

disputed our rightful possession of till then. Of course the view of Mr. Haliburton concerning the whole matter is from the other side of the line, but that ought to help us to take the larger and clearer one ourselves.

"The writer presents an impressive sketch of the causes and progress of the alienation that was suffered to interpose between the United States and the Canadas, whose culmination was the annulment of the Reciprocity Treaty and a fanatic proposal to heal our domestic feuds by joining in a crusade to wrest the Provinces from the British Empire. He lays too much stress, however, on the latter, for it at no time was entertained by any sane mind in the country. We felt certain, on our part, that peace and justice and neighbourly kindness would effect an ultimate union, through natural economic agencies, such as no measures of violence could accomplish. It is quite enough to know that, in the hour of passion, Congress snapped the strong commercial bonds that held us together, and would eventually have made us one, and that until the present day, under the shelter of the new Treaty of Washington, no opportunity has offered for reversing mistakes and restoring relations which should never have been allowed to remain so long neglected."

Their blundering policy has been due to the fact that the American Republic is governed not by the people, but by a monied aristocracy, by gigantic coal and railway companies, by wealthy salt speculators, and by a powerful ring that can control legislation, even if it cannot influence elections. Much of the strong feeling that has been excited against England and Canada has been stimulated by Protectionists. The plea of starving Canadians into annexation was a plausible excuse for keeping up a heavy duty on coal and timber; and within the past few days the first rumour of the rejection of the "*Alabama*" Treaty was followed by a patriotic cry in the United States of "Let us punish them by heavy duties on British products." My friend, Mr. Atkinson, of Boston, one of the ablest advocates of free trade, has in his clear, incisive style laid bare the selfishness of American Protectionists; and only a few weeks ago the ruinous effect of their influence on American shipping was most conclusively demonstrated. A deputation of persons interested in the commerce of the Lakes protested against the coasting trade of the Lakes being thrown open to Canadian ships, because the result would be to drive American shipping from those inland seas. This is a startling assertion, for there are surely no "*Alabamas*" there. The solution for this enigma is in the fact that American commerce has been so heavily