

let one part of the British Empire charge a high rate of duty against the goods of another part of that Empire, while admitting free of duty the manufactures of the United States, her great commercial rival. It is even going a step further than this, because if the tariff under the proposed continental Commercial Union is to be regulated anywhere, it must be at Washington ; so that in the event of the Canadian Parliament passing a bill for Commercial Union with the United States, the spectacle would be presented of Congress fixing the rate of duty which shall prevail thereafter in nearly one-half of the British Empire, as against the goods manufactured in another portion of that Empire. It will be seen, therefore, that, if the people of Canada were in earnest in their desire for open and unrestricted trade with the United States, and made such an expression of their views through Parliament,—as they certainly would,—the dilemma of the Imperial Government would be extreme. That Government would either have to renounce the principles of free trade which her people have preached with such force for so many years, or it would have to give perfect liberty to Canada to trade with whom she chose. The Imperial Government, on the one hand, would be compelled to continue to Canada that liberty which she has hitherto enjoyed, or, on the other hand, refuse it, and thus afford a justification for a severance of the tie which has bound her with silken cords and with such affectionate regard that to talk of severing it now is considered as the highest form of treason. If Her Majesty should refuse to consent to this act of the