

the Pacific Railway, and of the part taken in that enterprise by Sir Hugh Allan, he mentions that Sir Hugh "*was the originator of the ocean line of communication between Great Britain and Canada.*" In several periodicals and newspapers similar statements have been made; and as I am aware that such representations are not correct, nor have any foundation in fact, I, therefore, think it a matter of justice to declare that Sir Hugh Allan had nothing whatever to do in establishing, or commencing steam communication between the St. Lawrence and Great Britain; and that whatever credit is due for beginning that important enterprise belongs to myself. How correct this assertion is, can be judged of by the proofs I will give of it, in the following pages.

It is almost a quarter of a century since the first ocean mail steamer arrived in the port of Montreal. The circumstances which led to that event will, in a few years, be entirely forgotten; and as few now know the effort that was required to establish ocean mail steamers, the facts appertaining thereto cannot fail to be interesting to the young merchant and to others, more especially as this steam communication with Britain has proved very advantageous, not only to the trade of Montreal, but to that of the whole Dominion.

The North American Royal Mail Steamers, or the Cunard Line, were established in 1839, and, in 1846, ran fortnightly to Halifax and Boston. In 1856, this line of steamers ran weekly to Boston and New York, at an annual cost to the British