

racter of the vindication I shall soon inform myself by reference to the reports, and in the meantime permit me to repeat that I shall sincerely rejoice if it should be satisfactory.

As you have thought it worth your while to favour the world at large with ten pages of comment and explanation with reference to our Railway negotiations, I can scarcely pass them over without a few remarks, although nothing would be more unseemly than any attempt of ours to interest the British public in our past differences of opinion. From the account you give of them it would be extremely difficult to comprehend the nature of my negotiations with her Majesty's Government, or of your own. A few explanations will suffice to define our relative positions and policy.

The idea of a great Intercolonial Railway, to connect the British provinces with each other, originated with Lord Durham—that of a shore line, connecting Europe and the United States, through the Lower Provinces, was suggested at the Portland Convention. The Trunk for either, or both of those lines, would pass for 130 miles through Nova Scotia. After several years had been spent in unavailing efforts to construct some portion of these works by companies, with aids and facilities from the Provincial Legislatures, I induced the Government of Nova Scotia to assume the responsibility of borrowing the funds required to construct her own. I also suggested that if the Imperial Government could be