

MR. LAURIER'S POSITION.

Again, in the address to the electors of Canada by Mr. Laurier in the last election campaign, he pointed out that "in the present contest nothing is involved which in one way or another can affect the existing status of Canada." He placed unrestricted reciprocity in the front as the object of the Liberal party; and referring to the "assertion that unrestricted reciprocity means discrimination against England, involves the proposition that the Canadian tariff would have to be assimilated to the American tariff," he said:—"I deny the proposition. Reciprocity can be obtained upon an assimilation of tariffs, or upon the retention of its own tariff by each country," etc.

Much has been said in Conservative journals of the disloyalty of Mr. Laurier's recent speech at Boston. In that speech I find the following observations:—"I make no secret that the people of Canada of all origins and of all classes entertain toward England, which for the last fifty years has treated us with justice, nay, with generosity, sentiments of deep affection." As to unrestricted reciprocity he observed:—"In behalf of the Liberal party of Canada I hasten to say that the one thing of all things which we at this moment hold to be of the utmost importance is, that the relations between the United States and Canada should be made as friendly and as close as become the dignity and interest of two nations of the same kith and kin on this continent of America." . . . "In fact, the first article at this moment in the programme of the Liberal party is, if possible, to establish absolute reciprocal freedom of trade between Canada and the United States for all products of the two countries, whether natural or manufactured." . . . "It is also objected that the American people would not consent to such an arrangement without practically forcing us to abandon the control of our tariff and taking it in their own hands. . . . I have only to say, however, that if unrestricted reciprocity were to be had only by the sacrifice, however slight, of Canada's dignity, I would have none of it. But whatever may be the opinion or the dread of others, I have no such anxiety. I have no fear that the American authorities would be disposed to be over-bearing because they represent over