

(until he gets his rotation of crops established), the superior market for his white wheat furnished in the United States by the Reciprocity Treaty.

To the United States, and more especially to the Western States, as making the St. Lawrence the great highway of America, free trade and navigation with Canada would give great development, would give, in a word, all the commercial advantages of annexation.

The natural policy of Canada is seen clearly therefore to be THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN ZOLVEREIN, such as exists among the German States. Under this the United States and Canada would neither of them levy any customs taxes on their interior frontiers, but only at the seaports from Labrador to Mexico—the same duties being levied and each country getting its share in the proportion of its population.

Let it be therefore resolved, that for our commercial system, the principle should be adopted by Canada of an American Zolverein, or, in other words, free trade with America, but not with Europe. AND THIS WILL BE A FAIR COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE TWO CLASSES OF FRIENDS OF THE CANADIAN FARMER, ONE OF WHICH HOLDS THAT OUR FARMER IS TO BE MOST BENEFITED BY GENERAL FREE TRADE AND DIRECT TAXATION, AND THE OTHER BY KEEPING OUR MONEY IN THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE RESTRICTION OF IMPORTATIONS AND INDIRECT TAXATION.

This would terminate our present unprincipled position of political parties in Canada. By setting up a policy of Canadian patriotism we should have, as the opposition to us, whether government or parliamentary opposition, the foreign, or foreign trade, party; and that the aims of such a party never has more than mere personal selfishness in view is clearly enough shown in this that while in England it is in favor of local manufactures because *there* they are manufacturers, *here*, in Canada, it would be against local manufactures because *here* they are merchants, and in fact represent an English local Faction instead of a great British Interest.

AS A PRELIMINARY, THE BALANCE OF THE CHURCH QUESTION, THAT STILL DISTRACTS THE PROVINCE, MUST BE REMOVED.

The bane of the British Empire is the fact that, though in British theory the peoples' question is the first thing, in practice it is not so. Of the Members of the English House of Commons, two-thirds are from Counties or constituencies where the Church question is the *first* question at the Hustings, and the question of the Industrial Rights and Privilege of the people has no influence at all on the elections. The peoples' question can,

therefore, never as a matter of fact be discussed, except in *appearance*, in England; for nothing is seriously discussed in Parliament, except matters which affect the Hustings.—The ruling party in England was, therefore, prior to 1846, as now, the Church party, and the individuals of that party having thought only of their own interests, except to the extent to keep off outbreak among the people, had entirely lost the confidence of the masses in England, Ireland and Scotland.

This fact formed a fine vantage ground for the foreign party in England, or Manchester school, to propose and introduce ideas the very contrary to those held by this deservedly hated, because selfish class. The attempt was made, and free trade was introduced, not because it was the interest of the British empire, or even of England, but because it was opposed by the governing class, who were known to think only of themselves, and always to be against the people.

If Free Trade (and not only free imports) had been introduced into England, it might have suited the circumstances of England, tho' even this would not have suited for the Empire diversified as are its circumstances and interests; and but for the most obvious providencies, among which is the obtaining of our Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, the disruption of the Empire would have been endangered ere now. Free Trade is the contrary *principle* to that of Empire; for if England takes every dirty child off the street and treats him like her own child, her own child will not long feel towards her very differently from the dirty child. And not to extend remarks regarding the operation of Free Trade in England herself, I would just say that its comparative success has been entirely such as could not have been calculated upon. It could not indeed by possibility have occurred had the state of facts remained the same as when Sir Robert Peel's leap in the dark in Legislation was committed, and any *apparent* success has been caused solely (and Revolution has been prevented solely) by the providential discovery of gold in California and Australia. Even all this altogether unexpected success is, however, not enough to raise England above being the most artificial nation on Earth. She is now so much so that the delay in arriving of a couple of vessels with gold from Australia gives rise to monetary uneasiness in London.

For long in Canada we also had this odious Church question as the *first* question in our politics, thus preventing the vital issues of the Province being the simple issues at the hustings; but happily the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question did away with this so far as Protestants are concerned.