe. Although women could vote in County elections they could not serve if elected. Cobden was elected and took her seat which was challenged in court and she was fined. She included a number of illustrations and facsimiles which shed light on the activities of the ACLL. Possibly drawn to be used in ACLL propaganda. There is a very large sheaf of wheat the "Fairy Wheatsheaf" in the centre with the heads of Cobden and Bright near the base other heads are visible in the grass beneath and around the sheaf but this are hard to identify ; to the left is a destitute family which has been impoverished by tariffs; to the right is a prosperous family which has been enriched by free trade. The writing at the bottom of the page is hard to read but it is called "The fairy Wheatsheaf. TP of a book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Repeal Aug. Supporters of Free Trade could buy this Jubilee Pie Plate to show their solidarity with the movement. On the top it had a crust with a wheatsheaf design. Stray Papers by William Makepeace Thackeray. Being Stories, Reviews, Verses, and Sketches Edited, with an Introduction and Notes. By Lewis Saul Benjamin. Goods taken in Exchange. Buy my big loaf. Chandos starves us with a small loaf, and it is so musty, it gives me the belly-ache. My dear boy, that good-natured foreigner" Soldier. Would you give a bold Briton a two-shilling loaf for fourpence, and make him as miserable as yourself? This ugly soldier will shoot us. Come here, you fellow. Oh, dadada, run, run! I have a piece of calico that took me a week to weave: A quarter of prime wheat. And here must I work four weeks for Chandos before I can get the same quantity. London School of Economics. The Free Trade shop is full of goods note the size of the 4 d. The Protection shop is shabby, with few goods in the window note the small size of the 4 d. This poster contrasts the high prices in Germany which had high tariffs with what the British housewife is used to in low tariff England. The Liberal Party lost power in the election of to the Conservative Party the "Tories" but

returned to power in a landslide victory in the election. Tariff Reform League poster: The Election of In the Liberal Party lost most of its majority and had to rule in a coalition with other parties. In this protectionist poster the Free Traders are considered to be still in the horse and buggy age while the Protectionists the US and the other major European powers are shown to be more up to date and modern, driving an automobile. Imperial Tariff Committee poster: There is considerable anti-foreigner, anti-German and even anti-semitic sentiment expressed here. Note the well dressed man standing under the entrance to the Cobden Club, who is talking to a possibly Jewish money lender, the dachshund standing on the pavement, and the names of the speakers of the "Free Imports Meeting" organised by the Cobden Club Mr. Schmidt, Schwetter "sweater" , Blowoffski, and Dumpiani dumping.

### Chapter 5 : Notes on the anti-corn law struggle: calendrierdelascience.com: Andrew Bisset: Books

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The Peel Web I am happy that you are using this web site and hope that you found it useful. Unfortunately, the cost of making this material freely available is increasing, so if you have found the site useful and would like to contribute towards its continuation, I would greatly appreciate it. Click the button to go to Paypal and make a donation. The Anti-Corn-Law League Cobden and Bright The Corn Laws failed to stabilise wheat prices but produced little agitation beyond petitions to parliament and a small crop of pamphlets: The industrial revolution, which had exacerbated the problem, also provided a way of solving it by bringing into being a new middle class that included men such as Peel , Cobden and Bright, whose interest was with industry rather than land. Corn Law agitation became a moral issue, and therefore attracted support. Following the trade collapse of , attention was turned to free trade. If the Corn Laws and the remaining tariffs could be removed, there would be an endlessly expanding market for goods. The Anti-Corn-Law League was founded in Manchester in - the obvious centre, since Manchester depended on imported cotton and the Corn Laws were strangling trade. Initially it was called the Anti-Corn-Law Association, as had an earlier movement which had been founded in London in The movement intended to pressurise parliament for repeal of the Corn Laws: As Prentice said in the Manchester Times, "Nothing was to be expected even from a reformed parliament, without such an outward pressure as carried the Reform Bill". The Anti-Corn-Law League had modest beginnings - at first, only seven men were involved. Perhaps the most famous of the founders of the movement was Richard Cobden. He was a Manchester manufacturer who came from a Sussex farming background. He was an economist; cool and politically shrewd. Also he was a tactician and a rationalist. He spoke logically against the Corn Laws: He refused to merge the Anti-Corn-Law League with wider programmes of reform because he saw the advantages of a single policy, and saw the appeal to new industrial areas. He became MP for Stockport in He was the only man ever to beat Peel in debate in parliament. John Bright was a Quaker and a factory owner in Rochdale. He was a great orator who played on feelings by showing the Corn Laws creating poverty and distress. He was the epitome of Nineteenth Century liberalism. His followers regarded him as a prophet. He became MP for Rochdale in Asa Briggs said of Bright, "He related shifting practical politics to eternal truths of moral law". It is clear that Bright was by no means acceptable at this time to all Liberal groups and he had the good sense to realise this". In parliament, however, Cobden and Bright were a lethal combination. He also dealt with the election of free-traders as MPs, propaganda, public meetings, lecture tours, fund-raising activities and so on. He became MP for Wolverhampton in the late s. The Leaguers argued persuasively that repeal of the Corn Laws and subsequent free trade would: League members were a mixture of manufacturing and trading classes; often they were Dissenters or humanitarians. If a meeting takes place on the corn laws, and no person above the rank of a small tradesman attend it, what will the ten thousand say? Elliott complained of middle-class apathy. In September the Trade Unions decided to be non-political. At the November meeting, Harrison of the edge tools trade said, If the Corn Laws were abolished it would give the working man greater strength to resist other evils The Anti-Corn-Law League gave great prominence to this meeting. When at the end of his Chartist speech he asked the rhetorical question, "What do we want? Ebenezer Elliott and the Sheffield Iris , a liberal paper, initially were firm supporters of Chartism. In the Whig cabinet had allowed both the ballot and the Corn Laws to become open questions and C. At the same time the formation of the Manchester Anti-Corn-Law Association in followed the next year by the national Anti-Corn-Law League brought the issue before a wider public than that reached by the small group of free trade Radicals in the House of Commons. Strictly speaking, the government and the opposition were only disputing in over different degrees and methods of protection, but at the general election the popular cries of "Free Trade", "Cheap Bread" and " Big Loaf or Little Loaf? Finance was very important to the Anti-Corn-Law League. The Anti-Corn-Law League also presented their case in humanitarian and religious terms as well as

on economic grounds: In the decision was taken to start contesting elections and five Leaguers were elected, including Cobden. A great deal of energy was put into preparing for the general election of that year and the Anti-Corn-Law League used bribery, corruption and so on just as did all the other candidates and played a corrupt system to their own advantage. As Cobden said, You speak with a loud voice when you are talking from the floor of the House, and if you have anything to say which hits hard, it is a very long whip and reaches all over the kingdom. On the other hand, the Chartists lacked this foot-hold in parliament until much too late. Two petitions were presented at the first meeting of the new parliament, one supporting and one opposing the maintenance of the Corn Laws. Of the two leading signatories of the former, James Bennett of Cadbury House, Somerset, was a country squire and J. Pye Smith was a prominent Congregationalist Minister of moderate views who in previous years had tried to moderate Dissenting attacks on the Church of England. One reason for the early success of the League was its ability to win the support of the Dissenters and radicals against the Church and aristocracy. As part of its activity during and after the general election of a conference of seven hundred ministers of religion carefully stage-managed by the League was held at Manchester in August which passed a strong resolution condemning the Corn Laws on moral and humanitarian grounds. Cobden already had become important in Manchester politics and became MP for Stockport in the general election of In his maiden speech in the debate on the Address opposed the Corn Laws. I think it is better to use the word bread-tax than the corn law. A bread-tax is a good term to fix upon our opponents. In the second Chartist Petition failed; Lovett and Place went into self-help. Some working class men joined the Anti-Corn-Law League because they saw the Charter had failed to achieve its aims. However, after the first successes the Anti-Corn Law League lost its momentum, especially when Peel introduced his free-trade budget, income tax, and the corn bill in the spring of , all of which received a considerable amount of middle-class support. To keep up the agitation various extreme measures were considered by the League leaders. The Plug Plot of August was a strike by workmen against wage-reductions. However, League lecturers had been busy stirring up feeling in the affected areas and it was alleged both by Chartists and sections of the Tory press that the League had taken a hand in promoting the strikes and lockouts. There was no evidence of this, though Peel and Graham were dissatisfied at the conduct of some of the magistrates and held the League morally responsible for much of the disturbances. In the Anti-Corn-Law League extended its missionary efforts to the rural areas but this resulted in the League being attacked by the gentry and farmers. Agricultural Protection Societies were formed in many counties and in February they were given national leadership by the Central Agricultural Protection Society for the United Kingdom set up under the Duke of Richmond and the Duke of Buckingham. This network of associations provided the driving-force behind most of the opposition to Peel inside the Conservative party in A large number of pamphlets advocating protectionism appeared and the protectionists attempted to discredit their opponents by quoting the virulent language of League attacks on landowners and tenants. They also exposed the inconsistencies and contradictions in League statements about the effect of repeal on prices and wages. One pamphlet made effective use of this tactic and received so much publicity that by it had run into twelve editions. Peel left the chamber and Sidney Herbert had to answer in his stead. Also in the potato blight struck the United Kingdom but Ireland was the worst affected part of the country. It has been said that Peel repealed the Corn Laws to avert a total disaster in Ireland although such legislation would not have helped the Irish peasants. The campaign of the Anti-Corn-Law League has been successful and the organisation was dismantled. These materials may be freely used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with applicable statutory allowances and distribution to students. Re-publication in any form is subject to written permission. Last modified 4 March,

**Chapter 6 : Notes on the anti-corn law struggle. (Book, ) [calendrierdelascience.com]**

*Excerpt from Notes on the Anti-Corn Law Struggle Mr. Adam Scott was the author of two able pamphlets, entitled anti-corn Law Tract, No. 1. A Plea for the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws, with remarks on the land-tax fraud, London, and anti-corn Law Tract, No. 2.*

In revising my MS. On the 17th of January, , I received a note signed Adam Scott, stating that the writer had been requested to communicate with me on behalf of the Anti-Corn Law League. A day or two after, Mr. Cobden. After some correspondence and several conferences I received from Mr. Scott a letter, dated March 17, , stating that Mr. Cobden had requested him to make an appointment for the following day. On the 18th of March, , Mr. Cobden. In and the following three years the prospects of those who laboured for the repeal of the Corn Laws were not very good. When members of the League went into the agricultural districts the farmers did not give them a friendly reception. I have heard witnesses of the fact speak of the farmers on one occasion bringing the hose of a fire-engine to bear upon the Free Tradespeaker. Those who were travelling through the country to endeavour to diffuse some knowledge of political economy had to encounter not only hostile opinions, but the argumentum baculinum. One of those lecturers told me that at Dorchester, I think it was he observed a stalwart man in the front row of the audience with a large cudgel of which he appeared to make rather an ostentatious, not to say menacing, display. Of the argument which I drew up in the case submitted to me professionally on behalf of the Council of the Anti-Corn Law League, the Council printed at the time two thousand copies for distribution to Members of Parliament. Cobden was repeatedly applied to for copies, and he referred applicants to me. Among those who noticed my argument on the Land-Tax was a critic in a weekly publication, who described my argument as that of "a writer of Mr. Bright had been then alive he might fairly have urged the justice of commuting an obsolete burden for a moderate land-tax; but the latter impost, which still exists under that name, furnishes an ample equivalent for one of the least productive revenues which belonged to the Crown. The same hand which drew the Petition of Right drew up an account of a motion made at the Parliament in the eighteenth year of the reign of James I. This motion Coke stamps with his approbation, "hoping that so good a motion will some time or other, by authority of Parliament, one way or other, take effect and be established. The confidence with which this anonymous writer expressed himself on the subject of the Land-Tax, induces me to mention one of the numerous applications for a copy of my argument on the Land-Tax, because it shows, notwithstanding the judgment of this anonymous critic, that the soundness of the reasoning as well as of the legal learning of my argument has been stamped with the approbation of some of the highest legal authorities. In Michaelmas Term, , an eminent counsel—a Member of Parliament—who was engaged in a heavy land-tax case with the then Attorney-General, Sir Alexander Cockburn, afterwards Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, having applied to all the law booksellers, without effect, for a copy of the pamphlet which was out of print—indeed, I don't know that it was ever actually published for sale—I sent him a copy and received soon after the following note from him: Cobden, dated Manchester, 5th November, , in which he said: As the only way of making such an inquiry useful would be by having men of character and respectability to put their names to the report, it is thought that one person from Manchester and another from London would be best suited to the labour. The object would be simply an inquiry into facts, without meddling with theories, whether of Corn Law or Poor Law. Do you think you would be able to give six weeks to such an investigation, between this and Christmas, if the plan were carried out? Philip Holland, and myself took our departure for Salisbury. It will be of use in throwing light on the subject to give here the credentials, or at least the credential letter, dated 10th December, , and addressed to A. The following is a copy of the letter: Lambert, solicitor, Salisbury, and to Mr. Squarey, and they will, I am sure, not only give all the personal aid in their power, but also give you letters of introduction which will aid you in your inquiries in all parts of the country. I have sent you a list of names of parties to whom I would advise you to apply; and be good enough to use this letter as an introduction, if necessary. It was a very hard frost. I had been waiting all the evening to receive this credential letter from Mr. Cobden, who was in his bed-room, with a large fire, receiving people on business, of which he had a vast deal on his hands. He wrote this letter while I was in the room with him; and

it struck me as an example of his great aptitude for business that though he had been occupied for several hours by a succession of visitors who sought his counsel or direction on the business of the League, quite apart from the business on which I came to him, he immediately proceeded to write the letter above quoted, and with such precision and accuracy that he did not need to alter a word or even a letter, as I can see from the original letter now lying before me. I left London on Saturday, December 14th, I reached Salisbury towards evening the same day, and called on Mr. Lambert the same evening. Some time after my return to London, in January, , I made a report to Mr. Cobden of the result of my inquiries. I will refer in the fifth chapter to some points in my report that may appear of importance and interest; and I may say here that I found myself upon an engagement very difficult. Besides the difficulty of getting at the truth from the imperfect machinery we had for examining witnesses, there was getting up, in an unusually severe winter, at 4, or even sometimes 3 a. I first made a somewhat short report in order that Mr. Cobden might have it in his hands before making a speech on a certain day in the House of Commons. Some months after I made a longer and more elaborate report, in which I compared the condition of the agricultural labourers at that time in England with their condition at other times. I showed, on the best evidence I could obtain, that in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries the wages of the agricultural labourer in England were such as to procure for him nearly double the quantity of food which his wages between and procured; and that the wages obtained by him from to , as measured by the quantity of produce, were considerably less than in the period between and I also showed that under the combined operation of the Poor Law of and the Corn Law of the wages of agricultural labour were lower, and the condition of the agricultural labourer was worse than at any former period except that in which the Poor Law of Elizabeth was passed. In attempting to make a table of wages, the most that can be looked for is an approximation to the truth. Besides the difference of wages in different counties, there are the variations through the various seasons of the year—winter, summer, haytime, harvest. In a table which I drew up with great care to show the comparative amount of wages in pints of wheat from the fifteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century, I have taken the summer wages as the basis of the calculation, because that basis afforded greater facilities for comparison, from the fact that in the early rates of wages fixed at various times by the legislature, or by the magistrates acting under the authority of a legislative enactment, a certain scale of wages is always given from Easter till Michaelmas, with the exception of harvest, when a somewhat higher rate is allowed. It appears from this table, which was drawn up from the best authorities, which authorities are cited at the foot of it, that wages were much higher in the fifteenth century than they have ever been since; that, about the middle of the eighteenth century, they were higher than they had ever been since the sixteenth; that from the middle of the eighteenth century they declined till they attained a minimum about ; that, after the agricultural riots and burnings of , they rose considerably, so as to be for a time higher than they had been for upwards of fifty years. But the rise caused by the riots of and was only temporary. I subjoin the table to which I have referred. The wages here given are the general mean for the whole year.

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*Notes on the anti-corn law struggle. By Andrew Bisset.*