

## RECIPROCITY.

THE United States and Spain have made a reciprocal trade arrangement as regards the Island of Cuba which will give the Americans, on and after September 1st, a free market in Cuba for their bacon, hams, lard, tallow, oats, barley, hay, rye, straw, fruits, vegetables and farm produce generally, and fish; and on January 1st, the Cuban duty upon flour will be but \$1 per barrel, this latter arrangement giving the entire trade of the island in flour of the United States to the exclusion of all Spanish flour; and on July 1st, of next year, large discrimination in duties will be made in favor of many other articles of American manufacture.

As a matter of course the Grit orators and newspapers point to the fact that the only way Canada can escape the unfavorable effect of this treaty is by unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. Among the American articles which will be allowed to enter Cuban ports free after September 1st, are lumber and fish, and as regards these, Canada will be struck pretty hard. The Cuban lumber duties run from \$4.80 to \$12 per thousand feet, and fish pays about a cent per pound, but it is difficult to see how Canadian fish and lumber can be admitted into Cuba, and receive the benefit of the American treaty, even if they are shipped, not from Canadian but from American ports. If the Cubans were pleased to blind themselves to the fact that the spirit of the treaty was thus being evaded, and if the Americans would also wink at the deception, Canada might continue to do some business with Cuba in this way; but it is not likely that either country would be willing to the arrangement, and, therefore, Canada would be shut out, receiving no benefit whatever through alliance with the United States in that country's arrangement with Cuba. But if such an arrangement were possible, and that Canadian produce could be sent to Cuba under the Spanish treaty, through ports of the United States, it is certain that no shipments could be made direct; and in this fact it is seen that under the most favorable conditions of reciprocity with the United States Canada would be forced to sacrifice and surrender her export trade to Cuba from her own ports to the aggrandisement of American foreign commerce and American ports. Is it worth our while to make the sacrifice?

We are told that Great Britain considered this treaty between Spain and the United States would be of great disadvantage to her. Of course it will be, even as the American treaty with Brazil is a great disadvantage, but what is she going to do about it? The Americans are felicitating themselves that ere long even the British West Indian Islands will be asking to have reciprocity with them, and if they do ask it they will probably get it, and then what will Britain do about that? What can she do? Absolutely nothing; that is to say she can do nothing but hold her hands and look despairingly and helplessly on and see the trade of her own possessions drift away from her, going to enrich her most formidable competitor, the United States, unless she abandons her present fiscal policy and makes arrangements whereby the products of all her possessions shall receive discriminating favors in British ports as against the products of other nations. If this were done Britain would certainly retain the trade of all her possessions, and prevent its being diverted to the United

States; and she would then be in the position to do just what the United States is doing—forcing other countries to show her tariff favors in return for like favors shown them. Mr. Blaine finds the McKinley tariff a powerful and effective lever to force open the doors in the tariff walls of other countries for the favored admission of American products—Lord Salisbury has no such lever, and can only hope against hope that at sometime in the sweet by and bye the Cobden millennium will come.

We are pleased to observe, however, that a strong feeling is being rapidly developed in Great Britain which demands that a protective tariff be adopted, and tariff discrimination be made in favor of British possessions and of such nations as do not unfairly discriminate against her.

## FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE.

A FEW days ago a correspondent of one of the city papers made an appeal in behalf of the female workers in the factories. He alluded to the "flinty-hearted" employers who compelled their help to work for starvation wages; how girls, who are doing piece work and able thereby to earn only about sixty-five cents per day, find themselves hedged around with shop rules, regulations, fines, etc., which reduces the small remuneration, and says:—"The goods are selling at the old prices and trade is brisk, still the employer gives another turn to the screw and grinds his poor work people a little closer. Yet we read and hear so much about the enlightened age in which we live—the advanced state of civilization! But there is nothing in all this that seems to soften men's hearts and make them more considerate of their fellow-creatures, who are compelled to toil from morn till night for bread to eat." This correspondent asks why the City Council should not try their hand at framing a by law which would remedy the evil of inadequate wages, and calls upon the pastors of the city churches to exhort the masters, who are professing Christians, to "remember their servants" and employees.

Of course, if this correspondent possessed any correct conception of the constitution of society he would not suppose that there was any possible power residing in the City Council, or in any other government, to regulate this matter, or that appeals from the pulpit could have any influence in this direction. But this communication is in strong contrast with many of the advertisements of business houses published in the same paper, and which throw considerable light upon the question. One concern offers to sell household furniture at twenty per cent. discount from previous prices. Another, also offering furniture, says: "We can quote some figures that will stagger you. The truth is, there has been a break in prices—that they have been shattered all to pieces." Another offers lines of hats for men, boys, girls and children, "all reduced about one half." Another offers ladies capes in many styles, the prices of which have been reduced to half price. Another advertises a "sensational sale" of dress goods at which "panic prices" will be only nominal when the quality of the goods and their real value are reckoned up. Another, offering "a large assortment of morning wrappers for ladies, made up in prints, sateens and cashmerettes, says: "The stock is all of our own make, and shoppers can rely on the workmanship of each