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I saw Mr. de Freycinet and conversed with him about the scheme you mentioned to me. In his opinion, after having looked into the matter, it is impossible for France to draw up a treaty of commerce or any customs agreement whatever with Canada, without referring it to England. And he thinks it hardly possible that either he or the Minister of Commerce, could enter into an engagement which would be in any way binding, to ensure to Canada, on the part of France, the privileges of the most favored nation. But as a matter of course, if the Canadian Government, making use of its autonomy as to the imposition of customs duties, should of its own accord lower the duties on our wines and cordials, then the French Government would, by this very act, feel bound to respond by some liberal measure of the character of the one you have spoken to me about.

Kindly believe, Sir, that it will be always a source of enjoyment to me to follow and study the questions which concern the relationship between France and Canada; and accept the assurance of my high esteem.

FERNAND FAURE.