

rise and provoke him to move an Amendment. The game has been thrown by an act of shallow cunning or of panic into the hands of the Tory leader. He may now reject any overtures of Reciprocity with perfect impunity, and, having with genial courtesy assisted the Opposition to sharpen the razor with which it has cut its own throat, listen with calm complacency to its terrible criticism of his cab fares.

If the alarm on which the Resolution founded itself was genuine, it has had no parallel since Cowper's sheep determined to save themselves from the sound of the huntsman's horn by leaping into the pit. No creature in male attire surely can be such an old woman as to be really scared by "the plot." The plot, everyone with half an eye must have seen, was the device of a journal in financial extremities to ruin a rival whom it had no chance of beating in fair fight. The very fashion in which the revelation was presented, with flaring typography and sensation headings, was enough to warn the beholder of its real character. Mr. Hoar, as we have had occasion already to say, is a personage whose importance has been greatly overrated. But whatever may be the extent of his influence his object is not Annexation; it is merely the defeat of Commercial Union. He wants to protect the products of his constituents in New England against Canadian products, and he uses Annexation only as a lure to draw away support from Reciprocity. That he should have entered into a conspiracy with the Editor of the *Mail* for the forcible annexation of Canada and read the notes of his intercourse with his fellow-conspirator before a committee of the American Senate, only insane partisans can believe. There was at all events nothing to justify serious alarm and warrant the Opposition in flinging itself, as it has done, into the arms of the Government and wrecking its own cause.

The mover may very likely have had reasons of his own. More than once, though he is now so ecstatically loyal, he has voted sympathy with the "veiled rebellion," the object of which was to "break the last link which bound Ireland to Great