

of the British Isles, no country takes as large an amount from them as we do. This memorandum was completed on the 27th of April and was immediately communicated to Mr. Fish. It was referred to the Treasury Department for examination, and remained in its hands for several weeks. Its facts and figures were closely examined and their accuracy acknowledged fully and frankly. From that time there was a manifest improvement in the impressions as to the character of Canadian commerce, of such persons as took the trouble to read the memorandum, and these were not a few; and the progress of the negotiations was sensibly accelerated. The attention of the United States public press was aroused to the importance of the question, the merits of the proposed Treaty were thoroughly canvassed, and, though severely criticized by the Ultra-Protectionist organs, I have no recollection of any similar measure being received with such general favour by the leading papers of the Republic as was accorded to our *projet*. In New York, the *Tribune*, *Herald*, *Times*, *World*, *Evening Post*, *Express*, *Journal of Commerce*, *Graphic*, *Mail*, and many other leading exponents of public opinion, all declared in favour of a new Treaty; and in Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other great cities, the unanimity of opinion among the leading journals was equally remarkable. I cannot pass from this part of the subject without referring to a charge that originated in Philadelphia, and was echoed far and wide over the Continent—aye, even in Canadian journals—that this unanimity of the press was obtained by the corrupt use of Canadian public money. The charge is utterly without foundation—it has not a vestige of truth to palliate its concoction. (Hear, hear.) Not one shilling has been spent illegitimately to promote the negotiation, and a final answer to this and all similar charges is found in the fact that the entire cost of the negotiation to the people of Canada, including all necessary disbursements, will amount to little more than four thousand dollars. The negotiations now went on from day to day; the several clauses of the *projet* were discussed, al-

terations suggested, modifications adopted; the draft Treaty, as it now stands, submitted for the approval of the three Governments; and all that remained to make it ready for signature was the clear definition for custom-house purposes of some articles in the free lists; and the correction of the appearance of ambiguity in the wording of one or two passages. It had been understood that Congress would be unable to adjourn before the end of July; but unexpectedly the determination was arrived at to adjourn on the 22nd of June, and that day was near at hand. The Secretary of State suggested that the draft Treaty, as it then stood, should be sent down by the President of the United States to the Senate for advice, and it favorably entertained by that body, the necessary corrections of language could be made and the Treaty formally executed. It was of course for the United States Government to judge as to the mode of obtaining the sanction of the Senate, and the plan suggested was adopted. The draft Treaty only reached the Senate two days before the adjournment of Congress, when it was quite impossible to discuss and decide so large and complicated a question as its adoption involved, and the consideration of it was accordingly adjourned to the next ensuing session. We come now, honorable gentlemen, to the consideration of the several provisions embraced in the draft Treaty as transmitted to the Senate by the President of the United States. And let me say to you, very frankly, that I do not stand here to-day to contend that the conditions of this bargain are more favorable to Canada than to the United States. On the contrary, I believe that in a commercial treaty between a people of forty million souls and one of four million, it is almost in the nature of the thing that to the larger country the greatest advantages must accrue. But greatly advantageous as this Treaty must be to our friends across the lines—if it ever goes into operation—there is enough in it, I venture fearlessly to assert, to set the wheels of industry in motion on this side the lines, and to give a new impetus to the development of our great natural resources, as would amply compensate us for all the concessions we