

increased measure, and to grasp it corrupt whole States and Provinces, and swell the American Pension List to eighty-seven millions a year.

Mr. Gladstone confesses and bewails the backsliding of the world from Free Trade towards Protection. Partly it is a real backsliding of opinion, the consequence, as we have said before, largely of an extension of the suffrage which has thrown the Government of the world for the time into less intelligent hands, and brought back upon us the ignorant cupidity and the commercial fallacies of the days before Adam Smith. But in large measure it is not a movement of opinion at all: it is the work of sheer corruption practiced by great monopolist interests upon venal constituencies and the governments which are dependent on their vote. The monopolists in the United States would not put up their money if they felt sure that opinion was on their side.

Meantime it will be observed that Mr. Hitt continues to offer his Resolution, which now stands in this form, in which it will probably be brought before the next Congress:

*Resolved:* "That whenever it shall be duly certified to the President of the United States that the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to establish Commercial Union with the United States, having a uniform revenue system, like internal taxes to be collected, and like import duties to be imposed on articles brought into either country from other nations, with no duties upon trade between the United States and Canada, he shall appoint three commissioners to meet those who may be likewise designated to represent the Government of Canada, to prepare a plan for the assimilation of the import duties and internal revenue taxes of the two countries, and an equitable division of receipts in a Commercial Union; the said commissioners shall report to the President, who shall lay the report before Congress."

While we have no wish to inspire Commercial Unionists with false hopes, we beg them to understand that a futile resolution would not be pressed by a man of the standing and sagacity of Mr. Hitt; that there is every reason to believe that the commercial world is in favour of the measure, and no ground