

that would render a general union absolutely necessary. Several surveys have proved that a railroad would be perfectly practicable the whole way. Indeed, in North America, the expense and difficulty of making a rail road bears by no means the excessive proportion to those of a common road that it does in Europe. It appears to be a general opinion in the United States, that the severe snows and frosts of that Continent very slightly impede, and do not prevent the travelling on rail-roads; and, if I am rightly informed, the Utica rail-road, in the northern part of the State of New York, is used throughout the winter. If this opinion be correct, the formation of a rail-road from Halifax to Quebec would entirely alter some of the distinguishing characteristics of the Canadas. Instead of being shut out from all direct intercourse with England during half the year, they would possess a far more certain and speedy communication throughout the winter than they now possess in summer. The passage from Ireland to Quebec would be a matter of 10 or 12 days, and Halifax would be the great port by which a large portion of the trade, and all the conveyance of passengers to the whole of British North America would be carried on. But even supposing these brilliant prospects to be such as we could not reckon on seeing realised, I may assume that it is not intended to make this road without a well founded belief that it will become an important channel of communication between the Upper and Lower Provinces. In either case, would not the maintenance of such a road, and the mode in which the Government is administered in the different Provinces, be matters of common interest to all? If the great natural channel of the St. Lawrence gives all the people who dwell in any part of its basin, such an interest in the Government of the whole as renders it wise to incorporate the two Canadas, the artificial work which would, in fact, supersede the lower part of the St. Lawrence, as the outlet of a great part of the Canadian trade, and would make Halifax in a great measure an outpost to Quebec, would surely in the same way render it advisable that the incorporation should be extended to Provinces through which such a road would pass.

With respect to the two small colonies of Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland, I am of opinion that not only would most of the reasons which I have given for an union of the others apply to them, but that their smallness makes it absolutely necessary, as the only means of securing any proper attention to their interests, and investing them with that consideration, the deficiency of which they have so much reason to lament in all the disputes which yearly occur between them and the citizens of the United States, with regard to the encroachments made by the latter on their coasts and fisheries.

The views on which I found my support of a comprehensive union have long been entertained by many persons in these colonies, whose opinion is entitled to the highest consideration. I cannot, however, refrain from mentioning the sanction of such view by one whose authority, your Majesty will, I may venture to say, receive with the utmost respect. Mr. Sewell, the late chief justice of Quebec, laid before me an autograph letter addressed to himself, by your Majesty's illustrious and lamented father, in which his royal highness was pleased to express his approbation of a similar plan then proposed by that gentleman. No one better understood the interests and character of these colonies than his royal highness; and it is with peculiar satisfaction, therefore, that I submit to your Majesty's perusal the important document which contains his royal highness's opinion in favour of such a scheme:—

“ KENSINGTON PALACE, Nov. 30, 1814.

“ MY DEAR SEWELL,—I have this day had the pleasure of receiving your note of yesterday, with its interesting enclosure; nothing can be better arranged than the whole thing is, or more perfectly I cannot wish; and when I see an opening it is fully my intention to hint the matter to Lord Bathurst, and put the paper into his hands, without, however, telling him from whom I have it, though I shall urge him to have some conversation with you relative to it. Permit me, however, just to ask you whether it was not an oversight in you to state that there are five Houses of Assembly in the British Colonies in North America; for if I am not under an error, there are six—viz: Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and