RECIPROCITY REJECTED.

HOW THE U.S. HAVE REPEATEDLY REFUSED ALL OUR OFFERS FOR FREER TRADE.

Abrogation of the Treaty of 1854—Sir Alexander Galt's Failure—George Brown's Failure—Sir Charles Tupper's Offer Declined—The Keynote of American Diplomacy with Canada—American Treaty-making Methods.

The following is substantially the address delivered by Mr. W. F. Maclean at the Commercial Union meeting at Port Dover on Saturday. It may be of some use to those not acquainted with our previous efforts to secure freer trade relations with the United States:

We have heard and read a great deal from these gentlemen and in the public prints touching the advantages to us of free trade with the United States. For a year back or more the country has rung with an agitation first for Commercial Union, then for Unrestricted Free Trade, next for Reciprocity. Most of the talking and writing so far has been on one side, viz., in favor of this movement of so many names. They have confined themselves to talking of the *advantages* of free trade between the two countries, and they make out a fine case if you look no further. But I propose to ask you to look a little further, viz., to consider the *difficulties* that are in the way, for indeed a lion. It seems to me, besets the path. For centuries men have talked and written of the advantages of perpetual motion, and philosophers and inventors have racked their brains to solve this problem, but so far to no avail. It is a fine thing to talk about, and the advantages that would attend the realization of it are almost incalculable. But, as a matter of fact, wise men tell us that it is impossible of accomplishment, that insurmountable difficulties stand in the way. I shall not here assert that it will be impossible to secure Freer Trade with the United States, but I shall certainly be able to show you that grave difficulties do exist, and that wise men than we have tried to remove them and failed.

Now the nature and extent of these difficulties is best brought out by an historical review of our negotiations with our neighbors in the past, and for a few minutes I ask your attention to the same.

This historical review which I am about to give you is accurate and reliable. It is compiled in the main from official documents, some of them documents drawn up by George Brown and Sir Edward Thornton, who represented Canada and Great Britain in the Reciprocity negotiations of 1874. And let me here say that from my knowledge of the man and from an examination of his papers on the subject I consider George Brown to have been the ablest and the best informed man on the question that has yet attempted to solve it. And, by the way, when I am speaking of George Brown, I would just throw out the remark that earnest as he was in all his efforts to secure Freer Trade with our neighbors, he held, in season and out of season, two cardinal propositions: (1), that Canada, even if she hadn't Reciprocity, could get along very well without it; and (2), that Great Britain should receive equal advantages with the United States, in so far as the Canadian tariff was concerned. If the duty was reduced or wiped out on certain goods from the United States, similar treatment was to be accorded to English goods. No more and no less. George Brown never proposed to discriminate against England.

In 1854 we entered into a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States that lasted thirteen years, until terminated by them on the ground that the advantages were on the side of the provinces and against the republic. And yet the United States returns show that during those thirteen years we bought 346 millions' worth from them and they 325 millions' worth from us, leaving a cash balance in their favor of over 20 millions. That balance was even greater, for besides this balance in their favor, they had the use of our fisheries, our canals, our rivers. And yet they abrogated the treaty because "the advantages were all on the side of the provinces."

What next did they do? Immediately on the repeal of the Treaty customs duties were imposed by the United States on nearly all the articles imported under it from the provinces. The Canadian tariff was very little changed. The use of the Canadian canals was continued to American shipping on precisely the same terms as to those of Canada. The free navigation of the River St. Lawrence was still kept open to American craft, and the shore fisheries of the St. Lawrence were thrown open from year to year to American fishermen on payment of a small license fee.

What next? Mr. Brown showed most clearly that in 1873-3, of 33 millions of dollars imported by the United States from Canada, only four millions was admitted free, the remaining 31 millions were taxed. Canada, on the other hand, in that same time imported of their goods 22 millions without taxation and levied duty on 16 millions. We taxed all their goods 8½ per cent.; they taxed what we sent them 25 per cent. During that year 22 other countries sent 102 millions of their productions into the United States free of duty, and other 22 millions that was taxed!

In closing up his memorandum George Brown says: "We convey to you [the United States Secretary of State] the assurance of the Canadian Government that the assent of Canada will be most heartily given to any measure calculated to promote the free interchange of commodities, to reduce the cost of transportation, or conduce to the joint advantage of the two countries, so that it be not seriously prejudicial to existing industrial interests of the Canadian people."

On March 17, 1874, George Brown and Sir Edward Thornton were appointed joint plenipotentiaries to negotiate a treaty on the subjects above enumerated, with the Government of the United States. They at once opened negotiations, which continued sometime till June of the same year. On April 29 these two plenipotentiaries presented "A Memorandum on the commercial relations, past and present, of the British North American provinces with the United States of America." This Memorandum is a most important document and is worthy of the perusal of everyone who takes an interest in the question. Those negotiations were unsuccessful.

In his speech in the Canadian Senate in March, 1875, Mr. Brown entered into a full explanation of the reciprocity negotiations conducted by him. In this speech he showed that between the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty in 1866 and his going to Washington, in 1874 no less than three attempts had been made by the Canadian Government to secure a renewal of the old treaty. The first of these negotiations took place in 1865-6, when offers were made to the American Government by Sir A. T. Galt. On accounts of George Brown's objections to certain terms put forward by Sir Alexander, which he disapproved of, he resigned from the Government, of which he was also a member. That attempt of Sir Alexander's was a failure. Between 1866 and 1869 more than one effort was made by the then Government (Sir John Macdonald's) for a renewal of the old treaty, but without avail. The negotiations which ended in 1870 were soon followed by the High Joint Commission. At a conference on March 6, 1871, the British commissioners stated that "they considered that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 should be restored in principle. The American commissioners declined to assent to a renewal of the former treaty." They said that "the treaty had proved unsatisfactory to the people of the United States, and had been consequently terminated by notice from the Government of the United States, in pursuance of its provisions. It is now, therefore, not in their interests, and would not be in accordance with the sentiments of their people."

A few days later on "the British commissioners proposed to take into consideration the question of opening the coasting trade of the lakes reciprocally to each party—which was declined."

The British commissioners "also proposed to take into consideration the reciprocal registration of vessels as between the Dominion of Canada and the United States—which was declined."

As a result of these negotiations came the Washington Treaty with its provision that a board of arbitration should be appointed to settle the compensation to be paid to Canada for the use of her fisheries by the people of the United States. Pending the result of that arbitration Mr. Brown went to Washington in 1871 and began negotiations as already referred to and which ended in failure. Mr. Brown spent months there; interviewed everyone, drew up his draft treaty and the memorandum already referred to, and which is the most masterly paper yet presented in favor of reciprocity. How was it received? The treaty was sent to the United States Senate and there ignored it, or killed it, in secret session and adjourned two days afterwards! That is how George Brown's efforts ended.

In 1879 Canada adopted the policy of Protection, embodied in what is known as the National Policy. In the act giving expression to this policy there is the following clause:

4. Any or all of the following articles, that is to say, animals of all kinds, green fruit, hay, straw, bran, seeds of all kinds, (including potatoes and other roots), plants, trees, shrubs, coal, salt, butter, eggs, wheat, peas and beans, barley, rye, oats, Indian corn, buckwheat, and all other grain, flour of wheat, and flour of rye, Indian meal and oatmeal, and flour or meal of any other grain, butter, cheese, fish, fresh or smoked, pot, tallow, meats, fresh, salted or smoked, and lumber, may be imported into Canada free of duty, or at a less rate of duty than is provided by this tariff, upon proclamation of the Governor in Council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that similar articles from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty or at a rate of duty not exceeding that payable on the same under such proclamation when imported into Canada.

And though that clause has remained on our statute books, the Americans have declined to take any notice of it. They have ignored it.

Next comes the clause in the Washington Treaty which provided for a payment to us of 15 millions of dollars for the use of our fisheries. As soon as the 10 years covered by the award had expired they gave us notice of the abrogation of that clause. They wanted no more to do with us.

And lastly, we have the instance of the treaty negotiations just closed at Washington. At an early stage of their meetings the British plenipotentiaries (Sir Charles Tupper and the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain) handed in the following proposal:

That, with the view of removing all causes of difference in connection with the fisheries, it is proposed by Her Majesty's plenipotentiaries that the fishermen of both countries shall have all the privileges enjoyed during the existence of the fishery articles of the Treaty of Washington in consideration of a mutual arrangement providing for greater freedom of commercial intercourse between the United States and Canada and Newfoundland.

The following answer was returned:

While continuing their proposal heretofore submitted on the 20th ult., and fully sharing the desire of Her Britannic Majesty's plenipotentiaries to remove all causes of differences in connection with fisheries, the American plenipotentiaries are constrained, after mature consideration, to decline to ask from the President the authority requisite to consider the proposal conveyed to them on the 3rd inst., as a means to the desired end, because the greater freedom of commercial intercourse so proposed would necessitate an adjustment of the present tariff of the United States by congressional action, which adjustment the American plenipotentiaries consider to be manifestly impossible of accomplishment through the medium of a treaty under the circumstances now existing. Nor could the American plenipotentiaries admit that such a mutual arrangement as is proposed by Her Britannic Majesty's plenipotentiaries could be accepted as constituting a suitable basis of negotiation concerning the rights and privileges claimed for American fishing vessels. It would appear to the American plenipotentiaries to be possible to find an adjustment in accordance by agreeing on an interpretation or modification of the treaty of 1818 which will be honorable to both parties and remove the present causes of complaint, to which end they are now, as they have been from the beginning of this conference, ready to devote themselves.

Surely this ought to be convincing evidence that they do not care for freer trade with us, or, at least of this fact, that we must wait till Congress changes its mind.

Last October when the Commercial Union question was being discussed, a very remarkable letter from Washington was published by the New York Times from its correspondent there. That paper is thoroughly in accord with the Administration on its trade policy, and no doubt when its correspondent wrote as he did he was inspired by the State Department at Washington. In this letter the following sentence will be found:

"The Secretary of State and his assistant commissioners are familiar with some chapters of our diplomatic history that the general public is but imperfectly cognizant. One pigeon-hole treaty of 1854 was denounced by the United States in 1866 at the demand of New England, on candidly with a view to procuring it better and more extensive system of reciprocity. The real reason was that New England believed that twelve years of a large measure of commercial freedom between the United States and Canada had brought the provinces into a position where a continuance of a comparatively free trade was necessary to them, and that they would pay any price to procure it. The annexation of Canada was confidently counted upon. It was believed that, rather than lose the American market, the provinces would cut loose from the British Empire and join the Union. Canada was anxious to continue the reciprocity and was willing to offer very considerable inducements to that end, *but it could not pay the price of a change of flag.* Canadian commissioners came to and talked with Secretary Seward and the leading men at both ends of the Capitol. Mr. Morrill of Vermont, now a Senator, was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House. He said to the Canadians: "If you want the commission to be of any use to you you'd better take your seats here by the side of us and vote for them." Mr. Banks went further. In the first session of the Thirty-ninth Congress he introduced a bill for the admission into the Union of the States of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Upper and Lower Canada. The Canadians were being convinced that nothing could be obtained from this country *unless they abandoned England.*

This quotation is sufficient to show why the Americans abrogated that treaty, and sufficient to show that they abrogated it from a political motive, and not from the commercial one that they stated to the Joint Commissioners. Probably they had the two reasons.

A further incident that clearly shows the attitude of the American nation towards Canada is the action of the Government of the Republic, or rather the want of action on the part of the Government of the Republic, in regard to the Fenians. For the outrages committed by these invaders no compensation has yet been made, nor even anything in the way of apology or regret has been offered.

Let me also point out to you some recent events that show the attitude of our neighbors toward Canada and Canadians. The New York Tribune, the leading Republican paper of the United States, The New York Sun, a prominent Democratic sheet, and the New York Herald, which claims to be independent, all joined in a demand less than a month ago that clause xxix of the Washington Treaty be abrogated. That clause enables Canadian railways to receive American freight, bond it, and reforward it at another point free of duty. They base this demand on the plea that the Canadian lines are taking the business from their own lines.

Next, The New York Sun came out strong on "the Canadian invasion of Maine," meaning by that the building of a short line through Maine by the Canadian Pacific Railway. That same paper is constantly preaching the forcible annexation of Canada by the United States. Only two days ago the Controller of the Currency issued an order from Washington to the Michigan banks (as well as all others) that they report at once the amount of Canadian currency handled by them since 1880 on which they are asked to pay at the rate of 10 per cent.

As for the treaty recently signed at Washington, we have no guarantee that it will be ratified by the Senate. Indeed, the probability is that it will be rejected and that all our labor will have been in vain.

And now after this short review I wish to direct your attention to the methods which our neighbors employ in treaty-making. They do not, like all other Governments, appoint commissioners and once these sign a treaty agree to it; but they always reserve the right of submitting it to their Senate for a two-thirds vote of ratification, and that body, sitting in secret session, generally withholds sanction. No other first-class government treats its equals in the same way. I venture to say that if they treated Bismarck that way once he would not give them a second opportunity of repeating it. It is only the other day that this same Senate, sitting in secret session, and in deference to the Irish vote and those Anglophobes who delight to twist the lion's tail, threw out the proposed extradition treaty between Great Britain and the United States. That treaty provided for a free exchange of fugitive criminals—not political offenders—and would have enabled all our absconders to be returned, and their hoodlers to be brought to justice; but it was rejected at the instigation of Senator Riddleburger, known as the British fire-eater and tail-twister. Still another thing that stands in the way of treaty making. The Administration at Washington has no power to make a treaty, and, though it may be willing, a hostile Senate can prevent its doing so. Another thing is that the Administration is nearly always in dread of the coming presidential election—and one appears to be no sooner over than another follows—and how their acts will affect the vote of the people.

In view of all these facts, viz., that the Americans have refused one and all of our efforts to secure freer trade or a re-enactment of the old Reciprocity treaty, have taxed our goods unmercifully when we have treated theirs with much greater consideration, have refused even to enter into a wider extradition treaty, have allowed Fenians to raid our country twice without any apology therefor, have confessed that their object was to force us into annexation, have abrogated the compensation clause in the Washington Treaty, have taxed Canadian products on the whole much higher than the products of many other countries, have ignored the clause in our N.P. Act for reciprocity in certain enumerated articles, have refused to make the coasting trade of the lakes reciprocal and also the registration of vessels, and who are not to be relied on for reason of their roundabout and irresponsible way of treaty-making, in view of all these facts, and the still further and important one that they have never made the slightest advances toward us, is it not rather humiliating ourselves to make further ado about the matter? Is it consonant with our dignity as a people, as a portion of the great British Empire, to be continually running after our neighbors and asking them to trade with us when they have repeatedly refused us and turned their backs upon us? I say our manhood and our national sentiment rebels against further prostration before the United States, beseeching a boon that they will not grant. No, the time has come to cease supplication. Let us rest and wait. When they show a disposition to reciprocate then is our time to negotiate.

We may be told look at the Tariff Reform Bill just introduced at Washington. I am looking at it and I think there will be a rebellion there before it carries. At any rate let us rest in peace until it is passed. Then for the first time will our neighbors have shown the first sign of reciprocity. In the meantime let us not forget what George Brown never hesitated to tell them, viz.: That if they did not choose to trade with us "we had a commercial policy of our own open to us for adoption not greatly inferior to that we would be deprived of." Since that time that commercial policy has been greatly enlarged. We are able to stand on our own bottom. Our country is expanding rapidly. Our people are as well off as our neighbors. Our farmers are better off than theirs. We are neither helpless nor hopeless. Great Britain is still our friend. We need fear nothing. Nay more, we are, I believe, on the brink of a great outburst of national and industrial development. Our local grievances are being relieved. The railway monopoly in Manitoba is to be removed. All that now remains for us to do is maintain our dignity as a people and work out our own salvation, political and commercial, on Canadian lines.

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A COMMERCIAL UNION MEETING.

Restricted Reciprocity Abandoned—Nothing Will Now Do But U. E. Sovereignty.

PORT DOVER, March 10.—Two mass meetings were held in the Town Hall here to-day under the auspices of the South Norfolk Farmers' Institute to discuss "the subject of extending our trade relations with the United States." The hall was crowded with farmers and villagers. The speakers were: R. Thomas Shaw, secretary of the C. U. club, Valency E. Fuller president of the Central Farmers' Institute, J. Ellis of Port Dover, on one side; and J. Nickerson of Simcoe, L. G. Morgan of Port Dover and W. F. Maclean of Toronto, on the other. At the close of the discussion and when the meeting had become quite lively the following motions were submitted:

Moved by J. Ellis, seconded by Hiram Bowlby, that in the opinion of this meeting partial reciprocity with the United States is not attainable, seeing that it has been repeatedly refused. It is further of the opinion that unrestricted trade between Canada and the United States will be advantageous to this country if it can be obtained on fair and equitable grounds, and is believed that rather than lose the American market the provinces would cut loose from the British Empire and join the Union. Canada was anxious to continue the reciprocity and was willing to offer very considerable inducements to that end, *but it could not pay the price of a change of flag.* Canadian commissioners came to and talked with Secretary Seward and the leading men at both ends of the Capitol. Mr. Morrill of Vermont, now a Senator, was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House. He said to the Canadians: "If you want the commission to be of any use to you you'd better take your seats here by the side of us and vote for them." Mr. Banks went further. In the first session of the Thirty-ninth Congress he introduced a bill for the admission into the Union of the States of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Upper and Lower Canada. The Canadians were being convinced that nothing could be obtained from this country *unless they abandoned England.*

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CORN, WHEAT AND COTTON.

Interesting Statistical Record of the Crops in the United States.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The statistical returns of the Department of Agriculture for March show that the corn crop is the smallest since 1884, and the remainder on farms also the smallest in seven years. It is estimated at 850,000,000 bushels against 605,000,000 last year and 775,000,000 two years ago. The proportion is 34.99 per cent. of the crop, the lowest percentage except in 1884 when it was 33 and the stock 512,000,000 bushels. In recent years the percentage has ranged from ¼ to 4-10 of the annual product. The proportion merchantable is 84.4 per cent. at a present average value of 50.6 cents per bushel. The unmerchantable average 52.2 cents per bushel. The average value of the stock remaining is 27.6 cents per bushel, 3.3 cents higher than on Dec. 1. The proportion consumed without removal by county lines, which was last March 17 per cent., is estimated at 12 per cent. of the present crop, which reduces the quantity transported to 170,000,000 bushels, 115,000,000 less than last year, while the amount for consumption is also smaller by 90,000,000 bushels.

The indicated stock of the wheat for 1887 in the hands of farmers is 132,000,000 bushels, against 122,000,000 last year, or 29 per cent. of the crop, against 26.7 per cent last March. There has been used in the seeding of winter wheat 34,000,000 bushels, 187,000,000 in eight months' consumption, 61,000,000 bushels exported in wheat and flour, 33,000,000 visible supply and an unusual quantity in mineral elevators and mills.

The apparent proportion of cotton forwarded from plantations on Feb. 1 was 92 per cent. The quality of the fibre is superior, condition clear and the yield of lint a little above 33 per cent. The value of seed averages 14 cents a bushel.

EARTHQUAKE IN CHINA.

Frightful Mortality—Over 15,000 Persons said to Have Perished.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—The Hong Kong Mail gives a description of the earthquake in the Province of Yunan on Dec. 16, indicative of frightful mortality. The Mail says:

"In the interior department of Ching Chan the disturbances were extremely violent, being continued at irregular intervals for four days, when they ceased entirely. The Department of City is said to have been reduced to a mass of ruins, scarcely a house escaping damage, and over 5000 people are reported to have been killed by falling buildings. Many of them were buried under the ruins, while the number of injured is too large for computation. Yanan was destroyed.

"At the prefectural city of Lamon the effects of the earthquake were scarcely less disastrous. At this place when the shock was being felt an enormous chasm opened in the earth and water was thrown out from its depths. At Lo Chan in Chuen a striking change has been effected. Nearly the whole of the country, large tracts of land being swallowed up and the surface changed into a lake. In Lo Chan more than 10,000 persons are said to have perished."

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A Rejected Suitor's Revenge.

NEW YORK, March 10.—At 9 o'clock tonight Anna Obbel, aged 22, of First-avenue, shot and killed Mrs. Rosa Schneider, a young widow residing on East Sixty-first-street. The murderess was arrested. It was a matter for Bo's hand three years ago. Her husband died a year ago and then Obbel renewed his suit. She did not love him and on her refusal to marry him he shot her.

The Western Union Sued by the U.S.

NEW YORK, March 11.—United States District Attorney Walker began suit yesterday in behalf of the Government against the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company to recover $12,405 paid for telegrams by United States officials along the line of the railroad. The money was paid since 1881.

Fatal Nitro-Glycerine Explosion.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 10.—W. L. Swinhart, a foreman at the powder works at Pinole, to-day attempted to destroy a discarded nitro-glycerine can with an axe, when an explosion occurred, killing Swinhart and a Chinaman and seriously wounding two other Chinamen.

The Springfield Fire's Eighth Victim.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 11.—F. G. Emsworth, injured in the Union fire, died yesterday afternoon, making the eighth victim.

BIRTHS.

DOMELLE—At 56 Baldwin-street March 10, the wife of J. H. Domelle of a daughter.

DEATHS.

NOLAN—Henry James Nolan, chief clerk of the Rossin House, died of Bright's disease March 10, 1888, aged 38 years, 1 month and 6 days.

Funeral Tuesday, March 13, from St. Michael's Cathedral at 9 o'clock a.m. to St. Michael's Cemetery. The officers and members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the members of the Separate School Board are requested to meet at the Rossin House on Tuesday morning at 9.30 sharp to join the officers and employes of the Rossin in escorting the remains to St. Michael's Cathedral, where friends will have an opportunity of viewing the body from 10.30 to 11. At 11 o'clock High Mass will be celebrated, assisted by His Grace Archbishop Lynch, after which the funeral will proceed to St. Michael's Cemetery.

SCORE—Entered into rest Saturday 10th inst., at her late residence, 13 Murray-street, Harriet Cameron, beloved wife of Mr. R. Score, in her 78th year.

Funeral to-day (Monday) at 3 p.m., to the Necropolis. Friends will please accept this intimation.

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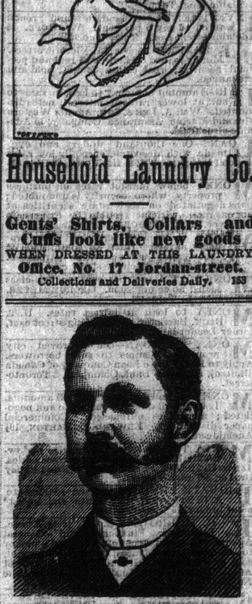

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THREE LATEST NOVELS.

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"A FALSE START," by Capt. Hawley Smart.
"MARVEL," by the Duchess.

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T. G. & B.	7.00 4.30	10.00 8.10
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C. V. R.	6.00 3.30	12.40 9.30
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