

or intrigue is not only not true but precisely the reverse of truth. Under despotism everybody is tongue-tied, and everybody conspires.

That the commercial policy of Canada must be discussed nobody will deny, and it is impossible to discuss her commercial policy to any purpose without taking into consideration her external relations, actual and prospective—trying, in a word, to forecast her destiny. The policy which is being pursued by the present government in extending the Pacific Railroad to British Columbia assumes at every step the truth of a hypothesis as to the ultimate destiny of the country which very few men in private maintain, which some men who affect to maintain it in public, in private very frankly discard.

In the debate on this point the Canadian press of all shades of opinion has, on the whole, been faithful to liberty, though the traces of a long reign of literary terror have not disappeared. The results of Liberal effort would not be very grand if the prejudices and the interests of any self-constituted censorship were to be the rule and the limit of our debate on the subjects most deeply concerning the public welfare. Whenever one of these ridiculous attempts to gag a nation is made we are sure to be told, with more or less distinctness, that some commercial enterprise requiring British capital is on foot, and that Canadians must hold their peace about their own destinies for fear of frightening away the birds. Let people play their commercial game and call it loyalty if they please; but they will not be allowed, for their selfish ends, to prevent the consideration of any policy which may seem likely to bring wealth, happiness, and the virtue which is their attendant, into the homes of the Canadian people.

**Must Annexation follow Commercial Union.—**What are all the far-fetched and super-subtle reasonings in favor of an artificial system compared with the solid fact that Canada is economically a portion of this Continent, and can look ultimately for a full