

Six million prosperous people, enjoying practical independence, are asked to give up the right to make their own tariff for the sake of freer trade with their neighbors. It is reasonable to suppose that if the Canadian provinces were peaceably annexed to the United States, the people sharing in all the rights of American citizens, the new states would make equal progress with the old states contiguous to them. Perhaps they would even maintain their present rate of growth, which has been shown to be greater than that of the states south of them. But the outcome of a Canadian-American liaison, whether under the name of commercial union, or "unrestricted reciprocity," would be almost complete stagnation on the Canadian side of the boundary. Politically dependent on Great Britain, and commercially dependent on the United States, the Dominion would be like a legless man with a broken crutch on one side and an ill-fitting wooden leg on the other. No one could believe in the permanency of such an arrangement, and capitalists could not be induced to invest in a country with such an uncertain future. The tariff being abolished, by locating in such border cities as Buffalo and Detroit, manufacturers would be able to reach the Canadian markets as advantageously as if they were in Canada, while they would be in a much better position as regards the American market. It is absurd to suppose that any American manufacturer would remove to Canada, where he would have no voice in making the tariff, when he could carry on his business with both countries just as well from the border cities of the United States. Boston would take from Montreal the trade of the maritime provinces; Detroit and Buffalo would do the manufacturing for central Canada, and St. Paul and Minneapolis would together form the metropolis of the Canadian Northwest. Buffalo and Detroit would gain most by such a liaison, and Toronto would suffer most. The South-western peninsula of Ontario, the most populous section of Canada, is nearer to Detroit and Buffalo than to Toronto, or any other large Canadian city. Even with complete annexation Toronto, which now almost monopolizes the wholesale trade of this section, would have to share it with Buffalo and Detroit. With "unrestricted reciprocity," or commercial union, such as Mr. Wiman proposes, these American cities would not only cut out Toronto, but would also grow at the expense of Hamilton, London, and all the smaller cities of the peninsula, which could not hope to secure many new manufacturing industries so long as the country had no voice in the making of the tariff. If a Canadian-American tariff-making Parliament were established, the Canadian manufacturers would probably be consulted to some extent in framing the tariff, but very few capitalists would invest in the Dominion,