POPULAR FALLACIES REGARDING TRADE AND FOREIGN DUTIES: BEING THE "SOPHISMES ÉCONOMIQUES" OF FRÉDÉRIC BASTIAT, LATE MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE

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EDWARD ROBERT PEARCE

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"SOPHISMES ÉCONOMIQUES"

OF

FRÉDÉRIC BASTIAT,

Late Member of the Institute of France.

ADAPTED TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY

EDWARD ROBERT PEARCE.

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PREFACE.

No work with which I am acquainted puts the *principles* of Free Trade more forcibly—by means of the most homely illustrations—than the "Sophismes Économiques" of Bastiat. The importance of being armed with principles cannot be over-estimated; they are a touchstone which should be ever at hand to test and explain the changing conditions of home and foreign trade. While figures change from day to day, principles remain unchanged.

In the following pages I have been able to reduce the "Sophismes" to nearly half their original size, the present phase of the controversy rendering much that was first written unnecessary. I have given the illustrations an English form, by changing francs to pounds, French names to English, &c., and a few illustrations which were somewhat out of date I have altered to suit the present time. Some new passages which have been introduced are included within brackets [ ]. I have made use of the English edition brought out in 1846 by the late Mr. Porter, the well-known author of the "Progress of the Nation."

E. R. P.

LONDON,
January 10th, 1882.

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