

**FISCAL LEGISLATION, 1842-1865, A  
REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL CHANGES  
OF THAT PERIOD, AND THEIR EFFECTS  
UPON REVENUE, TRADE,  
MANUFACTURES AND EMPLOYMENT**

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Fiscal legislation, 1842-1865, a review of the financial changes of that period, and their effects upon revenue, trade, manufactures and employment by John Noble

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**JOHN NOBLE**

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BY JOHN NOBLE.

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LONDON:  
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1867.

This Volume is Dedicated  
TO  
GEORGE WILSON, ESQ.,  
OF MANCHESTER,  
AS  
AN HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF  
THE INVALUABLE AND DISINTERESTED SERVICES,  
WHICH, AS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE,  
HE RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF  
FREE TRADE,  
AND TO THE PROGRESS OF  
FISCAL REFORM.

## P R E F A C E.

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THE writer of the following pages has endeavoured to present a clear and concise narrative of the fiscal changes adopted since 1842, and of their effects upon the revenue, trade, manufactures, and employments of the United Kingdom. The period under review has been marked by a series of bold financial measures, which have remodelled the details of British taxation, and have conferred upon this country a degree of prosperity unexampled in its previous history. These measures include the revision, on four separate occasions, of the Customs' Tariff, the repeal of the Corn and Navigation Laws, the abolition of the great majority of Customs and Excise Duties, and the negotiation and ratification of the French Treaty.

The arguments employed for and against these measures have been stated, as far as practicable, in the language of the various speakers as recorded in "Hansard's Parliamentary Debates." The statistical tables have been compiled from the annual statements issued by the Board of Trade and the Commissioners of Customs and Inland Revenue.

The author returns his grateful acknowledgments to the numerous gentlemen who have rendered valuable assistance in the prosecution of his work, especially to those who, by supplying information respecting the present rents of land, have enabled him to show that the development of free-trade principles is beneficial to the Landed Interest.



It has not been the aim of the writer to elaborate an argument in favour of Free Trade, but to prepare a simple narrative of facts. History is said to be Philosophy teaching by example; and he is satisfied that there can be no argument in favour of the abolition of all restrictions upon commerce more powerful than the history of recent changes in commercial legislation.

The substance of the work was originally published, as a series of articles, in the *Liverpool Mercury*. At the request of numerous readers of that paper, the author undertook their revision for publication in a collected form. A considerable portion of the work has been entirely re-written; and it is now issued in the hope that it may be the means of calling public attention to the necessity of extending free-trade legislation by the removal of unwise restrictions upon trade, and of aiding, both at home and abroad, the progress of sound commercial legislation.

LONDON, *July, 1867.*

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