

merits. There are, however, many important collateral circumstances connected with the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, or which may be very advantageously combined with it, which greatly enhance its importance.

However practical the present age may claim to be, it would be very absurd to attempt to reduce every transaction to a mere debtor and creditor account, a simple posting of the mercantile ledger. Any one who has studied the rise and fall of empires, the great leading features of the events which have been transacted upon the stage of time, must see the visible impress of an all-wise, powerful, and beneficent Being, who governs and controls all the efforts of man to some wise end. The destiny of nations appears to be shadowed forth with sufficient clearness for the wise and reflecting to interpret, and happy it will be for those nations whose governors or watchmen understand the "signs of the times."

The present is no ordinary epoch of the world's history. It appears to be a period of action, both mental and bodily, the ushering in of that era when "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

That the destiny of England, with her widely extended and highly important colonial dependencies, is of no ordinary character, can hardly be denied by the most superficial observer. Can any one, who has a heart to feel, direct his thoughts along the *vista* of futurity without experiencing a glow of satisfaction springing up within him, from a consciousness that the language, the religion, the laws, the institutions, and the literature, as well as the scientific and mechanical genius of his native land, will roll onwards through the length and breadth of this vast colonial empire, and that England will thus be reproduced in its most essential features in every quarter of the globe?

In order that these desirable results may be brought about in a manner to prove the greatest possible blessing to the mother country and her numerous dependencies, it will be necessary for statesmen to be governed by enlarged and enlightened views, and not by mere time-serving expediency. The system of staving off difficulties by the hour must be abandoned, and they must consider that everything in the present age is in rapid motion, flowing onwards to fresh developments, and that their duty is to direct this