

Divested of the sophisms with which its advocates surround it, the boon, for boon it would be, is the free admission of our raw productions into the markets which the people of the United States, by their protective tariff, have created for themselves, and that without subjecting ourselves to any portion of the burthens by which these markets were sustained—a most disinterested and generous proposition on our part certainly, and its rejection loudly calls for vindictive measures! This continual whining for reciprocity upon our bended knees was utterly contemptible. Had not the people of the United States a perfect right to regulate their commerce as they deemed most for their advantage, without our being offended at it? Are we so blind as not to see that granting what we desire would be contrary to their national policy? Did not we, all of us, perfectly understand the aggrandizing spirit that pervades the great mass of that people, who fondly believe that Canada's becoming a portion of their republic was only a question of time; who anticipated we should drop, like a ripe plum, into their bosom? With such a view, is it not their interest and wisdom to keep prominently before the eyes of our people the supposed disadvantages arising from our colonial position? If we could change places with the people of the United States, to-morrow, would not that be our policy? The hon Inspector General had repeated, for the nine hundred and ninety-ninth time, that Reciprocity had never been negatived by Congress; that it had received the sanction of the House of Representatives, and only failed in the Senate, from having been delayed by unforeseen circumstances; and it was sure to be obtained some time or other, either by diplomacy or in some other way. Now, the particular way in which the hon gentleman thought it was to be obtained was by shewing the Americans, who, he said, were noted for their close dealing, and would part with nothing without an equivalent, the value of our trade, by imposing restrictions; that was the course to pursue with them: and thus the hon gentleman would get his heart's desire at last. He reminded him of a spoiled child crying for the moon. He (Mr G) felt it his duty to oppose this favourite measure of the hon gentleman's, not only because he was not prepared to sacrifice the whole commercial interest of Canada West, to build up Montreal,—an interest the hon gentleman had thought fit to designate, as *moved by the most paltry and selfish motives*; a designation for which the Upper Canada merchants would doubtless feel grateful to the hon gentleman, who, they well knew never was governed by paltry or selfish motives himself; but he was opposed to the measure upon provincial grounds; it was unwise in a national point of view. It was a matter of notoriety, that our people engaged in the fisheries were decidedly placed in a less advantageous position than those of like occupation in the United States, arising from the system of bounties extended by their government to the latter; that fact had been freely admitted this session from all sides of the House. The hon Inspector General had that night himself admitted that our farmers and mechanics were in a similar position, as com-

pared with the agriculturists and mechanics of the Union—and that, because of their protective tariff. Now, we all knew that the large majority of commercial men in Montreal had openly declared, a few years ago, in favour of Annexation. Was it then wise, with these facts before our eyes, to adopt a policy highly injurious to the interests of the commercial classes in Canada West, and to cause them to feel that their material interests would be benefitted by joining the Union? He declared that if he was an annexationist, that would just be the policy he should desire to see carried out. If it accomplished anything, it would accomplish that; it was a miserable fallacy to suppose it would obtain the object for which the hon Inspector General advocated it: on the contrary, the first effect would be to stimulate the Americans to proceed with the enlargement of the Erie Canal. The people of Buffalo, he was told, were in extacies at the announcement of the hon gentleman's policy; and the only rational conclusion that he could arrive at was the probability of the loss of that portion of the American trade we now enjoy, should that hon gentleman's views be adopted by the House.

The resolution he was about to propose in amendment had a definite object, an end to be attained; that object was nothing less than to make the very revenue we were compelled to raise for the exigencies of the State foster and encourage our native industry: its operation is not proposed to be confined to goods imported from the United States, or from any other country singly, but to apply to all imports, come from where they may, or whatever their place of origin, with the single exception of our sister Colonies in America. That was the course that naturally suggested itself as proper and wise whenever the interests of Canada, irrespective of those of any other country, were consulted as a paramount consideration. The vote on the amendment would show the sense of the House and would be a test whether they were favourable to such a revision of our present tariff as would tend to foster and encourage our native industry—and whether they were prepared to adopt such a permanent policy as would stimulate industry and encourage manufactures. British and Canadian tariffs had never made that a primary object. Our first commercial regulations were imposed by the Imperial Parliament shortly after the Conquest; the 14th George the third was the first legislation upon the subject after Canada became British; a reference to that statute would show that its spirit and object was to promote British interests, not Canadian; it imposed the first differential duties for that purpose, and all subsequent British legislation was animated by the same spirit;—all articles not the production or growth of the United States were prohibited from entering Canada from that country. All productions of the United States that could compete with British productions were subjected to high duties, oil and the produce of the fisheries, for instance. Not satisfied with allowing the people of Great Britain thus to take care of themselves at our expense, we aided them as far as we could by our own legislation. British goods then entered

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