

extending our trade with South America and the West Indian Islands let us not lose sight of the need of the extension of our trade with our neighbors across our borders.

Look at it as we please, of all the countries on this side of the ocean none to us is so important in reference to our trade relations as is the United States. Nay, is it too much to say that they are well nigh as important to us as all the other countries whose trade we have been considering, and to maintain pleasant relations with them, to encourage and to foster the development of our trade with them, ought always to be the aim of the Government of Canada. No nation bearing the slightest regard for its own self-respect can at any time agree to trade conditions which would bring with them a sense of humiliation. No nation, especially such a nation as Canada, can either beg or cringe for trade with any other nation.

But between waiting to be approached on the one hand and a continuous persistency on the other, to arrive at an understanding, clear, dignified and advantageous, there is the greatest possible difference.

The failure of our commercial treaty does not by any means imply that another one is not to be attempted, and this to be followed up by successive efforts, so long as such efforts can be followed up with the maintenance of honor.

The market of the United States is one which ought to be utilized by us to the largest possible extent, and no sentimental ideas ought to prevent us from prosecuting with the utmost energy such a policy as would lead to the most amicable understanding, and enable each to enjoy in the largest possible extent the markets of each other.

I am not charging the Government with indifference on this most important subject. I am not charging them with inactivity. They may, for aught I know, be at this very moment carrying on negotiations towards the securing of this end; but what I wish to put most clearly before the House is this: that the persistent effort of our own Government to secure trade conditions on equitable terms implies no loss of dignity, and could in the end be fraught with nothing but good.

The rabid utterances which reach us

through the American press are not the utterances (save only in exceptional instances) of native Americans. They come rather from the disaffected portion of our own countrymen who have sought a home in the United States. Rather would I believe that the sentiments expressed by Mr. Phelps at the Mansion House in his farewell to England are the sentiments of the best portion of the American people towards Great Britain and Canada. Referring to his first appearance in England in the same building and the reception accorded him at that time, he says:

"It struck what has proved the keynote of all my relations here, it indicated to me at the outset how warm and how hearty was the feeling of Englishmen towards America, and it gave me to understand what I was not slow to accept and believe, that I was accredited not merely from one Government to the other, but from the people of America to the people of England; that the American Minister was not expected to be merely a diplomatic functionary, shrouded in reticence and retirement, jealously watching over doubtful relations and carefully guarding against and anticipating dangers; but that he was to be the guest of his kinsmen, one of themselves, the messenger of his sympathy and good will, the mutual and warm regard and esteem that bind together two great nations of the same race and make them one in all the fair humanities of life."

And again:

"It is (he says) in a great and constantly increasing intercourse between England and America, its friendliness and its amenities, that the security against misunderstanding must be found. "While that continues they cannot be otherwise than friendly. Unlucky incidents may sometimes occur; interests may happen to conflict; mistakes may be made on the one side and on the other; sharp words may occasionally be spoken by unguarded or ignorant tongues, but these things are all ephemeral; they do not touch the great heart of either people; they float for a moment on the surface and in the wind, and they disappear and are gone, 'in the deep bosom of the ocean buried.'"

It is by the maintenance of such a spirit on the part of the people of both countries that those peaceful and pleasant relations so essential to the well-being of both countries are to be secured, without which trade becomes divested of its attractiveness, and no transactions take place between either other than those which are the result of actual necessity.

Here I may be asked whether or not I have seen what is called the Retaliatory Bill of Congressman C. S. Baker, of New York. I would say I have read the Bill as reported in the papers. It does not in any way affect my argument, or leave me