

ed Great Britain, and mingled freely and extensively with its people as I have done, can entertain a doubt. Wherever I went and with whomsoever I conversed, the opinion constantly met me: "It would be better for us if we were separated; you never will be contented to remain as colonists, you are causing us a greater expenditure than we can afford; we cannot support two Irelands; it is time to give you *your independence*." This book, whatever its reception may be, will at least circulate among all my personal friends in England, which is the best evidence I can give you of my conviction of the existence of this feeling; for my proclaiming it in the presence of those by whom I assert that it is entertained, I afford them an opportunity of repudiating it, if unfounded. Let us not, therefore, be led astray by any of those theories, however plausible and captivating they may appear to be, that are now advocated with such intemperate heat in Canada. Nova Scotia never was in so flourishing a condition as it is at present. Its trade is enlarging, its agriculture improving, and its population increasing most rapidly, while the character of its merchants for honourable and upright dealing stands higher than that of any other community on the whole American continent. Politics unfortunately engrosses too much attention everywhere to the exclusion of many indispensable duties. Party-men are apt to magnify its importance for their own purposes, and to extol it as a panacea for all the ills of life; but experience teaches us that the happiness of every country depends upon the character of its people, rather than the form of its government. Why? asks the philosophical Goldsmith, after an attentive examination of many of the European states,

"Why have I stray'd from pleasure and repose,
To seek a good each government bestow'd
How small of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws and kings can cause or cure!"

Let us keep out of the vortex of political excitement, learn how to value the blessings we enjoy, and study how we can best promote the internal communications and develop the resources of our native land.

The times has now come when the great American and colonial route of travelling must commence or terminate at Halifax. On the importance of this to Nova Scotia it is unnecessary for me to expatiate, as it speaks for itself, in a language too plain and intelligible to be misunderstood; but these advantages we can neither fully enjoy, nor long retain, without a "rail-road" from Halifax to Windsor. It is now no longer a matter of doubt or of choice, circumstances have forced it upon us. We owe it to the liberality of the British government, to make all those arrangements that shall give full effect to the noble scale upon which they have undertaken the Atlantic steam-navigation. We owe it to New-Brunswick and Canada to complete our portion of the great intercolonial line, and above all we owe it to ourselves, not to be behind every other country in appreciating and adopting those great improvements, which distinguish the present age.

And now, gentle reader, it is time for me to make my bow as well as my sea-legs will allow me, and retire. In doing so, permit me to express a wish that your voyage of life may be the very opposite of that of a steamer, in a point of duration, and resemble it as nearly as possible in the one grand essential, namely in making the best use of your time.

I have the honour, to be,

Your most obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.

THE END.