

an international reputation, explained to me how it was possible to discriminate against the property of a non-Catholic ; but I need not elaborate that point here. I am firmly convinced that, so long as Quebec remains French in speech, and renders spiritual allegiance to Rome, it will be many years behind the rest of the Dominion.

Englishmen have been led to believe that Canada's loyalty would make the Dominion buy British goods, and give the preference to British wares, even if it involved some sacrifice on her part. That might have been true half a century ago, it might even have been true before Confederation ; but the Act which transmuted a series of scattered Provinces into a Dominion gave birth to a policy which was a political necessity. The Members of the first Canadian ministry after Confederation were Protectionists, moved by the same reasons which influenced Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists. In Canada as well as in the United States, it was the belief of statesmen that, unless domestic manufacturers were protected by a tariff against foreign competition, native industries would be crushed. The United States erected a barrier against England : Canada barred her southern border to check American imports. This policy worked fairly well for seven years ; but the Liberals were forced, as a party expediency, to advocate Free Trade in opposition to their political opponents. In the Dominion, even more than in the United States, the tariff is a party question. In Canada, unlike England, a man cannot be a Liberal or a Conservative on the question of the surrender or control of Egypt, or of the reversal or perpetuation of a traditional foreign policy, because Canada does not concern herself about international statecraft. There is no Silver question in the Dominion. The practical politician must rally his forces around the standard of Protection or of Free Trade.

The Conservatives having raised the banner of Protection, the Liberals, *nolens volens*, planted themselves in the citadel of Free Trade. Their policy was the antithesis of their rivals. The Conservative *raison d'être* for Protection was fear of American competition ; and, if incidentally Great Britain was discriminated against, it was unfortunate, but a minor evil compared with the beneficent results following from "Canada for the Canadians." The Liberals, on the other hand, maintained that, if Canadian products could find a market in the United States, the Canadian farmer and the Canadian manufacturer would profit thereby. It followed naturally that, when the Liberal Government came into power, in 1874, the Liberals