

The Canadians are Opposed to the Treaty.

The people of Canada do not desire this treaty. Indeed, they justly dread it more than we have reason to. They see that it is replete with causes of misunderstanding between the United States and Great Britain, and that more than one of these are grave enough to be a possible cause of war. In such an event Canada would be the battle-field; for with the British frontier brought to the heart of our country it would be impossible to defend it except by over-running Canada, blockading the St. Lawrence, and maintaining an adequate line of defence at a point east of Quebec. I have observed several allusions to this possibility in Canadian discussions of the question. But on other points they speak more freely. The *Hamilton Spectator*, in a thoughtful article concerning the treaty, said:—

“Not only does this treaty propose free trade between us and the United States, but it involves free trade between us and Great Britain. It is not to be supposed that the British government has consented to the treaty without stipulating for the same privileges for their own people as are to be accorded to those of the United States. It has long been the settled policy of the empire that no other nation shall obtain a favored position in the markets of the colonies. And it is not at all probable that Mr. Disraeli would consent to a different policy without the consent of Parliament. Even if he did, the public sentiment of England would condemn the act and demand its reversal. Beyond a doubt the acceptance of this treaty means free trade with both the United States and Great Britain. Is there a sane man in Canada who believes our infant manufacturing industry can withstand the shock of that combined assault? But this free trade is not only fraught with ruin to our manufacturing industry, but it also dries up the main source of our present revenue. Now the national works which the faith of the country is pledged to carry out, require that our revenues should be increased, not diminished. From what source, then, is that increase and the deficiency caused by the treaty to be made good? Every one will see that direct taxation is our only resort under such circumstances.”

In another article, approving the protest of the Dominion Board of Trade against the treaty, the same paper says: “It is folly any longer to disguise the fact that unless we are saved by the United States Senate we are on the eve of a crisis which ought to make thoughtful men pause and consider. If this ‘leap in the dark’ is once taken, it cannot, unfortunately, be recalled, even if the authors of it become convinced of their mistake. For nearly a quarter of a