

would be the measure of their purchasing power of British goods when allied to this country, either by a treaty of reciprocity, or when joined by commercial or by actual union, and then occupied by a dense, busy and prosperous population?

I am very glad to see that this question is being taken up by important commercial bodies and by the press, irrespective of political parties. The late political contest in this State has been disgraced by misrepresentations of the policy of the Secretary of State, and by incitements to violent resistance to the claims of Canada made by hack politicians, even by some holding high places, whose malignity can only be excused or palliated by imputing to them a want of capacity to grasp the economic problems upon which the people will soon be called to decide.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

EDWARD ATKINSON.

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BOSTON, November 19th, 1887.

F. B. THURBER, ESQ., CHAIRMAN, ETC.:

MY DEAR SIR:—There is great virtue in an IF. The object of my recent letter to you was to call attention to the mutual benefit which would accrue to the people of the whole Dominion of Canada and of the United States if arrangements could be made for freedom of traffic by Commercial Union through reciprocity of trade, or otherwise.

In order to bring this main subject carefully and clearly before the mind of the reader, I suggested certain hypothetical conditions which might have happened, or which might now be brought about. Among these assumed conditions, I suggested that IF *we could buy* Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island, with the fisheries, we should thereby settle the fishery question, and at the same time secure the most complete benefit of a commercial union with the people of these specific Provinces.

This somewhat audacious proposal has attracted the attention of all who have read the letter, somewhat as it did when I first made the suggestion at a dinner party in Manchester, England, during a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It did not occur to me, when making it, that such a proposition could be seriously entertained; but it was taken up in so serious a manner by the gentlemen present at the dinner party, as to make it seem worth while to present this alternative for the chief purpose of attracting the fullest attention to the main subject, but with the possibility that even this method of adjustment might, on its own merits, be entitled to consideration.

In order that it may receive any consideration, one must wholly discard all ideas respecting national pride, political jealousy, and other similar conceptions, by which a plain, simple business transaction among nations