

trade relations of the two countries on the best basis, while all the hobgoblins which politicians conjure up to scare the people from the pursuit of their real good would disappear.

There was no mistaking the fact that the return of the Republicans to power boded ill not only for tariff reform but for the improvement of trade relations with Canada. The Republicans are on the whole not only the Protectionist but the Jingo party; indeed Protectionism and Jingoism usually go together, because it is the interest of the Jingo to keep up national feeling against the foreigner whose goods he wishes to exclude. Hopes were entertained of Mr. Blaine, who it was thought might read the stars and have an eye to the future. Mr. Blaine is a man of sense. But his part as a Republican leader is cast, and even if he were ready for a change himself he could not carry his party round with him. A protected manufacturer cares for the party only because it opposes tariff reform. Sir Robert Peel's personal ascendancy, towering as it was, failed to carry his party with him in his change of policy on the Corn Laws. It might have seemed indeed that Commercial Union, which would reduce revenue and at the same time extend trade without prejudice to the principle of Protection, was the very policy to suit the Republicans situated as they were; but probably the blind Protectionists recoiled from the removal of restriction of any kind. Nor should it be forgotten that Mr. Hitt continues to press a resolution in favour of closer trade relations with good hope of its acceptance by the House of Representatives. We shall presently see whether the farmers will swallow the bait. Meantime we may note with hope an incipient split, which is not unlikely to widen, in the Protectionist party itself. A Protectionist policy when there is any diversity among local interests and all have to be alike protected becomes a very tangled web, as our Government in its dealings with the flour duty has just had reason to acknowledge. The tariff has hitherto been regulated in the interest of the Protectionists of the Eastern States; but Western interests have now found championship in the Ways and