

clare the ports of the United States free to all the products of any nation of the American hemisphere upon which no export duties are imposed. This has fallen like a thunderbolt upon the McKinley Bill and its supporters. We had not been without reason to believe that something of the kind was brewing in that quarter, but we could not understand how the party would have pushed the McKinley Bill in Congress as it did, if it knew that its own leaders in the Administration were hostile to its policy. Generally the unity of party at Washington is strict enough, if not to prevent internal dissensions, to preclude their open exhibition. Mr. Blaine is a man of larger mind than most of his party, and as Secretary of State he stands on an eminence from which he commands a wider view than those who are struggling in the Congressional crowd. He no doubt scans the future and sees that in spite of the verdict apparently given by the nation at the last Presidential election, the tide of opinion is really turning, as this journal has maintained, against the follies and iniquities of the present system. The American nation would be in its dotage if it were not so. Mr. Blaine has championed the Protection policy both on the stump and very recently in literary debate with Mr. Gladstone. But he would probably say that his proposal being confined to the nations of the American hemisphere, and leaving the tariff-wall against European goods untouched, he is guilty of no treason to his principle. His proposal is in terms confined to the South American "nations" which sent delegates to his Pan-American convention. But Canada also is in the American hemisphere. For us, too, if Mr. Blaine's policy triumphs at Washington, the proposal of Continental Free Trade will change the scene.

—The sword of the Inter-State Commerce Act still hangs suspended over the two Canadian Railways and nobody seems to know whether it will fall. In the balanced state of parties in the United States almost every sectional interest has a veto on