

confer with Sir Edward Thornton, and, as a private citizen boarding at a hotel, ascertain the material out of which he could, when he should be commissioned to treat with our government, organize a corps of claquers and lobbyists to influence the opinion of American senators. The time had not yet come for active operations; but it would be no disadvantage to him to be on familiar terms with the representatives and managers of such journals as might be induced to support his project, and he made the intimate acquaintance of some such gentlemen. Having accomplished thus much he returned to Canada to set his machinery in motion and induce the Privy Council to act, and did not return till he had been commissioned to co-operate with her Majesty's minister. But when he did return he was not demonstrative. To have opened the subject in March or April might have brought it to the attention of our people and aroused opposition. Mr. Brown was quite too politic for this: and it was not till about the 10th of May that the articles he had prepared began to appear in free-trade journals in various parts of the country. Though he has but little versatility of style, Mr. Brown is evidently industrious and fond of using his pen. Having seen his articles in the papers to which they had been sent, he republished them in broadsides such as this [exhibiting one], and with these concentrations of his wisdom and of his American patriotism he flooded the mails of unsuspecting members and senators. This sheet contains twenty-six articles, and I find the earliest that bears date was published on the 16th of May, one on the 20th, one on the 23d, one on the 25th, one on the 26th, one on the 27th, one on the 28th, one on the 29th, one on the 30th, and one on the 31st; one on June 1, one on June 2, one on June 3, two June 5, one on June 8, and the others are without date. What effect these able editorials and patriotic broadsides may have had upon the State Department, or the President, I have no means of knowing, but that they failed to convince the judgment or awake the enthusiasm of any portion of the people, you will, I am sure, bear witness. In justice to Mr. Brown, I should perhaps suggest that it must have been his love of editorial labor that tempted him to so flagrantly transcend the limits of the province of an accredited diplomatic agent as to thus attempt to influence popular and senatorial opinion and action on questions pending before the government to which he is accredited. If I err in ascribing to him these articles, which are as like to each other in style and matter as eggs or peas, I am far from being alone in the error.