

figures of the tonnage employed in the fisheries during the period of reciprocity in Canada from 1854 to 1867, as compared to the tonnage employed in the cod and mackerel fishery during the last fourteen years from 1873 to 1886. These figures are as follows:

Tonnage of vessels of all kinds engaged in the cod and mackerel fisheries of the United States from 1854 to 1867,	
average per year, - - - - -	250,000 tons.
Tonnage of vessels of all kinds engaged in the cod and mackerel fisheries of the United States from 1873 to 1886,	
average per year, - - - - -	155,000 tons.

Are they safe leaders who are so blind to facts? "There are none so blind as those who won't see."

Again:—In these Provinces lie wonderful and most abundant supplies of coal and iron, some of them among the best of the coking coals; floated into the harbors of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, free of taxation, they might enable us to develop a product of iron and steel, and to rival other sections of our common country in this art. Deprived of them, we are subjected to the loss, not only of the work which might be furnished in their conversion, but we are being subjected in New England to the loss of nearly all the heavy machine work in which we formerly excelled.

If any State should propose to tax for its local purposes the coal used in its furnaces, its factories and its workshops, what would be the reputation of the men who should make the proposition. If the people of the Provinces, more heavily burdened with debt than we are, subject to the disadvantage of isolation, of lack of market, of want of occupation, can yet supply us with coal and iron, what would be the benefit of commercial union or of reciprocity? Would it not be the same as the benefit of practical annexation? Would not each enjoy the benefit of the service of the other? Would not all thrive alike?

If the timber of Canada were within the limits of commercial union, and were free from taxation, might not our own forests, on which our rivers and our water supply now so much depend, be measurably spared? Might we not secure at less cost a better quality and more abundant supply of timber, without injury to ourselves? Will not commercial union, reciprocity, or annexation give us the necessary supply of timber which the great wilderness of the North offers us freely, only upon the condition that we will not ourselves obstruct its use by taxing it.

It is hard to reason for reciprocity, commercial union, or annexation, because I have found no argument *against* either which will stand the slightest investigation. If it be said that Great Britain would part with a valuable province, even if only these provinces of the Dominion of Canada—i.e., Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Cape Breton, were sold to this country, thus forever settling the fishery question, then I ask what is the present commercial value of the trade of these Provinces to Great Britain as they are, compared to the value of the traffic of the people of New York and Pennsylvania, by which two States Gov. Andrew measured their possibilities? If in their present condition 800,000 or 900,000 people can buy but little, because they can find no market for what they have to sell, what