

difficulties in the way of a political alliance. In comparison with the difficulties and remoteness of a change in political conditions, the simplicity and early possibility of a Commercial Union, through the creation of a reciprocal arrangement, are obvious. Those who desire above all things a Political Union will find that a commercial bargain between the two countries will best promote it. Certainly their desire will be indefinitely postponed if a policy of pressure, which finds its harshest interpretation in the McKinley bill, is persistently pursued. If such a pressure, or any other form of threat is indulged in, in order to force the Canadian people, the purpose of that pressure will be defeated. There is not on the face of the globe a people willing to make greater sacrifices than these for principle. Those who intimately and closely understand the question, feel that a postponement of a reciprocity is an indefinite postponement of Political Union. It is by no means certain that annexation will follow reciprocity. It is possible that as so much is granted under that wise and liberal principle, there will be no necessity for annexation. But it is a poor compliment to the free and liberal institutions of the United States to believe that they are not sufficiently attractive in the advantages they offer to draw a nation so much needing an alliance with them as the Dominion of Canada, without the necessity of a policy of force. If the Canadian people do not want to come into the Union willingly and cheerfully, and after a condition of preparedness on both sides, which a reciprocity alone will bring about, then the United States would be better off without them. If, on the contrary, after many years of the closest social and commercial intimacy, supplanting to a considerable degree the intimacy of the relation that now