

the early part of the session of Congress of 1865-6, the Committee of Ways and Means reported a bill to the House of Representatives, which, by a reduction of the duties on Canadian productions, would practically revive some of the provisions of the expiring treaty; but it was so roughly handled by the House, and found so little support, that the chairman withdrew the bill on the 7th of March, and it never was heard of again.

The representatives of the people would not tolerate even this modified form of reciprocity, though as a law it would be under their control, and, unlike the provisions of a treaty, liable to revision as the mutations of business might require.

But, as if to emphasize the national hostility to the measure, Congress, by a joint resolution, which was approved June 23, 1870, required the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a special agent to inquire into the extent and state of the trade between the United States and the several dependencies of Great Britain in North America. The Secretary confided that duty to Mr. J. N. Larned, a gentleman eminently qualified for its faithful and intelligent discharge. His report, to which I shall have occasion to refer, was made January 28, 1871, and transmitted to Congress on the 3d of February, 1871, and from that day till the coming among us of Mr. George Brown, so far as you and I have been able to learn, no expression of opinion in favor of the establishment of reciprocity between the British dominions of North America and the United States had been heard in this country. That opinion had yet to be created, and Mr. Brown exhibited no small measure of self-reliance when he concluded that he could, if the British government would furnish him with the proper appliances, come to this country and create it.

Mr. George Brown's Diplomatic Methods.

Mr. Brown does not lack confidence. It was not until the 21st of March that the Earl of Derby informed him that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to appoint him to be joint plenipotentiary with her Majesty's minister at Washington, for the purpose of negotiating and concluding a treaty with the United States. But anticipating his appointment Mr. George Brown had done us the honor to come among us early in February, and to begin to manufacture the opinion which was to justify his assertion that the times presented a most favorable opportunity for the renewal of reciprocity. His palpable progress was not rapid.

Indeed, during that visit he seems to have done little else than