

government that a Canadian gentleman might be associated with Sir Edward Thornton in this negotiation, is not given in this Blue Book? The request had been made before the 14th of March, for on that day it was granted by telegram. Could the request possibly have been enforced by the suggestion that such a Canadian gentleman might resort to practices and avail himself of agencies which diplomatic propriety would prevent Sir Edward Thornton, her Majesty's minister plenipotentiary, from resorting to? As we proceed, circumstances may shed some light on the point. Again, if these negotiations had been instituted, as is pretended, at the special instance and request of the Canadian government, why did the Earls of Dufferin and Carnarvon feel it necessary to spread the fact so broadly upon the face of that part of the correspondence that was to be published? "My lady doth protest too much," says *Hamlet*; and if the Canadian people had impelled their government to ask for a reciprocity treaty, some of them would have known the fact before reading this diplomatic assurance that it had occurred. Yet their knowledge of the fact depends upon this assurance, and upon it alone!

Why, if Mr. George Brown's conversion had been as sudden as that of Saul, and he had been inspired with the power to move the Privy Council and the Governor-General with such fiery zeal that his new idea must be telegraphed to England on the day of his inspiration, was not Lord Dufferin content to let the world accept the fact without putting it so prominently before the public? and if the movement was of Canadian origin, and was made for the benefit of the people of Canada, and was graciously consented to by the British government, why does Dufferin take such pains to assure Carnarvon that it is understood that the Canadian commissioner will act not upon his own judgment or for the interests of the people of Canada, or in accordance with the wishes of the Canadian Ministry, but "*will act under Imperial instructions, and that all propositions to be made to the United States government will be previously submitted to the Secretary of State?*"

But if it be true that these negotiations were initiated and have been conducted at the express instance and solicitation of the Canadian government, Mr. Brown not only cut immense packages of red tape but imparted his own hot haste and fiery zeal in the cause to her Majesty's ministers. This subject, of such vast importance, was, as I have shown, first suggested to the Privy Council on the 23d of February; and the Earl of Derby, by a letter from the Foreign Office, dated February 27, transmitted to Sir Edward Thornton a copy of the telegraphic despatch received by her