

capital contemplates our line with favour, and proposes to continue it from Pembina to the ocean, passing the Rocky Mountains near the head waters of the Saskatchewan River. Such a line would be less than two-thirds the length of a line from Cairo to the Pacific. John Bull may make the railroad, but a telegraph to the Pacific he certainly will make. It is to run to Vancouver's Island, and an American line will connect with it at a station on the Red River of the north, and so bring it into the United States. But at the other end, it is not proposed to let it stop at Vancouver's Island; it is to go on thence, and connect, in Russian America, with a telegraph across Behring's Straits, and so to Europe; and, if the Atlantic cable is not hurried up, it will find its value anticipated."

Referring again to the State of Minnesota, where will centre all the lines of railway, and from whence they will converge to the various sections now so rapidly developing, and also the importance of a wise and liberal legislation on the part of the British Home Government, we append certain letters and papers:—

*Letter from the GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA to THOMAS RAWLINGS, Esq., Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London.*

*"State of Minnesota, Executive Department,  
St. Paul, Nov. 28, 1862.*

"\* \* \* I regard the road in question as a central outlet to these extensive and fertile districts of Northern Minnesota, and the lands in its vicinity must materially appreciate as its construction extends. I enclose you documents indicating my estimation of the future progress of the region with which the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad is closely connected. I also forward a memorial of the last Minnesota Legislature bearing on the same subject, of which I have recorded my official approval."

*Extract of a Memorial presented to the Congress of the United States.*

"It is now well known that north of latitude forty-nine degrees (49°), and west of longitude ninety-four degrees (94°), there extends to the Rocky Mountains a district which may be properly styled Central British America.

"This region, at least to latitude fifty-four (54°)—five degrees of latitude in width and eleven degrees of longitude in length—is connected with Minnesota by internal river and lake navigation, and is capable of sustaining as dense a population as the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

"The climate and soil invite a similar agriculture. Selkirk Settlement, with a population of ten thousand souls, immediately joins Minnesota, and is the key to the future occupation and development of the fertile valleys and navigable rivers which converge to Lake Winnipeg. One of these streams, the Red River of the North, is navigable for four hundred miles by its course within the United States, forming the north-west boundary of Minnesota.

"It was a favourite policy of the Derby Ministry, and especially of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Colonial Secretary, to organize a Crown Colony of Central British America, with the seat of Government at Selkirk.