

INTRODUCTION.

It will ever remain a memorable incident of the Southampton meeting of the British Association in 1882, that on that occasion the decision was arrived at to cross the Atlantic, and hold the Annual Meeting this year in the city of Montreal. This exceptional result was not arrived at without having been somewhat earnestly contested by Members of the Association, who urged the claims of Birmingham as the place of assembly of the savants in 1884. The friends of our Dominion across the sea, however, proved to be in a majority.

No sooner was the decision made known in Montreal than the leading citizens set themselves to work for the purpose of organising a most influential Committee, so as to ensure a cordial and hearty welcome to as many Members of the Association as would venture upon an ocean voyage. Under the auspices of the Citizens' Committee, a circular invitation was drafted and forwarded to the Association, in which every inducement was held out to Members who would accept the offer to attend the meetings in Montreal, it being stated that "Members of the British Association, in coming to Canada, may be assured of a most cordial and generous hospitality, not only from the citizens of Montreal, where every facility will be furnished for their meeting, but from the people throughout the country." The circular added that the Grand Trunk Railway would arrange for an excursion of the Members to the Great Lakes and Chicago, while the Canadian Pacific Railway would give an excursion to the North West, as far as the Rocky Mountains, a distance of about two thousand six hundred miles.

The Dominion Parliament voted 25,000 dollars towards the expenses of the Meeting, and, as a further inducement, and proof of Canadian liberality, the Canadian Government railways were rendered free, as were all telegraphs in the Dominion; messages were also to be sent free to Europe, by the Submarine Companies.

The Meetings of the Association commenced in Montreal on the 27th of August, and extended over a week. The Canadian Pacific Railway is one of the most important lines of communication in the Dominion, extending as it already does from Montreal to the base of the Rocky Mountains, serving the vast territory of Manitoba, and steadily pursuing its course until, in a short time, it will fold within its embrace the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and form a direct line of communication between Great Britain and Japan, China and Hindostan. This Company has an alternative route as, in addition to the direct railway service *via*