

induce the United States to adopt any other tariff than what they themselves desired."

A few days later Mr. Huntingdon brought up the matter again and said: "He had received information that the manufactures of each country were to be included;" whereupon Sir John Macdonald rose and said:—"He thought the honorable gentleman was carrying this matter beyond Parliamentary propriety. The honorable Finance Minister had informed the House that communications were altogether of an unofficial and confidential character, and this had been said last week, and the honorable gentleman in reiterating the statement, was discourteous, though he had disavowed such an intention. The honorable Minister of Finance would be guilty of a breach of honor and dereliction of duty as Minister, as statesman, as a man, if he revealed confidential communications unless he had the consent of those who were parties to it. But he had gone to the very verge so as to say that the whole scope of the negotiations had been misunderstood and misrepresented by the honorable member for Shefford."

These statements are corroborated by the message transmitted by President Grant in December 1869, to the Senate, asking whether any negotiations have taken place or been proposed between this Government and the Government of Great Britain in respect to a Reciprocity Treaty or reciprocal laws on the subject of trade and commerce between the United States and the Dominion of Canada. President Grant's answer was that "neither correspondence or negotiations upon the questions referred to had been entered into, and that the conversations in relation thereto which have been held were too informal to be made the subject of an official report."

#### MR. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER IN P. E. ISLAND.

One little episode of the period may be mentioned as completing the decade's list of reports. That is the appointment of a Committee of members of the Congress House of Representatives to inquire into and report upon the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Committee were Messrs. Berry, Butler, Luke P. Poland, and James B. Beck. They visited Prince Edward Island, expressed themselves delighted with it, thought a good trade might be done and especially that, in return for reciprocal legislation benefitting Prince Edward Island, access should be given the American fishermen to the fisheries around its shores, of which they say:—"By the Treaty of 1818 our fishermen were carelessly and causelessly deprived of the right which always had theretofore been enjoyed and which was secured to them by the Treaty of 1783, and of Ghent, of fishing as near the shore as they chose."

The propositions made by the United States Commissioners were:—

1st Proposition.—Congress to provide, by law, for the free admission, under proper regulations of all the products of the agriculture, fisheries, mines and forests of said Island and its dependencies, excepting only as hereinafter set forth; provided always that the Government of Prince Edward Island shall provide by law for the admission of the products of the United States as hereinafter set forth, in said Island and its dependencies, and shall allow the same rights of fishing, and entrance