

not be readily granted, when the object to be attained is pregnant with such infinitely greater consequences. But Canada, who would gain so immeasurably by the undertaking, should also contribute her share ; in which case, the sacrifice would be as trifling for England, as it would be temporary for both countries. I leave these considerations to the statesman who may hold the reins of government when Parliament again assembles. Without, perhaps, being aware of it, the commercial destinies of the country will then be in his hands ; and I will merely add, that he may not only immortalize himself by bringing forward and accomplishing such a measure, but that he would have the support of the whole nation, if once made to understand the issue of the case, and that the future of England depended on it.

SMALL PROBABLE TRAFFIC AND CONSEQUENT RETURNS.

It has already been observed how quickly an American railroad in the Western States is followed, or rather accompanied, by settlement and civilization. This will be better exemplified by the following figures, showing the astonishing increase in the earnings of some of the Western railroads in the course of the last four years :—

	1863.		1867.
Chicago and North Western ..	2,811,544	Dolls. ..	11,532,348
Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific ..	1,959,267	" ..	4,153,231
Michigan (Southern) ..	3,302,543	" ..	4,613,754
Toledo, Wabash, and Western ..	1,439,798	" ..	3,784,816

The fact, however, of an intermediate, unsettled country, like that to be traversed by the proposed line, and the consequently small amount of "way" traffic to be expected in the beginning, would be more than counterbalanced by the "through" traffic, and the daily increasing crowd of passengers, who, homeward and outward bound, would cross the continent.

The following more or less authenticated facts, from the Report of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with the corrections and modifications introduced by the writer, may give some idea of what this traffic would most likely amount to.

	MERCHANDISE.	Tons.
Ships from the Atlantic round Cape Horn, 100 at 800 tons* of goods each		80,000
Steamers connecting at Panama with California and China, 55 at 2,200 tons. Say 40 with 1,500 tons of goods each ..	..	60,000
Overland Trains, Stages, Horses, &c., 30,000 tons, say ..	..	20,000
		<u>160,000</u>
N.B.—Before the construction of the Panama railroad, 27,000 teams left two points on the Missouri for their westward journey in one year.		
Return freight as much more, say only the half ..	..	<u>83,000</u>
Instead of 460,000 tons ..	..	<u>240,000</u>

* The ton is the American one of 2,000 lbs.