

placed in an attitude of unfriendliness or hostility to this country by causes outside of themselves, or through events in connection with which they have nothing on their own part to do. Between two equally independent and responsible nationalities, homogeneous in blood and character, and with every interest in common, situated as the United States and their northern neighbors are toward each other, it would be as easy to settle the relations of intimate fellowship upon an enduring basis, as it is made difficult to do so in the case of these provinces by reason of their dependent states.

"The circumstances which make the common boundary of the two countries an actual barrier instead of an imaginary line, are under their control, not ours. It is for them to determine which affects them most importantly, their political association with Great Britain, or their commercial and industrial association in interest with the United States, and which shall be yielded to the other, since the two are unquestionably in conflict. There is no apparent evasion of that choice that they must make."

The Treaty of Washington now closely followed this Report, providing for the settlement of various questions between the United States and Canada, but wholly excluding from consideration that of "Reciprocity," which but recently had been so fiercely agitated. To all appearance this last had been settled by the Special Agent's Report. Peace, so far as that question was concerned, prevailed, and continued to prevail until May last, when throughout a fortnight or more there was emitted from the "Reciprocity" Bureau which had then found place in an obscure corner of the Treasury Department, a series of literary fireworks the like of which until then had not been known in connection with our diplomatic arrangements. Assuming generally the form of editorials, readers were to be by them awakened to the fact, till then wholly unperceived, that in ceasing to grant to strangers advantages that would have been unhesitatingly refused to any of themselves, they had been guilty of "a spiteful mistake;" and that "the popular judgment" now appeared to be on the side of a renewal of that policy by means of which Canadian farmers had, throughout a whole decade, been allowed to sell their produce at the high prices prevailing here as a consequence of the building of furnaces, factories, and rolling-mills, while purchasing their ploughs and their harrows at the lower prices prevailing in British markets, consequent upon that American competition which, by means of a protective tariff, had been established. The PUBLIC OPINION thus manufactured, and intended for operation on senatorial minds, coming next to be gathered together, it stands now before me, forming as large a collection as perhaps was ever made of variations of a single tune, evolved from a single mind, and apparently given to the world by aid of scarcely more than a single pen.

Little more, Mr. President, than a fortnight later the public mind is found to have been startled by announcement of the fact of a Treaty being "now before the Senate" having for its object that of carrying into practical effect the *public opinion* which so skilfully had been manufactured; and now it is that we arrive at a course of diplomatic operation wholly unprecedented, to wit, that of sending to the Senate

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