

metropolitan,—cosmopolitan in the broadest sense of the word,—and worthy to be treated with on the footing of the most favored nation; and I should be ashamed of our Government if it could condescend for one moment to offer or accept anything that was unequal or unjust, from this people. If there are to be any amendments made to this proposed Treaty, I want to see them made in the interest of both countries. I am somewhat surprised, I confess, to find such a unanimity of opposition to the Treaty as I have found in the Dominion. I do not propose to speak with any degree of critical accuracy upon this question; but what I am surprised at is the coincidence between the objections raised to it among my own people and the people here. I guess that the trouble is that the Treaty is pretty nearly right (Laughter). For, if you were all pleased with it and glad to get it, it would be a very strong indication that you had it all your own way; and if our people were all very fond of it, you might naturally conclude that we had the best of the bargain. But both sides are apparently displeased with it. Well, there is a principle of human nature which may perhaps explain and illustrate this position. If you take the average politician in the State of Maine, for instance, he will tell you that he is a very liberal-minded public man,—that he is in favor of Reciprocity and of the most liberal dealings with the Dominion—provided you give him protection in his ship-building, and other industries in which he is interested. If you drop down to Pennsylvania and speak to her representatives, you will find that they are most cordial in their disposition towards the Dominion, towards free-trade and all that,—provided that you protect their coal and iron from competition with Nova Scotia. And if you go to the extreme South, where free-trade has long had its home in our country, the southern planter will tell you that he has time out of mind been in favor of free-trade,—but you must protect his sugar. And so the absurdity of the whole thing is apparent; it is nothing but selfishness pure and simple. Sydney Smith is credited with the remark, that people are all naturally generous and charitable, for A never sees B in trouble but he is ready to call on C to relieve him. (Laughter.) We are all naturally free-traders; but we want free-trade at the expense of somebody else. That, I fear, is what is the matter with regard to this subject on both sides of the line. But I shall not attempt to discuss this question. I rose to return thanks for the honor done me and my journal, and to express to you the profound satisfaction I have experienced in visiting your country. You have instructed me,—you have enlarged the scope of my vision; and I hope I shall be able in future more adequately to fulfil the duties of a public journalist by knowing the value of these Provinces. I hope that in the career you have marked out for yourselves, you will take no step backward. I hope that as these Provinces are the first on the American continent to catch the sunlight of opening day, so they politically will be the first to catch the sunlight of unfettered commerce, and liberal and enlightened legislation,—and so be the pioneer and not a mere follower in the march of civilization. (Applause).