

*Philadelphia, February 23rd, 1880.*

To the Hon: GEORGE BROWN, SENATOR. Toronto.

DEAR SIR :—

Permit me to convey to you, as briefly as I can, my deep sense of the need of a permanent and satisfactory adjustment of the commercial relations between your country and our own.

Americans on both sides of the border must feel that the relations of the Dominion of Canada to the United States form one of the largest questions for the consideration of each country. That speculation and discussion upon the *political* relations of the two countries, though natural and perhaps unavoidable, cause apprehension, and are regarded by many as unwarranted, may be conceded, but no such repugnance can be felt toward full discussion of their *commercial* relations.

We are not only neighbors, but neighbors of great importance to each other in many ways. And, as we are, each party is fully awake to the substantial advantages and disadvantages of any arrangement which can be made; we can have no permanent success in any by which either seeks to overreach the other.

I suppose that every one will agree that the state of public opinion in each country indicates a dissatisfaction with the present status of our relations. Speaking for our side of the border, I may say that all those who have been moved, either by business connections or by general reflection, to take an interest in Canada, feel this dissatisfaction. We see, with some concern, that every point of contact between the countries is becoming a point of irritation, and that their relations, —so far from improving by the close acquaintance which easy intercourse and rapid communication enable, and by the intimate social connections, so frequently formed between our people,—are becoming distinctly worse.

The late Reciprocity Treaty, your Tariff of 1879, the Fisheries Settlement, have all left behind them results of ill feeling. Your new Tariff had an evident