

try and the colonies, entertain the project of a Zollverein or customs-union between them. The people of these countries have as undoubted rights to free-trade with each other as the citizens of our different States now enjoy among themselves.

But, if the difficulties attending our present tariff are now "in some respects insurmountable," what would they become if the same freedom of trade as exists between the States of the Union were also a matter of fact between the different parts of the British Empire? There is no complete remedy but such a customs-union as I have suggested between the United States and the Dominion.

#### COMMISSIONERS WOULD REPORT IMPARTIALLY.

In proposing the appointment of commissioners to confer with other commissioners duly authorized by the government of Great Britain, or whenever it shall appear to be the wish of that government to appoint such commissioners, to investigate and ascertain on what basis a treaty of reciprocal trade for the mutual benefit of the people of the United States and the Dominion of Canada can be negotiated, and to report the results of their investigation to the President of the United States, there is no bias toward any special form of reciprocity. They may or may not approve of such a customs union as under existing circumstances seems to me the best and only perfect solution of the embarrassments attending the present commercial relations of the two countries, as it would effect a great saving in the revenue service, abolish smuggling, give complete freedom of transit to the people on both sides, and by a continuous and harmonious development of their resources encourage social intercourse and prepare the way for whatever other institutions their intelligence and mutual good-will might hereafter suggest and approve. But between such an arrangement and the present condition of trade there are many intermediate steps. It ought not to be difficult to agree upon the basis of a common tariff on all articles, such as silks, laces, brandies, wines, jewelry, &c., the importation of which is taxed only for revenue, and in regard to which no irreconcilable differences of politico-economical theory arise, or to determine the terms of equitable division of the revenue collected from them in common. If this only were done, the most extensive smuggling from which the revenue of the United States suffers would be stopped, and our own public Treasury would be the gainer by many millions. Some at least of the manufactures and raw products of each country could be admitted to free exchange with those of the other.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

Beyond these considerations, or rather as their basis, are the plain and well-known facts that the prosperity of our people and our strength as a nation depend upon their unrestricted exchanges of the products