

to send it to the highest; we think too, that it will be a consequence of Free Trade in England, that the manufacturing districts in the Eastern States will occasionally be a better market for our products than the Mother Country. Now, we really believe that Mr. Merritt's object is to obtain free admission for our products into the United States; it is an object of importance, and if we could be brought to believe that the repeal of our agricultural duties would, even in the slightest degree, promote that object, we should not hesitate one moment in supporting the resolution before us. But really it appears to us preposterous in the extreme to imagine, even for an instant, that the United States will be influenced in her commercial policy by the resolutions of the Canadian Legislature. We care not what letters Mr. Merritt may have received from the United States; there are free traders there as well as here, who will support every measure calculated to remove protective duties; but let it be borne in mind, that the United States can enter into no separate reciprocity treaty with Canada. No doubt Free Trade principles are progressing, and will continue to do so, and the United States may repeal, ere long, her present duties on food. But what we contend is, that no Act of ours will have the slightest influence upon that question, and we feel assured, that on mature consideration, no man of intelligence can have any doubt of the correctness of our opinion. The notion of declaring intentions as to what people will do at some future time, is one of Mr. Merritt's crotchets. For our own part, we are contented to deal with matters as we find them at present, and leave our children to adopt that which may seem to them best.

We now come to the second branch of Mr. Merritt's proposition—the admission of certain foreign products into our markets duty free. This is deemed by many a question of great importance, although we must candidly acknowledge that we are not of the number. If Mr. Merritt really believes that the duties in question are baneful to Canada, that they operate in depriving us of commerce, or are felt oppressive by any large portion of our community, then we say, let him come out boldly and demand their repeal. Why wait the action of the Americans before relieving our own people of a burthen? The idea is absurd. The duties on the various articles specified by Mr. Merritt produce a revenue of at least £25,000, and as that £25,000 must be raised, the effect of the change will be to throw it upon other articles of general consumption. We think there is much to say on both sides of the question; but with our views, and with a full knowledge of the absurd prejudices entertained by many, we would rather vote boldly for the *total repeal* of the agricultural duties than for Mr. Merritt's proposition. If the total repeal were