

Therefore, I offer to the Canadian people these pages in an endeavour to show them precisely how our proposals will effect them.

The essence of our proposal, I repeat, is that there need be no conflict. But the difficulty of our task is increased by the determination of our opponents not only to take the conflict for granted but also to play upon it in order to strengthen their position. Only the other day there was a barely dissembled wave of rejoicing among them when the details of the new Australian Tariff were announced. One might have thought that every Cobdenite in England had become overnight a fanatical Protectionist, so loudly did each man of them all whoop at the new duties imposed as a barrier to British trade.

II.—Our Opponents.

It is, I suppose, not surprising that men whose purpose is to reconcile conflicting interests should find themselves met by an attempt to emphasise and perpetuate the conflict. But I confess myself baffled by some of the arguments derived from the fantastic assumption that Great Britain and the Dominions are so far apart that they can never work together. I am told that, because I am a Canadian, I cannot realise why the people of Great Britain will not accept our project, and then, by the same critic and almost in the same breath, that I do not realise that the Canadians will not accept it.

There is another argument much on the same plane of controversy which we have recently had to meet. It is that on one page of our original manifesto we ask for the free passage of all sorts of