

direction of reciprocity negotiations, let me cite a very elaborate Associated Press despatch from Washington, under date of the 12th inst., to an editorial in the *Tribune* of the 15th, to one in the *World* of the 9th (the democratic organ is always the best and earliest informed paper in New York on diplomatic affairs); to an editorial in the *Times* of the 16th; of the *Chicago Post and Mail* of the 13th; of the *Tribune* thereof, same date, and to articles in the *Evening Post*, the *Springfield Republican*, and other papers. Mr. Brown, or some one for him, understands the way to influence the American public, and Sir Edward Thornton, his host, appears to have well selected the means of reaching the American Senate. A series of very quiet *petite* dinners have been in progress at the British embassy. To these attractive affairs senators and other public men are invited. They have courses of Brown and reciprocity mingled with the soups, joints, and entrees.

"A friend of mine—a leading member of the house—dined there a few evenings since. Of course the conversation turned on 'reciprocity,' Canada, its relations with the United States. Mr. Brown was eloquent and not wearisome on the advantages of such a treaty, which it is now understood has been proposed by Sir Edward, and an answer to which is expected by the 10th of June from the State Department. The minister, while Mr. Brown was arguing that the Dominion would and need not gravitate to the United States, and that it would be better for both to be separate, though intimate and friendly, remarked, *solo voce*, to the guest referred to: 'Of course, General, I would not say so to Mr. Brown, for he is Canadian, and all his interests are there, but speaking for myself, I should not care at all if the provinces were to be annexed to the United States tomorrow, nor do I believe the result would greatly annoy the British government.' Perhaps this may have been undiplomatic, but it was certainly significant. It is rumored here, and I give it as a straw without testing its quality, that the late visits to the capital of the editorial Warwicks of the liberal movement, Messrs. Horace White, 'Sam' Bowles, Murat Halstead, and Mr. Watterson, had something to do with pushing forward Mr. George Brown's mission."

Why I Propounded a Question.

Before passing from this curious epistle, which, tested by facts that have since come to my knowledge, I am constrained to say contains far more truth than poetry, I must declare that I cannot believe, and that no one who knows the present Secretary of State will believe, that he is capable of conspiring against the interests of the trade and commerce of his country, and of forwarding such a