

SLANDERING BY WHOLESALE.

A few days ago The Toronto News said: "It may transpire later that the free trade campaign in Great Britain and the reciprocity campaign in **Canada** are largely financed by **foreigners** who value a free entry to two of the world's best markets." This was a gratuitous and utterly unfounded charge of corruption laid against the men in public life and the newspapers in **Canada** engaged in the advocacy of better trade relations with the United States. It was a particularly offensive charge because it suggested that some Canadians were so lacking in patriotism as to seek to barter the interests of their own country and to take the money of **foreigners** with that end in view. It was altogether a petty statement, and The Globe was perfectly justified in saying that "The newspapers in the Dominion favorable to better trade relations with the United States will be quite pleased to learn on the authority of The Toronto News that they are a pack of corruptionists. There is no reciprocity campaign in **Canada**, and the only advocacy of better trade relations has been in the columns of the Press of both countries. If the movement has been financed the Press must have been corrupted."

The News, under the heading "A Falsehood," has this comment: "The Globe says: 'The newspapers in the Dominion favorable to better trade relations with the United States will be quite pleased to learn on the authority of The Toronto News that they are a pack of corruptionists.' This, of course, is a malicious and deliberate falsehood. The News made no such statement."

We are content to leave the case as it stands to the judgment of the journalists of the country and the public men who have favored better trade relations. Have they been "financed" by **foreigners**? Does the miserable "may" of The News excuse a wholesale slander?