

was forced upon my mind by all I saw and heard in England. Having discussed the subject with my colleagues, with Mr. Watkin, Mr. Nelson, and with some of the leading bankers and merchants of London, I was requested to draw up a Prospectus of an Association, which I was assured would be generously patronized and sustained. The Prospectus, a copy of which is appended to this report, was prepared and printed for private circulation; and, although I was compelled to leave before a meeting could be held, it is to me a subject of sincere congratulation that this movement has been crowned by a degree of success far beyond my most sanguine expectations.

British Americans will shortly have a home in London, the means of ready introduction to all the channels of trade, and to all circles of society. The Provinces will have the advantage and the aid of a powerful body, thoroughly comprehending their interests, and prompt to aid them in every forward movement. Minutes of the proceedings of the British American Association, with official letters from the Secretary, are appended to this Report.

Just before leaving London, I was honored by invitations from the Mayors of Liverpool and Chester to dine with them, and address the inhabitants of those cities. Being compelled to return home in time for the meeting of the Legislature, I reluctantly declined distinctions and opportunities which, on many accounts, I ought to have improved, and would have very highly prized.

As Mr. Vankoughnet could only linger a few weeks, it was necessary to organize a working committee to whom should be entrusted the task of getting up memorials from the large towns, and promoting the enterprise in the absence of the delegation. Mr. V. did not leave till this was done, and a body of gentlemen second to none in wealth, position, and influence, now watch over the interests of the Provinces, and form an authorized channel of communication with Her Majesty's Government.

Though no official answer has yet been received, and though I have kept this Report open in hopes that some intimation of the intentions of the Cabinet might have been laid before the Legislature with it, I am reluctant to believe that an unfavorable answer will be given. A friend, who is cognizant of all that is going on, writes cheerfully of the prospects of the great enterprise. I give one or two extracts from his letters:

"London, 22nd February, 1862.

"The Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, was held on Wednesday last. I was permitted to attend and address them on the Inter-Colonial Railroad.

They passed a resolution recommending it to the Chambers of Commerce throughout the country. The Chambers will all, therefore, send memorials, as a matter of course.

The minute of proceedings of the Railway Meeting, was sent to the Government, and they have addressed another official communication to the Government, which will go in on Tuesday. I will send you copy by next mail.

"8th March, 1862.

"DEAR SIR,—

I have addressed you an official letter on the subject of the British North American Association. Similar letters have been addressed to the Provincial Secretaries of the other Provinces.

When you first proposed the formation of such an Association, you struck a chord which has vibrated throughout the United Kingdom; and I am proud to say that the Association is one of the most decided successes ever witnessed, in reference to the interests of British North America in this country. Although the rules, &c. have not yet gone out, and the circular announcing where the donations, &c. are to be paid, there has been already a large sum paid in to the Treasurer; all the Corporations, except the General Mining, pay 50 guineas each.

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