

following pages some points, from Addresses recently delivered in the Maritime Provinces, bearing upon this subject, and which, though spoken prior to the recent election, are applicable with redoubled force to existing conditions.

An important change impends in relation to the Canadian Question in the United States. Not only will a party be in power that is animated by a totally different principle in regard to trade with outside countries, but one of its beliefs is that the regulation of the tariff resides in the House of Representatives, and not either in the Senate or the Executive. These two latter branches of the Government are the parties alone concerned in concluding Treaties of Reciprocity, in which heretofore the House of Representatives has had little or nothing to say. Hence, the relations between the United States and Canada will not longer be the subject of Diplomacy, but rather of Legislation. Inasmuch as the creation of the McKinley Tariff on the one side, and the Foster Tariff on the other, were not the subjects of treaty, neither will their modification, or total repeal so far as Canada is concerned, render it necessary to bring in the resources of Diplomacy. A simple resolution of Congress on the one hand, and of Parliament on the other, is all that is necessary to effect an arrangement between the two countries of the most far reaching character, and in the highest degree beneficial. The question, therefore, assumes a shape more resembling real Free Trade by the obliteration of the Tariff rather than Reciprocity by Treaty. Reciprocity, exemplifying a recent tenet in the belief of the Republican Party, is not likely to be popular with the Democrats, who, regarding it as a leaf filched from the free trade primer, will likely, after March next, relegate it as far as possible to the position of a back-number.

To meet these important changes and to give a broader and better designation to a possible solution of all the difficulties between Canada and the United States, it has been suggested that the term Continental Free Trade would more completely meet the conditions existing than either Unrestricted Reciprocity or Commercial Union. To Canada the results will be the same in the enlargement of her market and the broadened opportunity for purchases. Equally to the United States the result of Continental Free Trade would be highly advantageous, for looking to Mexico* on the one side and to the British Possessions on the other, there will be found a ready-made opportunity for testing the benefits of enlarged commercial intercourse, without at all imperilling interests created by the policy of Protection.

It was believed that in a new discussion of these important topics, an attempt might be successful to eliminate party politics entirely. Political rancour has to a large degree subsided, so far as trade questions were concerned; and if it were possible to look at purely business matters from a purely business point of view, and to discuss the whole question as an economic one, a desirable result might be attained. The announcement of this disposition was cordially responded to, notably in one instance by fifty business men, the most prominent in Halifax, who, irrespective of party, awarded a most hearty welcome to the writer of these lines, and who thereby pledged him to a discussion of the trade question, that should be impartial, dispassionate, and inoffensive. How far that pledge was adhered to the reader of the following pages must judge.

The large audiences that everywhere greeted the speaker (limited only by the size of the halls in which the meetings were held); the quick apprehension and ready response to the points made; the intensity of interest manifested till the last words were uttered of long addresses full of business details; and above all the exceeding courtesy, heartiness, and hospitality, irrespective of party, everywhere extended to the speaker, made it apparent, to him at least, that a deep concern abides in the hearts of the Canadian people as to their future. It did more, it confirmed him in the conviction now long held, that an eager desire exists for the closest trade relations with their Cousins across the border.

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., November, 1892.

*See recent letter of Hon. Thomas Ryan, United States Minister to Mexico.