

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. PRESIDENT:—

The Senate having postponed action upon the Treaty submitted for confirmation just previous to the adjournment of Congress, and the public press having fortunately caused removal of the seal of secrecy to which it had been subjected, opportunity has been thus afforded for public examination of the question of our relations with the British provinces, and to that end I venture to invite your attention to the brief statement of facts which will now be given, as follows:—

Somewhat more than four years since, in June, 1870, the two houses of Congress by a joint resolution instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a special agent charged with inquiring into "the extent and state of the trade between the United States and the several dependencies of Great Britain in North America;" and in conformity therewith that officer selected for the performance of a duty so important Mr. J. N. Larned, a gentleman who appears, by his report of Jan. 28, 1871, now before me, to have been actuated by no feeling other than that of a sincere desire to obtain for himself, and for public use, an accurate idea of the effects which had resulted from the adoption of reciprocity, so called, in 1854, and from its repudiation in 1865, in compliance with an almost unanimous demand to that effect, at the close of the first decade of its existence.

To some of the facts thus obtained and reported it is that I now, Mr. President, invite your attention, as follows:—

In the last year of the previous system, 1854, as therein is shown, the imports from Canada amounted, in round numbers, to \$6,700,000, our exports meanwhile somewhat exceeding \$15,300,000, the balance being favorable to the Union to the extent of \$8,600,000. In the last of the Treaty years, to wit, in 1866, the six millions of imports in 1854 had grown to forty-six millions, our fifteen millions of exports of this latter year having remained throughout almost entirely unchanged, and the balance having become adverse to the extent of more than thirty millions; thereby enabling our northern neighbors to profit to that large amount by selling in the dearest markets, and applying the proceeds to purchasing in the cheapest ones.