

relieving the local tax burdens of the people, and preserving intact, by a harmonious method of adequate import duties, the protection of American labor" was of more importance than any other question of American affairs.

On July 11, 1883, the Republican State Convention of Pennsylvania adopted resolutions as follows :

*"First.* We unqualifiedly approve and demand the continuance of that system of Protection to Home Industry which has proved itself to be the basis of national independence, the incentive to industrial skill and development, and the guarantee of a just and adequate scale of wages for labor ; and we denounce all attempts to reduce the rates of the tariff below the level which will accomplish these objects.

*"Second.* That any surplus in the public treasury arising from a redundant revenue should, after paying the national debt as fast as its conditions permit, be distributed from time to time to the several States upon the basis of population, to relieve them from the burdens of local taxation and provide means for the education of their people."

These resolutions were adopted with the knowledge that President Arthur was prepared to make the Presidential campaign upon this platform.

In December, 1879, I embodied in the form of an open letter addressed to General Garfield arguments in favor of Commercial Union with Canada, but only after those views had received the approval of that distinguished statesman. I have reason to know that, had President Garfield lived another year, he would have advocated this settlement of Canadian questions, and that he would have opposed all other solutions. After watching the discussion of the Canadian complications, and of national finance, I am convinced that the only American solution of them is upon these lines,—and therefore the publication of this memorandum.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,

WHARTON BARKER.