

—With regard to Reciprocity there is nothing new. The question is in abeyance till Parliament and Congress meet. Columns are still filled with the complaint of indignant patriots that we belittle the country by proposing to extend its market, while the people who raise the cry are themselves confessing the need by trying, though so far without success, to open new markets in Australia, Jamaica, and all parts of the world. Did not the origination of the N. P. “belittle” the state of things which existed before? The alarm bell of Annexation also continues to ring. Yet the alarmists declare that no Annexationism exists except in the secret counsels of a few bad characters who if they ventured to show themselves would be crushed by public indignation. What then is there to fear? Nobody pretends to believe that the Americans think of annexing us by force. Apparently we are at liberty to discuss the Commercial question when it comes before us on its own merits, without troubling ourselves about that which the political future may have in store. When the scheme is presented we shall see among other things how it affects the interest of the mother country. Supposing the mother country acquiesces, will the Commercial loyalists be ready to accept the scheme?

The interim may be profitably employed by Protectionists in clearly settling and preparing distinctly to state the principles of their own policy, which we have never yet been able to apprehend. What makes an industry “national,” and entitles it to protection? Subscribing to the Government election fund? What is the proper area of protection? Would Ontario profit commercially by being protected against the other Provinces? Do the Protectionists propose to tax the people for the purpose of Protection, even though the taxes may not be wanted for revenue? It would seem so from what they are doing in the United States. We should be glad also to be furnished with an instance of an industry which having been protected during its “infancy” has on reaching maturity been able to dispense with protection, or has not clamoured for