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Comments on the Customs.



A DISGRACEFUL DUFL IMMINENT.—This miserable fishery business will end in an open row unless some way of settling it permanently can be hit upon. It is a lamentable reflection upon the nineteenth century, yet it cannot be doubted that the English speaking nations involved in the dispute—the leaders of the world's civilization—are prepared, "if necessary," to spill blood over it. Not the blood of the stupid and wrong-headed diplomats who are responsible for the misunderstanding, of course; but that of the "common people" of their respective countries. The resort to arms will be deemed "necessary" on the part of the United States if Canada continues to treat American fishermen with "cruelty and injustice"—that is to say, if she persists in enforcing the provisions of the Treaty of 1818. On the other hand Canada, or Great Britain, will perhaps find a *casus belli* in the refusal of the United States to abide by that treaty, seeing that they alone are responsible for the

abrogation of the Washington Treaty and the rejection of that of 1887. Should President Cleveland's retaliation measure be put in operation, it will only serve to hasten the catastrophe, or the remedy—the latter let us hope, in the name of common sense. What is the remedy? Reciprocity, complete and unrestricted. This is the only remedy, as it will be manifestly impossible hereafter for us to protect our fisheries and at the same time maintain cordial relations with our neighbors. We have always been willing to share our fishing privileges on fair terms, and Reciprocity will be an

adequate consideration; at the same time it will be mutually beneficial in a commercial sense, apart altogether from the fisheries. This is the remedy which Christianity as well as sound statesmanship suggests, as it would conserve for all time the sentiment of brotherhood which should exist between ourselves and the citizens of the Republic. We present this flag of truce between the representatives of the two countries, now arrayed for a disgraceful duel of retaliation. Why have none of our statesmen at present in office raised their voices in this behalf? It wouldn't suit the selfish and unscrupulous members of Canadian trusts and combines, who see in retaliation and restriction the only salvation for their money-making schemes. Is this why? We know that these gentry have great influence at Ottawa. It is time that the people of Canada, who in reality yet form a respectable majority, should have some influence there.

TUPPER VS. TUPPER.—Sir Chas. Tupper, Bart., is one of those who believe that the suspension of business intercourse with the United States would be a disaster to Canada, both commercially and socially. In a speech in Parliament in April last, he strongly expressed this opinion, and intimated that he had signed the treaty as Canadian Commissioner in the hope and belief that it would end the trouble, seeing that Canada had made liberal concessions. Had he clearly foreseen the present attitude of affairs, he would probably have been more in earnest in suggesting the discussion of Reciprocity as a permanent cure of the difficulty. Sir Charles' hopeful son, however, is a "statesman" of another color altogether, and he happens just now to be Minister of Marine. This venturesome novice has been making trouble for the Cabinet by indulging in a lot of foolish bounce which is only excusable on account of his political immaturity. He goes in for "war to the knife" and all that sort of thing, and declares his belief that an American policy which would cut Canada off altogether would be a splendid thing for this country. The young gentleman is right from the Protectionist standpoint, and in accordance with the profound theory of thriving by consuming your own fat; but the elder Tupper, though a theoretical Protectionist, is not willing to be deemed a donkey by carrying the idea to a logical conclusion in this way. The trouble is that the Yankee papers are all getting the Tupperes mixed, and attributing to the Baronet the rash and preposterous vaporings of his boy.

ADVICE to members of the N.-W. Mounted Police, who would like to be promoted to inspectorships: Desert. P.S.—This may not always work unless you happen to be the sons of influential personages—like the Lord of Chestnut Park, for example.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER, Bart., was greeted with prolonged cheers by the assembled Cutlers when he wound up his speech at their banquet the other evening, by declaring that Canada would never, no never! do anything, commercially or otherwise, in the line of discriminating against the grand old mother country. Had his hearers known that the eloquent Bart. himself was the author of the iron duties, which hurt Britain more than any other country, they would have appreciated his statement still more. The Cutlers had no idea of the sort of political blade that was dining with them on the occasion.

THE Militia Department has taken cognizance of the crack-brained letter lately published over the signature of a lieutenant in No. 1 Co. Kent Rangers, in which a plan of capturing Detroit is set forth. It is quite proper that this exhibition of Jingoism on the part of a militia officer at the present juncture should be severely snubbed from headquarters. But isn't it just possible that the breezy utterances of Cabinet Ministers upon the President's message may be responsible for this irregularity? The trouble with some folks is that, in the words of the Chicago young lady, they can't keep their faces shut.

PHILOSOPHICAL reflection by Mr. E. S. Cox: What's the use of having troops of friends, after all, when, for every friend, it is so easy to produce half-a-dozen new informations, each calling for a \$10,000 bail bond?