

## REPORT.



The Imperial Government having given their decision to the Commissioners deputed by Canada and New Brunswick, respecting the formation of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, it has become the duty of your Committee to lay before the Shareholders the following statement of facts, in reference to the proceedings of the various parties connected with this great project during the last twelve months; and also to state to the shareholders the course which the Committee intend to pursue for the future.

Four years have passed since the Committee for promoting this great project for improving the social condition of the working classes of the United Kingdom, and the British North American Colonies, were first appointed and the Association provisionally registered; during which time they have, on all occasions when opportunities offered, placed the subject fairly before the British and Colonial Legislatures, Her Majesty's Government, and the public. By these proceedings, and the appeal of the Honorable Joseph Howe, the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, to Her Majesty's Government, on behalf of the Colonies, for a guarantee for the capital necessary to construct the trunk line of Railway from Halifax in Nova Scotia, through New Brunswick, to Quebec in Canada, Her Majesty's late Government assented to the proposition; and Earl Grey, then the Colonial Secretary, caused a letter to be written on the 10th of March, 1851, to Mr. Howe, stating that "*Her Majesty's Government* are prepared to recommend to Parliament, that this *guarantee should be granted; or, that the money required should be advanced from the British Treasury,*" on certain conditions, which were stated, being agreed to by the Colonies.