

REMARKS ON THE PICTOU RAILWAY.

The formal opening of the Pictou Railway throughout its entire length seems a fitting occasion for the following observations :—

Since the writer first became professionally engaged in the Province of Nova Scotia, early in 1864, his name has occasionally been freely handled in discussions in the Legislature and in the press, and these personal references, as many are aware, have not always been of a complimentary nature.

The writer has not hitherto considered it necessary to enter any defence ; he has invariably persevered in the performance of those duties which he was called upon to perform, in the execution of the important work now about being brought into public use, and in the firm belief that the work itself would prove a more enduring defence than anything he could say or write.

Fully three years ago he was invited to accept the office of Chief Railway Engineer by the Government of Nova Scotia, and, amongst other duties, he was called upon to make the surveys, and conduct to completion the construction of a line of Railway from Truro to the waters of Pictou harbor.

In October, 1865, it was discovered that the works had not made that progress, under a system of small contracts, which the Government expected or desired ; and at that period they had actually come to be in a condition of partial suspension. There seemed