

loosen the bond of connection with the mother country, in the maintenance of which, it seems to be thought, shoddy has more influence than affection. There are two commercial policies for this country, of which every statesman, if he wishes to have firm ground under his feet and to be consistent in his utterances, must choose one. You may either determine to keep Canada economically apart from the continent to which geographically she belongs, and to connect her artificially with England, and with more remote countries; or you may determine to follow the course of nature, and identify Canada economically with her own continent. In the first of these policies, mingled with the economical element, there is a large measure of social sentiment. It is closely connected with the desire, cherished by the aristocratic party in England and its allies here, of erecting the northern part of this continent into a great outwork of the English aristocracy, so as to prevent the final triumph of democratic institutions in the New World. The second policy, on the other hand, is congenial to those who either are democratic in their own sympathies, or hold that the triumph of democracy in the New World is inevitable; and that Canada, if she is made the instrument of a desperate struggle to prevent it, will herself be brought to ruin. The first policy is pursued by the present Government, in perfect consistency with the antecedents of its leading members, though it is already involved in the perplexity and inconsistency caused by the expensiveness of the Imperialist system, which compels its champions to cross and compromise their own main purpose by levying duties, for the sake of revenue, on English goods. The second would be the policy of the Opposition, and the flag under which it would march to attack its enemy, were its Liberal element predominant and able to direct its movements as a whole. But, instead of this, the ruling element is one, if not more anti-continental, more violent and vituperative in the expression of that sentiment than the Tories themselves, who have not gone to Washington for a Reciprocity Treaty and come back forlorn. By the ravings