

CANADA.

“ from the public burdens, and especially the taxation of the nation, which gives the
 “ only value to that class of capital. Some of these last also believe that the notes of
 “ the nation issued without cost or interest is a better currency than the note of any
 “ corporation issued for profit to the corporators can be. And they further believe that
 “ it is right of the Government, if it is deemed politic, to pay its debts in exact accord-
 “ ance with the provisions of the laws creating them. And they know if any preference
 “ is to be given to any class of the Government creditors, by provisions for payment in
 “ coin, it should be to those debts of high honour due to the soldiers who fought in the
 “ trenches of Vicksburg, Petersburg, and on the fields of Gettysburg and the heights of
 “ Lookout Mountain, and to the mothers, widows, and orphans in their promised
 “ pensions, the price of a husband's and father's life, blood, and limb.

“ An attempt was made two years ago to read out of the Republican party those who
 “ held such belief, irrespective of their record of services to the country, or their fidelity
 “ upon those other great and vital questions of freedom and loyalty to the Government,
 “ which were the very essence of its existence. That attempt, however, was soon found
 “ to be utterly futile in the West, and the only case in which it was tried in the East
 “ resulted in so miserable a failure, so disastrous to those who undertook it, that the
 “ experiment will hardly be repeated. The division in sentiment in both parties upon
 “ finance is still more curiously shown in what may be properly denominated the only
 “ administration measure of finance—that is, the taxation of the people for the
 “ immediate payment of the public debt. In his last annual report, the Secretary of
 “ the Treasury, speaking as the organ of the Administration, fully recommended
 “ Congress to sustain the then rate of taxation, in order to a speedy payment of the
 “ public debt. The Administration seemed to intrench itself as in its stronghold in this,
 “ its great finance measure; yet we see a Republican Congress, not without division in
 “ the Republican party, aided largely by Democratic votes, reducing both direct and
 “ indirect taxation of the people more than \$80,000,000 at a single session, thus
 “ depriving the Treasury in a very large degree—nearly fifty per cent.—of the means
 “ to carry out its own recommendations. Perhaps upon no measure was there a greater
 “ departure from the recommendation of the Administration by Congress than upon this.
 “ The Secretary of the Treasury made the ultimatum of his administration the immediate
 “ payment of the public debt, which could only be done by keeping up the high rates
 “ of taxation imposed by the necessities of the war; and if economy in expenditures, if
 “ vigour in the collection of the revenue, if studious, energetic employment of all its
 “ products in cancelling the national obligations be evidence of the wisdom of a policy,
 “ certainly the highest praise is to be bestowed upon our honoured fellow citizen, the
 “ Secretary of the Treasury. Assuming the desirableness of his end, with scrupulous
 “ honesty and integrity of purpose, he has adopted every means to that consummation.

“ ANNEXATION OF ST. DOMINGO.

“ Upon another set of great public measures a still more curious division and exchange
 “ of party ideas takes place. Heretofore it has been the boast of the Democratic party
 “ that they desired to extend the boundaries of the country, or, in the catch-word of the
 “ day, ‘the area of freedom,’ by acquisition of territory. Now we see a Republican
 “ administration, with wise prescience of the interest of the nation, seeking to annex
 “ St. Domingo, sustained by a majority of a Republican Senate, and by a majority of a
 “ Republican House, and the whole Democratic vote solidly against receiving into the
 “ Union the best and most desirable acquisition that has ever offered an extension of our
 “ empire. Upon the annexation of St. Domingo one would have thought no patriot
 “ would have doubted the wise foresight of the President in eagerly pursuing this
 “ acquisition. The outermost island of the Antilles, with the best harbour and most
 “ easily defended as a naval station of any on the continent, safe and salubrious at all
 “ seasons of the year at Samana Bay, a well-fortified naval station and coal depôt of the
 “ United States established there would render all the naval stations of Great Britain,
 “ or other foreign powers in the West Indies, untenable and useless. Whoever desires
 “ this continent shall be ruled by Americans, and that all foreign powers shall retire
 “ therefrom, will agree with the President in his desire to have St. Domingo, the priceless
 “ jewel of the sea, the possession of which insures Cuba as our own. That adminis-
 “ tration measure failed by a union of a minority of the Republicans with the solid
 “ Democratic vote; yet the acquisition of Cuba, a less fertile and less commanding
 “ island of the Antilles, at the cost of unnumbered millions, has been the subject of
 “ advocacy resolutions, time out of mind, in Democratic conventions, equalled in
 “ number only by the repetition of the resolutions of 1798.