

wealth of a country in the hands of a favoured minority, there must shortly be a hapless and discontented majority ready to strike so soon as the cause of distress is seen with the clearness of practical conviction. The McKinley Bill is the product of an era distinguished, beyond all precedent, for the corruption of the machinery of popular government by bribery on a scale of hugeness comporting with the largeness of American ideas in general. It has a parallel, in this respect, in our Protective system. Nothing much better than the McKinley Bill could be devised as a means of practically testing the comparative merits of Free Trade and Protection over so wide an area as that of the United States. In that respect it is an important contribution to economic science. It will in the upshot, we have little doubt, prove to be also an important contribution to the progress of commercial and industrial liberty. There are parts of it which as Canadians we must deplore, and which will probably inflict upon us temporary loss and distress, yet in the end we may be glad to see it passed in its unmitigated deformity. Combined with the equally suicidal policy of our own Government, it may produce a revolt which will overturn the whole edifice of iniquity. Let it be noted that in England Mr. Gladstone, while he has changed on almost every other question, remains firm in his adherence to Free Trade and scouts the idea that Protectionism under the name of Fair Trade or of any other *alias* has a chance of success in Great Britain. Our Imperial Federationists therefore may lay aside any ideas of a Tariff Union or of discrimination in favour of the Colonies, not that our protected manufacturers desire anything of that kind, for to their loyal minds the exclusion of British goods is the first object of commercial legislation.

—So far we had written when there suddenly came Mr. Blaine's letter transmitted by the President to Congress and recommending that authority be given to the President to de-