

Legislature assert in their report, that "hope seldom told a more flattering tale than on this subject." But if the expectations of the Americans have not been realized, they must have been unreasonable. It was not to be expected that this direct trade should at once assume colossal proportions ; we find, however, that, in the years before the war, the entrances and clearances from and for Europe amounted to over 5,000 tons per annum. During the war, many vessels went from the lakes to the Atlantic to aid in the blockade of the Southern ports, and for other purposes ; and at least three regular lines are now established to carry on direct commerce between the lake cities and various European countries. This trade is at least of equal value to the Americans with the right given under the Treaty to British subjects to navigate Lake Michigan, and one can hardly imagine how Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Milwaukee, and Chicago can reconcile themselves to the idea of being degraded to their old position of inland cities, to whose craft the Atlantic must be a closed and unknown sea.

This list of the benefits the Treaty has conferred upon the parties to it, is necessarily but partial ; in a few short columns one can only enumerate the most salient. Surely, however, enough has been said to prove that a strenuous effort should be made by the enlightened commercial men on both sides of the frontier to continue these advantages, which are so lightly being risked by the American Government. Doubtless there are Americans who think that the balance of profit, under the Treaty, has been with Canada ; and they can be met by equally well-informed Canadians who believe that balance to have been with the United States. But the question should not be approached in that narrow-minded way. We should not enquire too closely and too jealously which party has gained the most, but, seeing the exchanges to be mutually profitable, we should devise means to allow of their continuance. Nay more, it would seem to be the duty of those charged to watch over the interests of commerce to see how still greater freedom of trade can be secured. Let them decide what other articles can be placed on the free list of a new Reciprocity Treaty ; and, throwing aside