

had been accorded to a previous one. "What possible good," was his exclamation, "can we get from a Treaty with Canada! When the last Treaty existed, we took everything from you that you had to sell, and you took nothing from us." "Surely," I replied, "you are not stating this seriously." "Of course I am," said he; "surely you don't deny that it was so?" My reply was that I not only denied it, but was prepared to show, beyond the shadow of a doubt, and from the official returns of the United States that from 1820 up to 1864 the inhabitants of the British Provinces had bought from the United States merchandise and produce to the extent of over \$150,000,000 in excess of what the States had bought from them in the same years. I said I had no faith myself in what was termed "the balance of trade," but if there was any truth in it, the traffic of the United States with the Provinces must be all that could be desired, for up to the third year before the Treaty was repealed it always showed a large annual balance against Canada. He was utterly incredulous—indignantly incredulous—though my statement was strictly accurate. But said I,—"Let us suppose that you are correct—let us suppose that during all these past years you bought a vast amount from Canada and we bought very little from you—was that a very great disadvantage to you? Do you think your merchants and traders would have flocked over as they did to the lumber-mills and farm-yards and factories and fishing-ports of the Provinces to buy our stuff to the extent of many millions per annum unless they got profit by it? They might have done it once or twice with a loss—but would they have done it for fifty years in succession, steadily and largely increasing the amount of their purchases from year to year? And apart from the great profits that must have been realized by the re-sale of the goods, was there not great gains to the United States from the transportation of all that stuff overland to your ocean ports, and in shipping it from them in your sea-going vessels to foreign countries?" I made very little impression on my Protectionist friend, and his case is but one out of a great many similar

to it. And, indeed, it is hardly to be wondered at that very great misapprehension should exist in the United States as to our traffic with that country. Until the B.N.A. Colonies were confederated in 1867, all the Provinces were isolated from each other, their public accounts and trade and navigation returns were published separately, if published formally at all, their customs and excise duties were entirely different, and their shipping returns were made up separately, if made up at all. No clear statement of the united traffic of all the Provinces with the American Republic in past years was ever compiled until last year—we, ourselves, in Canada, were ignorant of its vast extent—and the absence of reliable data left us open to the misrepresentations of our Protectionist opponents in the Republic. Put our traffic together in one account and hardly could a branch of trade in the United States be named which did not profit by it—but take the traffic of the several Provinces apart and there was hardly a branch of trade that could not be shown from the example of some one Province to buy nothing of that sort. Upper Canada was shown to send wheat and flour to the United States every year to great amounts—and the attention of Western farmers was pointed earnestly to the fact—but it was carefully omitted to be told at the same time, that Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island took much more of these commodities from the United States than the States took from Upper Canada. Cape Breton and Nova Scotia were shown to send a few hundred thousand tons of coal to the Boston and New York markets—and the indignant protests of Pennsylvania were hurled against such an iniquity—but it was carefully omitted to be told that Upper and Lower Canada took four or five times the quantity of coal from Pennsylvania that Cape Breton and Nova Scotia sent into the States. Just so was it with a very large portion of the commodities we sold to our American friends. Yet it was by such weapons that the false impression was implanted deep on the public mind of the United States that the traffic with the Provinces was utterly unprofitable