That ought not to be impossible, since the principle of the tariffs and the articles dealt with are much the same. When the object to be gained is great, difficulties of detail subside, and those Custom houses once down would never be built up again. Canada as the smaller interest of the two and at the same time the greater gainer might well afford to yield a point. The principle of Protection need not be surrendered ; at least if Protection is to be kept within the bonds of sanity ; for there are people whose theories imply that if a tariff wall were built round each state of the Union every State would be the richer for its seclusion.

What the effect of Commercial Union on political relations would be must be matter of conjecture. If the United States were ever to embrace Free Trade it is not unlikely that Canada would slide into the Union because it would become impossible to maintain the existing fiscal system in Canada or the political system which is bound up with it. But Free Trade, your politicians say, is a long way off. Commercial Union need produce no more effect on political relations than the railway union and the partial monetary union which have already taken place. All would depend on the direction in which the great forces were tending. The Zollverein would not have united Germany politically if the other grounds of union had not already been there.

Assimilation of tariffs would involve, it is said, discrimination by Canada against the Imperial country, and Canadian manufacturers who seek by Protective duties to exclude British goods altogether hold up their hands in horror at the thought of discriminating against them. Let Great Britain speak for herself when she has the case fairly before her. Her interest in Canada as an investor fully countervails her interest as an importer. Canada already discriminates, though not against special British articles, against the bulk of British trade, and Great Britain knows that the commercial unity of the Empire is at an end. Let Great Britain, I repeat, with