

bours on the other side of the line would, of course, be kindled by this great combination against them, and their Civil War has proved that, whatever may be their love of the dollar, they have also a temper as well as other nations. They might deprive us of winter ports and stop the transmission of our goods in bond. The sole object of England would be, by putting pressure on the United States, to compel them to reduce their tariff: that gained, the discrimination in favour of Colonial produce would end. But with the reduction of the American debt, which is going on with marvellous rapidity, the tariff must be lowered; it will be impossible to maintain duties no longer needed for revenue, merely for the sake of Protection; and there are certainly some among the leaders of opinion in England, who have more faith in this process, combined with the growth of international unity, than in any pressure which can be put on the Americans by a Tariff war.

—After remaining open for nearly a year, the Collectorship of Customs for the Port of Toronto has been given to a person against whose character and general ability there is nothing to be said, but who is a stranger to the service. This may be political gratitude, but it is not Civil Service Reform. The first requisite of a good Civil Service is promotion by departmental merit. The mainstay of the English system are the permanent under-secretaries, who, not being political, do not go out with the Ministry, and who, if they are not actually taken from the office over which they are called to preside, are, at all events, appointed without reference to party, and solely on administrative grounds. There is little use in an apparatus of competitive examinations for the lower places, if the higher are to be treated as fees for political supporters, or even as personal patronage. The last time that the Collectorship was vacant, it was bestowed on a party wirepuller, with results which it is needless to rehearse. No particular Minister is to blame. We may be sure that there has been during the last