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J. W. BENGOUGH.  
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



## Comments

ON THE

## Cartoons.

RIGHT PAST OUR  
NEIGHBOR'S DOOR.—

The Hon. Geo. E. Foster is back from his pleasant holiday trip (*alias* important commercial mission) to the balmy islands of the West Indies. In due time we shall hear from his own lips an account

of his remarkable doings among the Islanders, black and white, and it will give us unfeigned delight if he is able to inform us that, as a result of his visit, our farmers and manufacturers are to have a paying market for everything they have to sell hereafter. Already rumors of a pleasant nature have found their way into print—mere exhalations from the minister's grip-sack—but we await with interest the full disclosure of a glorious success in diplomacy. Even in the exuberance of our anticipation, however, we can't quite close our eyes to the fact that both going and coming Mr. Foster passed right by the door of our near neighbor, Uncle Sam, without so much as a glance at that worthy, who is able to do more trading with us in an hour than all the West Indies can do in a year. Why, our Uncle has fifty or a hundred cities any one of which contains as large a population as the whole island of Jamaica. And, notwithstanding McKinley and the handful of desperate, fat-lying corruptionists who are for the moment in charge American affairs, Samuel is as willing as he is able to trade. If Mr. Foster had been the emissary of a Government gifted with common sense, he could have accomplished more for the manufacturers, farmers and people generally of Canada, and at less cost in money and wind, by visiting Washington, than he has been able to do in the tropics, whatever his success may amount to. We verily believe that an earnest, business-

like talk to the authorities at Washington—even the Republicans—is all that is needed to bring Reciprocity within hailing distance, and if it could not be actually secured in a short time the fault would not lie in any essential difficulties of the question itself, but in the fact that our Government, by its crack-brained policy of irritation and bluster, has stirred up needless animosities in the Yankee breast. Meanwhile, the spectacle of Hon. Geo. E. Foster travelling to the far distant isles of the sea in search of trade, and studiously ignoring the great nation beside us, may perhaps be accounted for by the consideration that, as a pleasure resort at this season of the year, with one's expenses paid by a good-natured public, the West Indies is to be preferred to the District of Columbia.

**LAURIER'S CHALLENGE.**—This whole page, and many more of equal dimensions, could easily be filled with quotations from speeches by Conservative leaders, from Sir John Macdonald down, in which the benefits of Reciprocity of trade between Canada and the United States, are eloquently portrayed. The glorious N.P. itself was in the first instance invented as a cunning device for squeezing Reciprocity out of Uncle Sam. This good purpose has not been accomplished, unfortunately, but meanwhile the machine has been found useful for coining dollars for a favored few out of the earnings of the many, and a liberal number of these dollars have been found very handy for election purposes. Hence the Red Parlor, in the rosy atmosphere of which the authors of the N.P. quite lose consciousness of their original design; and hence the barefaced continuance of the policy of "shaking down the chestnuts for the hogs." But the people do not forget about the Reciprocity-of-Trade design, though it has failed. They didn't count on a Reciprocity-of-Tariffs except as a means to an end, and now that they begin to feel the pinch of Restriction, they are becoming restive. Something must be done to stop the mouth of clamor. The Old Flag is stuffed into it. The gentlemen who made the speeches we have alluded to, now protest, in the name of loyalty, against the proposal to adjust our trade relations on this continent in accordance with the laws of God and geography. They are dreadfully afraid that Free Trade with the States would lead to Annexation. That is really the only objection to Reciprocity, and it's a great pity. But the people of this country cannot be trusted—that is, of course, those of them who are Grits. Nothing could possibly impair the triple-plated loyalty of Conservatives, but it's different with Grits, who do not truly love and cleave to the Old Flag, you know. So runs the "argument" of ministerial speeches. Well, Mr. Laurier has condescended to deal with the "argument," and it seems to us he has done it effectively. In his recent speech at Halifax he issued a challenge in these words:

"I will say here, as I have said elsewhere upon this question, that I will make this bargain with the Conservatives. If they can guarantee that they will be ready not to be captured by Yankee blandishments I will answer for the Liberals. (Applause.) If the Conservative party will promise that they will not be led away by any unpatriotic motives I will venture to say that the Liberal party of Canada will never be swayed by mercenary or unpatriotic motives either."

Some other excuse will have to be invented by the apologists of monopoly now.



ERASTUS man, this Erastus Wiman.

He is an Annexationist, you know.

The anti-reciprocity papers keep saying so, and it must be true.

We have seen it in cold type several

times that the one object of

Wiman's life is to bring about a

political union between Canada

and the States. And yet he goes

on doing things that cannot be

easily reconciled with this view of

him. Here, for instance, in the

current number of the *North American Review* we find

an article signed "Erastus Wiman"—the very same,

identical man, no doubt—in which the people of the

United States are told that the Canadians not only do

not favor Annexation, but that they are most bitterly and

determinedly opposed to it, and are likely to remain so

for generations yet. Furthermore, he goes on to point

out that it would be the basest sort of traitorism for the

Canadians to desert the Union Jack for the Stars and

Stripes, as Great Britain has always treated them gener-

ously. This does not sound much like the talk of an

Annexationist, does it?