

## A PRECEDENT IN EUROPE.

If precedents for such an arrangement for unrestricted commercial intercourse between two countries such as that proposed between Canada and the United States are called for, they will be forthcoming. The German Zollverein can be cited, but a case more nearly parallel can be found in the existing arrangement between Sweden and Norway. Each of these kingdoms admits the products of the other free, while imposing duties upon goods imported from other countries. Some one may say that Sweden and Norway form one nation. That is not correct. It is true that the King of Sweden is also the King of Norway, or *vice versa*, but each country maintains its own parliament, its own constitution, its own laws, its own customs tariff, its own official language, its own currency, its own flag. The Swedish customs returns for 1885 show that the imports from Norway were 23,736,000 kroner, and the exports to Norway 10,311,000. There is no more danger of foreign goods finding their way into Norway as Swedish products, than there is that goods subject to duty will be smuggled in. And the difficulties of maintaining unrestricted reciprocity of trade between Norway and Sweden are much greater than they would be if a similar arrangement was made between Canada and the United States.

## FRENCH-CANADIAN LOYALTY.

As to the alleged devotion of the French Canadians to British interests, it is only necessary to quote from a speech delivered in the Canadian House of Commons by Hon. L. R. Masson, an ex-Minister of Militia, an ex-Lieutenant-Governor, and a leader of the Conservative party, to show how little ground there is for taking much stock in it. In replying to the charge that the protective tariff which his party were about to introduce would discriminate against British trade, Mr. Masson said :

"I may tell the honorable gentleman that the Conservatives of Lower Canada are as loyal to England as they always have been, but I will add the words of Lafontaine : ' Mais avant tout soyons Canadiens '—('But before all let us be Canadians'). This was Lafontaine's doctrine, and they followed it. The Imperial Government in its relations and connections with the colonies has never been exempt from those rather selfish motives, if such motives could be so called, by which the mother country has wished to aggrandise herself at the expense of the colonies ; the whole colonial system is based upon this principle that the mother country took these colonies so as to have from them raw material for her own manufacturers. That was the object of every central government in every country in the world with respect to their colonies, and, if England claimed a right at times to be selfish in its desires with regard to this colony, they would not go so far in that course, but