

stand in need would be increased; our home markets would be improved; fresh scope would be afforded to our manufacturing trade; and a new era of progress and prosperity, exceeding anything of the kind heretofore experienced, would be inaugurated.

The immense increase in trade and population in a very short space of time in the United States is chiefly due to their efficient consular system.

Their export trade to Canada amounts to about fifty millions. Their consuls abound throughout the country. Everyone of them acts as an emigration agent. Besides, American railway companies employ numerous emigration agents throughout the country. Meanwhile, what are we doing in Canada? With an export trade of nearly forty millions of dollars annually to the United States: with an enormous tract of territory admitted on all hands to be more fertile than any in the United States open for free occupation: with the Eastern States overcrowded with small farmers having capital, and the cities with artisans who are unable to better their condition: with an intelligent enterprising population of nearly sixty millions at our doors requiring no persuasion and nothing but information with reference to this country to be supplied to them to induce them to take land in our North-West, we have not a single agent throughout the length and breadth of the United States; and practically no effort has been made to attract either population or capital thence to our shores. The sooner we adopt the system referred to the better. It may be some time before it will be thoroughly efficient, but when it is, and when by such means a considerable population has been attracted to our North-Western prairies and the vast mining regions of Lake Superior and British Columbia, and when our manufacturing trade has acquired strength and won its way in the markets of the world, we may perhaps advantageously consider the advisability of a commercial union, or the establishment of complete free trade with the United States. Then, also, with a consular system, the germ of a diplomatic service in working order, it may be proper to consider whether an alliance with Great Britain would not be more advantageous to both countries than that Canada should longer continue as a mere dependency.

Meanwhile, much may be done to improve trade relations between the United States and Canada in other directions.

The fishery question is one that should be settled upon its merits alone, apart from all other considerations.

The Americans have conceded that they have not the right to fish within certain limits of our shores, and if they want that privilege they can have it by establishing free trade in fish, and paying the difference in value between our fishing grounds and theirs, less whatever advantage their markets may be to our fishermen. In this way alone, we contend, is there a prospect of arriving at a fair settlement.

The question of the advisability of reciprocal free trade in natural products of the two countries is a different matter altogether. Since the last treaty was negotiated the circumstances of both countries have vastly changed. The United States have acquired a world-wide trade, and their profits will be increased in proportion to the decrease in cost of their raw material, whether that arises from proximity or any other cause. Nowhere can they get the material they require as good or as cheaply as they can here, and their forests are yearly becoming more distant than ours from their chief markets. Our coal and iron supplies are in some instances more easy of access to them; so it is for their own inter-

est to admit our natural products free now more than ever. At the same time we would derive a similar benefit, but to a much less extent.

Upon the whole, such an arrangement is only just to the inhabitants of both countries.

The adoption of a vigorous trade policy as suggested by our Government; the settlement of the fisheries difficulty, followed by reciprocity in natural products, would pave the way to such further mutual concessions as would be advantageous to both, and in such case it is reasonable to expect, without endangering or sacrificing British connection, or importing matters of sentiment into plain business transactions, that an arrangement may be evolved worthy of the intelligence of the people of both countries, adapted to the requirements of both, giving to the inhabitants of each any advantages to be derived from freer intercourse, and at the same time securing to our infant industries the protection and assistance they now have a right to expect from the people of Canada

J. B.

Book Notice.

NARRATIVE AND CRITICAL HISTORY OF AMERICA. Edited by Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University, etc. Vol. II. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: George Virtue.

The self-sufficient reviewer who takes up this volume with intent to pass a sweeping judgment upon it after a few hours' cursory examination of its pages will, unless his critical acumen has wholly deserted him, feel a strong inward prompting to stay his rash hand. This inward prompting will be all the stronger if he has some real knowledge of the subject-matter, and if he happens to be endowed with something approaching to a true consciousness of the magnitude of the task with which he has been entrusted. A little learning is proverbially a dangerous thing, and the sciolist who undertakes to pronounce upon a book like this is tolerably certain to become a laughing-stock to all readers who have a proper appreciation of how much is involved in judicious book reviewing. When a man has gained a sufficient perception of himself to be conscious of serious limitations—in other words, when he has become wise enough to know his own ignorance—he may fairly be said to have learned a valuable lesson, and to have made some progress on the high-road to knowledge.

It is probably safe to say that no general historical work has ever come forth from the American press which reflects higher credit upon all persons connected with its publication, or which more richly deserves to be carefully studied, than the one now under consideration. It is written on the only plan whereby it is possible to secure thorough workmanship in every department. When Mr. Tytler or Mr. Anybody Else puts forth a Universal History written entirely by himself, we know quite well that his labours, as a whole, cannot have any great value. We know that we must not look for much beyond mere compilation, and that there can have been no serious endeavour to examine and weigh original authorities. The field is altogether too wide for any man to travel over it all, and to note everything worth noting during his journey. No one human being can be said to *know* the history even of America alone. He may have a more or less general idea of the course of events. He may know the fate of Montezuma and Atahualpa, and may have some inkling of