

fore the Convention of Tobacco Growers, which assembled at Washington on the 15th December last. It appears from a document then quoted, that in the year 1792 the duty on tobacco, in Ireland, was one shilling per pound, and that the consumption of that year was 1,767,591 lbs., and the amount of duty collected was *l86,379 7s*; the year following, 1793, the duty was reduced to *6d* per pound, and the consumption rose at once 5,568,857 lbs., and the amount of duty collected to *l139,221 8s*, showing a difference in favor of low duty *l52,842 1s*; and the succeeding year the consumption was still further increased to 9,426,211 lbs., and the amount of duty to the large sum of *l235,655 5s 6d*, showing a still further excess of revenue over the previous year *l96,433 11s 6d*. The year following, 1795, the duty was increased to *8d* per pound, and the consumption fell 7,874,409 lbs., and in the following year declined to 6,045,790 lbs., the duty collected amounted to *l201,526 6s 8d*, showing a declension of revenue below that of the last year; the duty stood at *6d* of *l34,128 18s 10d*. In the year 1798 the duty was again increased to *1s*, and the consumption went down to 4,894,121 lbs., very little more than half what it was the last year; the duty stood at *6d*. The speech referred to further states, that in the year 1785 Mr. Jefferson, who was then in France, succeeded in getting the government of that country to relax their restriction upon American tobacco, and the consequence was that the quantity imported into France that year was 55,000 hogsheads, notwithstanding the difficulties her trade labored under at that time. The quantity which she now receives is from 6 to 7000 hogsheads.

The foregoing statements disclose two important facts in this investigation: the first is, that the high rate of duties which have been imposed upon the importation and consumption of tobacco, by foreign nations, is not the best for them in a financial point of view; and secondly, it is that blind policy which causes, in a great measure, the depressed value of the article to the growers of it. If the duty was fixed at six pence, (and your committee consider that that would be a very high tax to levy on it, inasmuch as it is more than the growers have ever received for it, on an average heretofore, and would, in all probability, be as much as they would receive for it, should that be fixed as the rate of duty, upon its introduction into foreign markets,) the demand, in a very short time, would at least be doubled, which, upon the principle that the prices of articles are regulated by the relative amounts of demand and supply, we might