

Mr. Goldwin Smith has been unsparing in his efforts to convince the people of Canada that this scheme of "Commercial Union" would be beneficial and feasible; but, although frequently challenged to explain how it could be practically carried out, and although it is notoriously repudiated by all thinking men in the United States, except those who make no secret that their real object is to obtain possession of Canada, he has maintained a discreet silence. The annexationist view was plainly stated in the paper contributed by the writer to the May number of the *Fortnightly*, and was in substance that they wanted political union to follow commercial union. But Mr. Goldwin Smith denies "that anybody, either in Canada or in the United States, is attempting, or at all wishing, to precipitate the course of political events," the meaning of which is, that, out of regard to their own necks, no one will prematurely get up a rebellion, such as was "precipitated" in 1837, and brought several unfortunate men to the gallows. Mr. Goldwin Smith does not propose to attack the citadel by storm, but to make very gradual approaches, the first of which is "Commercial Union;" and it must be admitted that in recommending such a measure, in an English periodical, and specially to English readers, he has displayed not a little courage, or, as some might characterize it, audacity. He does not hesitate to declare that—

"The customs line across the Continent must be removed, nor can there be any doubt as to the growth in Canada of opinion favourable to commercial union," adding "all men of sense are contented to leave the political question to the future, feeling, that it would be unwise, as well as wrong, to do violence to any existing sentiment, and that the indispensable condition of a change in the external relations of the country is the full and deliberate consent of the great mass of the people."

In view of the fact that there is not a single Member in either House of the Canadian Parliament who has ventured to recommend this scheme of Commercial Union, there is no cause for alarm. Mr. Goldwin Smith, however, labours under the delusion that the Canadian Parliament does not represent the opinions of the Canadian people. When reminded in Canada of the fact that his opinions were not represented in Parliament, he replied that the politicians would not allow any one holding them to get a nomination. Now he declares that "power is practically in the hands, not of the people, but of the politicians, who, as a class, and without distinction of party, are naturally wedded to a system, which, as has been truly said, causes Canada to grow more politics to the acre than any other country in the world." He, however, consoles himself with the belief that "what frightened Imperialists call 'a shadowy party' is beginning to appear," although he afterwards admits that this "shadowy party" is one that "appeared in force at the last general election, when the people left the old party lines by thousands," and voted for the Protectionist, against the free trade candidates, as Mr. Goldwin Smith