

for himself before writing disparagingly of any journal; and we earnestly endorse his prayer, "that the December number of *Acta* will not fall into the hands of 'Outis.'" The editorial criticised by "Outis" appeared in JOURNAL No. 9, 11th April, 1885.

WHATEVER destiny may be in store for Canada, it is now clear not only that its determination will be left to herself, but also that those who are in favor of preserving the present connection with the mother country, and of making the connection more a reality all round, will have the active support of the best men in Britain. The action of the Conservative government in putting on record before they left office their sense of the importance of the C. P. R'y. as a highway between Hong-Kong and Liverpool is sufficient to indicate how they stand. In Mr. Gladstone's government the two most important seats in the cabinet are to be filled by Lord Roseberry and the Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers, both pronounced Federationists, while men like W. E. Forster, Cowen, Howard-Vincent, Baden-Powell and others, who sit on both sides of the house, and on the cross-benches, may be depended upon to do everything that can be done to strengthen the links that bind together the mother country and her great colonies. It is clear to every thinking man that for Canada independence means not her present freedom and power but a humiliating dependence. How absurd it would be for us even to try to defend our fisheries if we were separated from Britain. Senator Fry may assure his brother senators and the Gloucester fishermen that Britain will not interfere even now; but he and they know better. Everyone knows that Britain is not a quantity that can be ignored. There remains for us then only the choice between annexation and closer connection with the mother country.

It may be said that neither presses, and that the one question before us now is a reciprocity treaty. True, but it is coming to be seen that a reciprocity treaty cannot be had except at the price of discriminating against Britain. Are we prepared to pay that price? If so, no matter how Britain might act, we in honor would have to go further. We could not possibly continue the connection and ask that its benefits—real or supposed—should be continued to us while we discriminated in favor of another country and against her. That is clearly impossible. If then, there is no hope of extending our trade with the United States while our present political relations continue, we must seek to extend it elsewhere. And what promises so well for such extension as that proposal of fair trade which is coming to the front in England, a system that to begin with would include Britain and her colonies, and that would take in gradually all other countries that would agree to trade fairly with them.

IT has been a standing complaint of the graduating class of the Royal Medical College that, while their examinations were over and the results announced by the first week in April, they were required to wait until Convocation in order to secure their degrees. The final-class of this year, to remedy if possible this state of affairs, sent in a petition to the Senate requesting that a special Convocation be held immediately after the medical examinations. The Senate replied, stating that they had not the power of granting a special Convocation, but that this power was in the hands of the Board of Trustees. The Senate, however, kindly consented to confer degrees at the next regular Convocation in the absence of successful students in medicine, at the same time not exacting the usual fee. In all probability the Board will grant in future a special Convocation for the Medicals.