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of the arrangement which I have had the honour to transmit to Your Lordship in my Despatch No. 45 Commercial of this day, I think it is incumbent upon me to call Your Lordship's attention to the skill displayed by Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Joseph Crowe in the long and difficult negotiations which they have carried on with the delegates of the French Government.

Owing to the objections existing in this country to any kind of commercial arrangements which may interfere with the liberty of the French Parliament to impose at any moment such duties as they may think necessary for the protection of its industries, it appeared at the outset very doubtful if these negotiations would come to a successful termination. The conciliatory spirit, however, shown on both sides has, I am happy to say, falsified these expectations, and I have no hesitation in saying that the conclusion of the arrangement is largely owing to the ability displayed by our negotiators.

Sir Charles Tupper has expressed to me how greatly he is indebted to Sir Joseph Crowe for the kind and considerate attention he has devoted to the matter, and for the very able and judicious manner in which Sir Joseph has aided the negotiations with the French Representatives.

I have, &c., &c.,

DUFFERIN AND AVA.