

have every confidence that the enterprise and skill of our artisans will speedily apply a remedy wherever practicable, and that, too, without the Government resorting to high protective duties, or any other mode of forcing capital and labour into unproductive channels.

The great bulk of our commerce is carried on with two countries—Great Britain and the United States. The West Indies—Spanish and British, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island and France, take rank next, and in the order of their mention. The trade returns for 1865-70 contain the names of about thirty different nations with which we dealt more or less. With several of these our transactions were merely trifling. We shall, therefore, confine our list to those nations whose trade with us exceeded \$50,000, which we find after careful research to be as follows:—

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.
	\$	\$
Great Britain.....	24,950,925	38,595,433
United States.....	32,984,052	24,728,166
Spanish West Indies....	1,280,268	2,423,421
B. N. A. Provinces.....	1,421,423	1,268,948
British West Indies....	1,512,780	892,134
France.....	278,420	1,394,346
Germany.....	15,535	469,275
China.....		432,919
Spain.....	85,082	314,925
South America.....	340,693	
Belgium.....	13,598	161,553
British Guiana.....	166,554	384
Italy.....	150,006	9,426
Holland.....	6,735	145,774
Portugal.....	56,322	43,435
Norway.....		108,649
St. Pierre et Miquelon..	91,711	2,065
Africa.....		70,241
Brazil.....	51,861	8,504
Naples.....	61,371	

Besides the nations mentioned in the foregoing table, Australia, Switzerland and Sicily figure in the returns for considerable sums—the former buying from, and the latter two selling to us. Of the total commerce of that year, which amounted to \$148,387,829, it will be observed that no

less a share than \$121,259,176 was carried on with Great Britain and the United States.

As our two largest customers, the fluctuations of our trade with Great Britain and the United States, are worthy of attentive consideration. By tracing these changes, the immense influence of the Reciprocity Treaty becomes strikingly apparent. From 1850 to 1855—the five years preceding Reciprocity—our imports from Great Britain were (in round numbers) \$73,000,000 as against \$50,000,000 from our neighbours; during the following five years the United States sold us to the value of \$96,000,000, but the mother country only \$76,000,000. Since the repeal of the treaty, however, Great Britain has again obtained the lion's share. During the four years for which we have returns, the excess was \$48,490,007 in her favour,—the difference for 1869-70, as may be seen above, being \$13,867,267. This difference is very considerable, but it falls short of the real amount, for in the statement of our imports from the United States are several millions per annum, for grain and flour, which, although entered at our shipping ports, for the most part simply pass through this country on their way to market.

Another striking change, in the current of our commerce with the United States, has taken place of late years. We are not of those political economists who attach much importance to the "balance of trade," for Canada has only thrice had a balance in its favour during at least fifteen years, and yet who can doubt that it has steadily grown in wealth and prosperity? But if there be any virtue in it, it is gratifying to know that whilst, as between the Dominion and Great Britain, the balance continues to be against us, in the case of the United States it has turned steadily in our favour. In 1869-70, for instance, whilst we had to pay Great Britain \$13,644,508 to square up the transactions of the year, our American neighbours