

# **BURNING QUESTIONS**

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Burning Questions by W. Peart-Robinson

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**W. PEART-ROBINSON**

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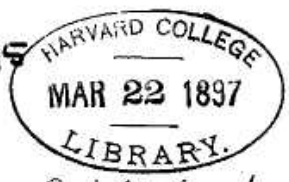
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## PREFACE.

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THE following Essays, of which the first appeared in the *Westminster Review* for April last, were originally intended to be a series of magazine articles. But the success which the first obtained at the hands of the press, has encouraged me to publish them together as a series of Essays. I have also appended a few press comments with the object of showing the views taken by the Press upon the subjects of which I treat.

I have endeavoured to mark the distinction between a prohibitive and a revenue tariff, and to insist upon the fact that revenue has to be obtained either by taxing home or foreign products, and, claiming whatever home products are taxed, the foreign competing ones should be subjected to a high taxation, and that whatever foreign products are exempted from taxation, the same home competing products should alike be exempted.

But, above all, I have asked for dispassionate reconsideration of the Free Trade controversy. Universal Free Trade would benefit some parts of the world at the expense of others; whether it would be good for England or the British empire may be left an open question. I think possibly it might, but what I am interested to discuss and ask people to consider is, among things attainable, what is best for England and the British empire under existing conditions. And, so far as I can judge, a magnificent opportunity is afforded us at present of a British Empire Free Trade Union, with a differential revenue tariff for all nations outside our empire more or less favourable to them according as they grant us more or less favourable conditions, and I commend this idea and the few poor suggestions I have been able by careful thought to advance to the common sense and quick intelligence of my neighbours, the working people of that busiest of workshops, Burnley and district, and, indeed, to all interested in the trade and prosperity of this country.

W. P. R.

REEDLEY HALL,  
*December, 1894.*



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