

DO WE WANT RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA?

From The Boston Commercial Bulletin.

The reciprocity discussion is continued below in another communication from our original correspondent, Mr. Weston. This time, it will be seen, he examines the question from a new standpoint. Leaving out of account the difficulty of negotiating an equitable treaty, owing to the political relations between Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, he argues that the purchasing of raw products in Canada would not lead to an increase in trade, but would simply be a diversion of trade from the West—from customers who in return buy most of their wares from us, to customers who may not buy anything from us in return.

To the Editor of The Commercial Bulletin:

No increase of trade results from buying raw products in Canada rather than at home. To do that is to buy so much more in one place, and just so much less in another. If we, of Massachusetts, conclude to purchase a million bushels of potatoes from New Brunswick, which we now purchase from Maine and Vermont, we may or may not obtain them for less money or get a better quality of potatoes. But, at all events, there is no increase of trade. As the power to purchase, which nations or individuals possess, depends upon the amount they have to sell, it is certainly true that New Brunswick, with a new market for a million bushels of potatoes, would have so much more money wherewith to buy of us or of somebody else. But it is just as certainly true that Maine and Vermont, after losing an equal market, would have so much less money wherewith to buy.

It is undoubtedly possible, by legislation judiciously adapted to that end, to transfer to the Dominion of Canada, in a large degree, the supplying of this country not only with potatoes, but with hay, butter, cheese, timber, and perhaps beef. To do that would be to increase the population and wealth of Canada, and, from its augmented capacity to buy, we might or might not reap the sole advantage. But, at the best, there would be for us no increase of trade, as our own farmers and lumbermen, having this market cut off in an exactly corresponding degree, would be by so much disabled from buying. It is much more certain that our own farmers and lumbermen would buy of us, to the extent of their sales and ability to buy, than that Canada would do so. In dealing with our own