

any firm instructing their agent in England to run after the few bales of white cotton sent over as an experiment. We have authority for saying that only some four or five bales of white cottons were included in the recent shipment from this city; also that the price—cash—at which the grey cottons have been placed is a fraction above that paid a short time since for a large lot by a leading Toronto wholesale house. The directors and managers of our cotton manufactories, comprising as they do many of the ablest merchants of the country, are not so blind to their own interests as to allow any Canadian wholesale dealer to send across the ocean for Canadian cottons, by which he must pay two freights, insurance, etc., over the price at which he can buy them here.

While our grey cottons and woolsens can find a market abroad, it would appear that there are almost insurmountable obstacles in the way of placing bleached goods. The special finish so necessary for the latter is in Canada as different from that which obtains in Great Britain, the West Indies and South America, as is the style of the shoe worn by the Brazilians and their neighbors from the less arched instep of our home wants, which the manufacturers of these goods discovered some years ago when South America seemed to offer an outlet. Bleached cottons would probably have to be offered as job lots abroad; at all events, our manufacturers, who have all along been kept regularly and thoroughly advised as to the possibilities of the foreign market for cotton and woolen goods, see no practicable outlet for bleached goods; so that the remedy must be found at home—probably in the direction of curtailed production till such time as goods made or held in common are nearly exhausted, or a more equitable distribution of classes and kinds among the different mills.

A COOL PROPOSITION.

The members of the "Jobbers Union" of St. Paul have been paying a visit to Manitoba, and have made the discovery that if they could only obtain admission for their goods, of which unfortunately there is an oversupply everywhere at present, without the payment of duty, they would have a convenient slaughter market in Winnipeg. On their return they held a meeting, as we are told, that three tailors once did in Tooley st., London, and proceeded to pass resolutions based on the following preamble: "Whereas the commerce of the Province of Manitoba is naturally tributary to the United States; and the productions of the

"country and the wants of the people are identical with those of Minnesota, and "Dakota, therefore be it resolved: That "as merchants we are in favor of the "early establishment of reciprocal commercial relations with that Province, "whereby the present artificial obstructions to trade may be removed, and our "mutual interest promoted." Such is the preamble and resolution which is followed up by one urging all merchants unions, chambers of commerce, and boards of trade in the North-West to agitate this important matter until a satisfactory result shall have been accomplished.

It is tolerably clear that the St. Paul jobbers mean by "reciprocal commercial relations" with Manitoba alone, the annexation of that Province to the United States; and if we may judge by the tone of some of the newspapers in Manitoba and the territories, there would be a certain amount of sympathy with any movement in that direction. We are told that "the political relations," which exist between the eastern portion of the Dominion and its territories in the West, are held to be a positive barrier to the establishment of that free commercial intercourse, which is pronounced absolutely necessary for the material welfare of the people in the territories; but then we are fairly warned that "any political question standing in the way must be swept aside." It is just as well that it should be clearly understood that there is a party in the new territories, prepared to demand "free trade with the United States as a *sine qua non* and to consider "Canadian connection" as of very secondary importance.

It seems to be the opinion of the western revolutionists that they will be joined by the people of the Maritime Provinces, who are "equally interested in commercial union," and the logical conclusion is drawn that, "as the two extremes go, the centre must also go, unless there is to be a rupture." The advocates of such views as we have placed before our readers seem really to have taken leave of their senses, for they profess to believe that "it is absurd and "nonsensical to allege that the establishment of commercial union would be "fatal to confederation," whereas in their opinion it is the only method by which confederation can be preserved. We have repeatedly asked of the advocates of "commercial union" to state whether they believe in the possibility of maintaining our present connection with Great Britain, if we admit United States manufactures duty free, and at the same time impose heavy duties on those of the Mother Country. And, further, we have

asked how the common tariff is to be adjusted. Is it meant that Canada is to sacrifice its independence altogether, and submit to whatever fiscal policy may be adopted at Washington, without having even a voice in determining it.

Our quotations have chiefly been taken from the *Manitoba Free Press*, a paper which professes to belong to the party of the opposition, but which certainly does not confine itself within the constituted limits that other organs of that party have hitherto maintained. It is desirable that it should be clearly understood that there is a wide difference between the views of members of the opposition on the vitally important question under consideration. "Commercial union" is only attainable in one way, and that is by political annexation to the United States, and that, most assuredly, will only be accomplished after the termination of a most disastrous civil war. The people in the North-west seem to imagine that they can separate from the Dominion at their own option, and they have even threatened that, unless all the institutions of the older provinces are at once conferred on the Territories, they will separate. They will not even wait for admission as long as the Territories have done before admission to the United States.

THE CATTLE TRADE.

It is announced, apparently on good authority, that Sir John Macdonald has pronounced himself as opposed to the scheme of sending cattle from the ranches in the Western States through Canada. We cannot be much surprised that those interested in the St. Lawrence trade should have been anxious, if possible, to secure the traffic referred to, but there is much to be said on the other side of the question, and there would be practical difficulties in placing one portion of a great country like the United States on a different footing from others. Our own conviction is that the Imperial Government would have been unable to give any countenance to such a scheme as that of Mr. Frewin in the face of the strong opposition that it would certainly meet with in England. There has been a prevailing impression that some members of the administration had given encouragement to those who have been endeavoring to procure the admission of cattle from Wyoming into England when shipped from Canadian ports, but there can be no doubt now that the influence of the Canadian Government will be employed to prevent the success of Mr. Frewin's scheme.....