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✠ † The Portfolio. † ✠

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We invite correspondence and contributions from the Alumne and former students.

✠ Editorials. ✠

✠ THE advantages of Commercial Union which would obliterate the custom lines between the Maritime Provinces and the New England States; between Ontario and New York; between the Northwestern States and Ontario, via. the Sault; between the Canadian Northwest States and between British Columbia and the American Pacific Coast, must be apparent to every one. The unworked mines, large forests, vast stretches of untilled wheat lands and large areas of fine grazing lands, will offer great inducements for investments of American capital. The result of that investment would be beneficial to Canada, and untold wealth to the capitalist. The idea that commercial union will be followed by annexation is entertained by some people on both sides of the line, but it is noticed that those who are desirous of

commercial union do not, in the least, swerve from their loyalty to the Queen. The Canadians are too well satisfied to wish for annexation, and when we had a limited reciprocity treaty with the States once before, no one thought of annexation, although great satisfaction was felt with the result. The lines separating Canada and the United States are not natural barriers, as the climate and products on either side are the same. Why then should we be afraid of our neighbors and treat them as strangers? No difficulty should be felt in making a tariff policy which would be acceptable to both countries, and settling an equitable arrangement, whereby justice in the matter of revenue would be obtained, for all the parties concerned. An increasing friendliness in the relations between the countries would be the outcome of commercial union and the welfare of both peoples would be promoted.

✠ YOU are not surely thinking of how you feel about studying, girls! It is not a thing that can be thrown aside or taken up at our pleasure. We should be in earnest about our work. We leave home to attend more perfectly to our education, and become conversant with the topics of the times. We cannot afford in these days to lose one moment, for in that time a new invention, or the ideas of an enlightened mind has lessened the toil, or revolutionized the minds of hundreds. We must, if we wish to be of any use or to enjoy ourselves, keep up with the times. We may run ahead, but never lag behind.

Only to-day have we heard of the death of two of our most noted female writers. The loss of Mrs. Craik, (Dinah Maria Mulock,) the authoress, will be felt and sincerely lamented by all who have read her works. The poem "A Stream's