

in support of his view, as he always does on every subject. His grounds, as I understand them, were, chiefly, that unrestricted reciprocity would deprive us of needed revenue; that no way of supplying the deficiency had been suggested, and he himself saw no practicable way; that unrestricted reciprocity was less advantageous than commercial union would be; that commercial union would involve or lead to political union; and that Canadians were not prepared for political union, and did not consider that they were dealing with it in endorsing unrestricted reciprocity, though to him that result appeared inevitable. Mr. Blake, however, observed that some of his conclusions were "in their nature speculative and not demonstrable"; and he added, "their realisation may be precipitated, modified or retarded by political and sentimental, as well as commercial and economical considerations, and by events alike beyond our knowledge and our control. They are stated then, by no means dogmatically, which would be absurd, but only as the best forecasts in my power on doubtful matters, about which, had the times allowed, silence might have been more prudent than speech." Mr. Blake's address having been interpreted by some as expressing a desire for political union with the United States, he published a short note correcting this inference. This was the note (11th March, 1891), as published in *THE GLOBE*:—"The contradictory inferences to which a sentence in my Durham letter, detached from its context, has in several quarters unexpectedly given rise, conquer my reluctance to trespass again so soon upon your columns; and I crave space to say that I think political union with the States, though becoming our probable, is by no means our ideal, or as yet our inevitable future."

POLITICAL UNION.

I presume that all thinking Liberals feel more or less the difficulties which Mr. Blake suggested, but do not feel them so strongly as he does, and are more hopeful about a solution of them being found without political union.

Liberals were nearly if not quite unanimous in not wanting political union; but they did want unrestricted reciprocity; and