

APPENDIX II

UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER MAC- KENZIE ON COMMERCIAL UNION AND ITS RESULTS.

(See page 100)

OTTAWA, May 28th, 1887.

My Dear Young;—Yours of 19th duly received, but my absence from the city prevented my answering it sooner. I am wholly opposed to a so-called Commercial Union. In the first place, I think it all but impracticable. If in operation, our goods would nearly all come in by New York, and constant trouble would be experienced getting our share of the duties. Such a Union would last but a short time, and would inevitably lead to a complete Political Union. While it lasted it would lead to estrangement with the Mother Country. It would be an unprecedented policy.

It may be said, "What about Germany?" Well, the circumstances are not similar. The nations coming under the Zollverein have a Political Union as well. It would be as reasonable to point to a state of the American Union as an example of its working. We could not hope to maintain the existing relations with Great Britain while we had the most intimate commercial relations with a rival nation. Already all the Annexation element in Canada are eager for the new policy. I am bound to do all in my power to maintain the Union with Britain, and, if possible, to get some sort of an arrangement with the United States equal to an alliance offensive and defensive. Such alliance would by its weight command general peace and forward the interests of civilization and international justice.

In the meantime, we have the great Colonies clustering round the Mother Land, and now proving a source of strength instead of weakness, as they were forty years ago, and, until the great Republic sees fit to form an alliance I go for doing everything to bind together what we have got of English-speaking nationalities.

It may be said this is mere sentiment. Well, what if it is? Why should sentiment not be acted upon? It was sentiment that guided Britain in putting down the Slave trade in the East and led to paying £20,000,000 to emancipate the negroes