

establish. The arena on which a free trade policy for Canada must be discussed is on her own soil; and it is a significant fact, and well worthy of the attention of the British public, that at the very time when Mr. Goldwin Smith, a professed free trader, was occupied in defending the Canadian tariff, the Hon. Mr. Blake, the leader of the Canadian Opposition, was engaged in one of the most remarkable political campaigns of which there is any record. Mr. Blake is a practising barrister, a resident of the City of Toronto, and being by universal admission second to none in his profession, the value of his time may be readily imagined. For upwards of two months Mr. Blake was engaged in addressing public meetings in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, in favour of free trade, and in condemnation of the present tariff, with what success, those who do not pretend to be able to make forecasts must be satisfied to learn after the next general election. Meantime, while Mr. Blake and his friends declare themselves quite satisfied with the result of his tour, the Ministerial and Protectionist Party are equally sanguine that he did not succeed in making converts to free trade.

In order that there may be no mistake as to the grounds on which Mr. Goldwin Smith defends the present Canadian tariff, it seems desirable to cite a few brief passages from his contribution to the *CONTEMPORARY REVIEW*:—"Nor is the Canadian tariff protectionist, except in relation to the Coal Tax, which is imposed avowedly for the purpose of compelling Western Canada to burn Nova Scotia coal, but does not concern England." Special notice of the coal tax, as concerning England, will be taken before the close of these remarks; meantime, further extracts on the main point at issue will be given:—"It is the offspring of clear fiscal necessity." . . . "The character of the tariff as a revenue tariff is thus vindicated by the result." . . . "The writer of this paper has been assured by leading commercial men in Canada, who are in principle free traders, and who are unconnected with politics, that the measure was as well framed as the circumstances would permit." . . . "The object announced from the throne was not the protection of native industry, but the equalization of revenue with expenditure, and the framers are men who have always professed Free Trade sentiments, besides being the heads of the Conservative or Imperialist party." . . . "The tariff, though not in the proper sense protectionist, has a quasi-protectionist aspect." . . . "It may be at once granted that to Canada a protectionist system would be ruinous." . . . "The motives of the Canadians in framing their new tariff were purely financial and commercial." In refutation of the foregoing statements of Mr. Goldwin Smith, reference may be made to some prominent articles subjected to duty, and to the opinions of those who are responsible for the tariff, as to the objects they had in view. The articles selected as fair illustrations of the protective character of the Canadian tariff, are cottons and woollens, the aggregate duties on which are about