

must always be remembered that the St. Lawrence River to Montreal is not usually open very much longer.

A corporation (known as the "Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay Railway Company") has, for the past two or three years, been in possession of a charter of construction; and a commencement of some forty miles of the road, starting from Winnipeg, has already been made, but the management seems to have fallen into hands that do not inspire sufficient confidence, for the work has now for some months been suspended.

Enterprise is no doubt a very valuable quality, but it is too frequently found in all countries that there is an enterprise which, while professedly seeking the public weal, is really and practically pursuing little beyond personal and selfish ends. This policy nowhere accomplishes high purposes. It is not only possible, but I hope extremely probable, that when some syndicate is formed for carrying out this great work, which will subordinate every other consideration to the sole purpose of constructing a *cheap* line in the interests of this country alone, the road will be built. On account of the special circumstances of the case, arising from the shortness of the season of navigation, the closest possible economy in construction is an imperative condition of success. If *thus* carried out, however, there can be little doubt but that, not Manitoba alone, but all the Northern and Western States of the American Union, will participate in a route of communication with the United Kingdom of very superior advantage.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE return voyage to Canada had no special circumstances to signalize it. We had about the average class and description of passengers. No one very remarkable, if I except the admiral going out to take up the command in the Pacific, and his staff.

We were fortunate, at last, to have obtained passage by the best ship in the Allan fleet ("The Parisian"); a vessel quite of the first-class anywhere else, but when brought into comparison with those "greyhounds of the Atlantic"—"The Umbria" and