

Regarding the subject from a broad and national point of view, it is instructive to see how great and varied are the advantages that would result to all parts of our country from free intercourse with the neighboring nations. The northern and southern parts of our continent possess special and distinct advantages for producing commodities with which each can purchase those of other sections. The Northern States, for instance, need fear no competition with Mexico or Cuba in manufactures or agriculture. These countries would purchase, in increased quantities, our manufactures, cereals, meats, and fish, while we in return should consume more of their sugar, coffee, fruits, and other tropical productions. The agricultural productions of Canada are almost identical with those of the Northern States, but would be exchanged for our own manufactures, and for the products of warmer climates, in part those of our Southern States and in part of regions yet farther south, whose products would thus be brought through our territory, and afford employment and profit to our people, with advantages to all the countries which would be parties to the arrangement. Our agriculture, manufactures, and carrying trade would alike be benefited, and the natural operation of the laws of trade would necessarily confer corresponding benefits on those for whom our work would be done and with whom our exchanges would be made.

The trade between the northern and southern parts of this continent must attain enormous proportions. It is very desirable for our people that it should as soon as possible be developed to the utmost. Its natural course will be through the central or intermediate States, creating in them commercial interests of a magnitude which it is almost impossible now to calculate. The mutual benefits thus given and received would be perpetually diffused and circulate in every vein and artery of commerce and manufactures throughout the Union and be accompanied with the gratifying knowledge that they were derived from the prosperity of our neighbors in other countries.

RECIPROCIITY APPROVED BY LEADING STATESMEN OF BOTH PARTIES.

As the naturally interdependent commercial relations of the United States and Canada arise from geographical and climatic causes which are permanent and unchangeable, and the cost of labor and the interest on capital in both countries are, reckoning from a series of years, nearly alike, they have from the beginning of our history attracted the attention of our leading statesmen without distinction of party.

During the Presidency of General Jackson, Mr. Van Buren, when writing in 1829 to Mr. McLane, then our minister at the court of St. James, referring especially to the North American colonies, said:

The policy of the United States in relation to their commercial intercourse with other nations is founded on principles of perfect equality and reciprocity. By the adoption of these principles they have endeavored to relieve themselves from the discussions, discontents, and embarrassments inseparable from the imposition of