

marks the forty-ninth latitudinal parallel. It almost follows that as this boundary-line is some three or four thousand miles in length, it can scarcely serve its intended purpose as a hindrance to free trading between two kindred nations. In other words, smuggling flourishes apace. Needless to add, every smuggler, whether American or Canadian, is a staunch Protectionist. It is manifestly to the interest of his pocket so to be. As for his scruples of conscience, they are too microscopic a quantity, even if they have any existence, to be worth consideration. But Nova Scotia, like Prince Edward Island, nowhere touches the United States frontier. Therefore she has not one quarter of the splendid chance for smuggling, and consequent cheaper sale of, and larger profit on, dutiable articles of Cousin Jonathan's manufacture, which the more favourably situated provinces take, it is rumoured, such frequent opportunities to enjoy. Which fact doubtless adds to her embarrassment. And the longer she is bound against her will and against her interests in this unnatural bondage the more desperate becomes her condition. 'Wait till the West is more settled!' cry the Protectionists. 'Wait till the Canadian Pacific Railway gets into full running order! See how Nova Scotia's trade will flourish then, and how the West will deal with her!' Vain dream! Have Federationists ever realised the fact that by rail Montreal (Que.) is 859 miles from Halifax? If Ontario, which is yet further, is too remote to trade much with Nova Scotia, are the very much more distant North-West and British Columbia likely to do so? If there were no other impediment, there would still be the one item, in this huge straggling country, of cost of transport. No! it is impossible to create artificial trade or artificial markets.

: oft-derided plan of 'making people virtuous by Act of Parliament' is not one wit more absurd.

After what I have said of the tariff, I trust that Nova Scotia's cry for Reciprocity may not sound amiss in British Free Trade ears. To us, it is a word retrogressive of meaning, synonymous with Retaliation. To a country severely suffering from Protection's blighting influence, Reciprocity, on the contrary, appears distinctly progressive, tends towards trade freedom, and has a sense identical with our term Commercial Treaty. Reciprocity with the United States to Nova Scotia would mean trade-resuscitation. The experiment has already been tried; and reference to statistics of the past will show with what success. The Reciprocity Treaty, which lasted fourteen years, came into operation in 1854. The previous year—English currency was then in use—the exports of Nova Scotia were a trifle below 280,000*l*. The succeeding year, 1855, they were over 481,000*l*. The imports were in 1853 nearly 416,000*l*; in 1855, over 780,000*l*.² At the time

² Roughly calculated, five dollars are equal to a pound, exactly calculated, generally 4 dols. 86 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents. This would make the last amount something under 4,000,000 dollars, which during the next dozen years had more than trebled,