

## II.

MOST important and most obvious among the reasons which favor a complete reciprocity of trade with Canada, is the advantage which will accrue to both countries from the increase of the markets for their respective products. We shall be admitted to Canada; the Canadians to the United States. Their country is one of colder climate than ours, its products are therefore different, and its markets call for other products than those which its own soil affords. The supply of this demand is a legitimate commerce. Interchange of commodities between countries so situated is a movement of nature. And in this case its naturalness is increased by the configuration of the border line. The Canadian provinces impinge upon the United States much more than they do upon each other. They lie in groups, each of which has its closest geographical relations, not with the other groups, but with the adjoining part of this country. The Maritime Provinces find their counterpart in Maine; Quebec and Ontario join upon New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Michigan; while Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest is the trade associate of Minnesota, and our Territories westward to the Pacific. Interchange across the line, between these closely joined regions, is as natural as the flow of rivers, and whatever may be done to check it, and to force a trade movement east and west through Canada, passing from one to the other of its severed groups, is done against the physical laws of their situation and interest.

In view of this, the burden of the present system of custom-house barriers, by which Canada repels our trade, and we, on our part repel hers, becomes unreasonable. Here is not only one line, but actually *two lines*, of custom-houses, and customs officers, maintained along the enormous stretch of territory