

WILEY & HALSTED  
WILL SHORTLY PUBLISH  
THE IRON MANUFACTURER'S GUIDE  
TO THE  
Furnaces, Forges, and Rolling Mills  
OF THE UNITED STATES,  
WITH MAPS;  
TO WHICH IS APPENDED A HISTORY OF THE MANUFACTURE OF IRON,  
A SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICS OF THE AMERICAN PRODUCTION  
OF IRON, AND A GEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION OF THE  
IRON ORES OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY J. P. LESLEY,  
SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN IRON ASSOCIATION, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF  
MANAGERS.

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HISTORY

OF THE

RISE AND PROGRESS

OF THE

IRON TRADE

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

FROM 1621 TO 1857.

WITH NUMEROUS STATISTICAL TABLES, RELATING TO THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION, AND PRICES OF IRON FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

BY B. F. FRENCH,

MEMBER OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, AND  
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, ETC., ETC.



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TO  
PROFESSOR ALEXANDER D. BACHE,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE U. S. COAST SURVEY,  
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED,  
TO EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION OF HIS  
EMINENT SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY ATTAINMENTS,  
AND THE HIGH VALUE I ATTACH TO HIS  
FRIENDSHIP.

*BENJ. F. FRENCH.*

*No. 94 Clinton Place, New York.*

## INTRODUCTION.



IN preparing this volume for publication, it has been my object to furnish a reliable work upon the Iron Trade of this country—showing its past and present condition, the obstacles it has had to contend with, and the effect of the free-trade principles which have crept into our legislation, and produced those financial revulsions which have, from time to time, brought ruin upon this branch of American industry.

There is no article of manufacture more important than iron—none in which it is more necessary that a nation should be independent of all the chances of war or commercial restrictions—the large employment of which is the chief characteristic of civilization, and should always be, if possible, a domestic production, and protected beyond the possibility of any contingency.

It is, no doubt, difficult to lay down any general rule as to the rate of protective duties. They should, however, be more than sufficient, in all cases, to protect the manufacture of any article which it is the design of a foreign government, foreign merchants, or foreign manufacturers to crush. It is an established fact, that, in many departments of English industry, those who are interested will not only carry them on at a loss for years, but furnish large sums of money besides to aid in retaining markets from which they are in danger of being excluded by commercial restrictions or industrial competition; and scarcely a branch of industry has sprung up in the United States which has not had, at first, to encounter a severe struggle, by the reduction of the price of the foreign article, below that which the new manufacture was expected to compete with.