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**D**URING the political campaign just  
ended in this city, and in previous con-  
tests of the same kind here and elsewhere one  
frequently heard the strange doctrine that in  
theory free-trade was undoubtedly the best  
policy, but practically situated as Canada is,  
alongside of a great and powerful state  
endeavoring to build up a flourishing system  
of native industries on the basis of protection,  
we were compelled to adopt the same policy  
or else allow our industries to be destroyed  
by American competition. In the mouths of  
politicians only, one would pay very little  
attention to this except as indicating the  
rudimentary state of the electoral intelligence  
that could be imposed upon by such clotted  
nonsense, but when men of considerable cul-  
ture and of undoubted honesty allow their  
free trade predilections to be undermined by  
similar considerations, it is a more serious  
matter. What especially disturbs men of  
the latter class is Secretary Blaine's pyro-  
technics. They imagine that Blaine's reci-  
procity treaties will be of great benefit to the  
United States, and that the shrewd American  
minister, shrewd undoubtedly from a party  
demagogue's point of view, is cutting the  
ground from under the feet of Britain by  
these treaties. He is doing neither. As to  
British trade its volume is increasing every  
year; as to Blaine's treaties they are posi-

tively another rivet in the American people's  
economic fetters. For observe: against all  
manufactured articles the old oppressive  
duties are maintained; certain raw materials,  
sugar, cotton, hides, etc., are admitted free;  
while American farm produce finds free en-  
trance into countries that had to have more  
products anyway, and at the American price  
plus the duty their own government chose or  
was obliged for revenue or other purposes to  
impose. The American duty on manufactured  
articles remaining intact, the American con-  
suming public derives no benefit from the  
admission of certain raw materials free, for  
the old prices are maintained by the manu-  
facturing combines, who, therefore, reap all the  
profits of the new arrangements. Nay, more  
the American public is taxed to compensate  
their own producers of sugar, tobacco, and  
other raw materials, to whose market foreign  
producers of like products have been admitted.  
As much as nine million dollars in sugar  
bounties was drawn from the national  
treasury last year by the State of Louisiana  
alone. As far as we can see Blaine's reci-  
procity treaties as benefitting the manufactur-  
ers mainly tend simply to accelerate that  
concentration of wealth in the hands of the  
few for which the republic is already too  
famous. All trade dickering is of the same  
fatuous character. Free trade is the only  
policy permanently beneficial. To those who  
argue the danger of American or other com-  
petition we retort, "What great evil is it to be  
able to get goods cheap?"

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Some years ago the Sunday afternoon ser-  
vices in Convocation Hall formed an attrac-  
tive feature of our College life; many prom-  
inent men from different parts of Canada and  
the United States addressed us. This was a  
great advantage to the students; it made  
them acquainted with many leading men of  
the day, gave many fresh subjects for reflec-  
tion and an opportunity of observing the  
styles of different effective speakers. Men