

that the political union of your country and our own, or at least your political independence of the British Empire, would be necessary as a previous step, but I am far from agreeing with them. The Mother Country has wisely and courteously withdrawn the claim to dictate the commercial policy of Canada ; and, if the Dominion is competent both to adjust her own Tariff, as she did in 1879, and to negotiate a Commercial Treaty with the United States, as has been proposed, she is surely competent to give such a shape to that Treaty as will secure an entire agreement in the Tariffs of the two countries.

If Canada chose to enter the Union as an equal she would be welcomed as such ; but I know that, in the existing condition of public opinion in the Dominion, it is useless to discuss such proposals. Without making the two countries one political sovereignty, without even sundering those ties to the Mother Country which your more recently adopted citizens still cherish, it would be possible for us to effect such an identity of *commercial* interests as would remove all our present occasions of dispute.

But while every consideration should be shown to the political sensibilities which connect your country with England, no such leniency is due toward those who would sacrifice the material welfare of your people to such sensibilities. The soundest of even the English economists would repudiate a proposal to determine the lines of your commercial relations by political considerations, and thus to sunder Canada from the continent to which she properly belongs, in order to unite her with one remote in position and alien in every commercial interest. All far-seeing and practical men on both sides the border must see that Canada cannot long remain in a state of commercial dependency upon England, and that all her interests draw her to close relations with the Continent of which she is a part. Sooner or later, the attractions presented by our own country will destroy the power of artificial arrangements to keep asunder two communities