

In selecting the course of the former, they had in view the importance of keeping as far in the interior of the country as was practicable, and of providing good harbours at each of its extremities. Since that route was reported on, which seemed the most effectually to embrace these objects of the Commissioners, the Welland Canal has been surveyed and commenced ; and this work, pursuing a course nearer the frontier, and possessing many local advantages, will, when completed, for many years at least, and with reference to commercial purposes, meet all the exigencies of the Country. The Province is indebted to the exertions of private enterprise for this Canal which promises such beneficial results, and which has been prosecuted under many untoward circumstances with a degree of zeal and perseverance alike honourable to the parties and gratifying to every friend of public improvement.

The inlet into Burlington Bay, suggested by the Commissioners in their report of the survey between the Lakes, has since been undertaken at the public expense ; and although not as a part of the projected Canal for which it was to furnish a harbour, yet as it will render a port accessible which in point of security and commodiousness will vie with any on the Lake, the work is one of immense value to the beautiful tract of country lying in its immediate vicinity, and stretching westward into the interior.

It is most satisfactory to witness the interest which has been so decidedly and so promptly taken by Government in the projected canal from Lake Ontario to the Ottawa, by the River Rideau.—While the survey was yet but half perfected, His Majesty's Ministers, proposed on very favourable terms, a loan of *seventy thousand pounds*, in aid of such funds as might be appropriated from our Provincial Treasury to the construction of the Canal. The Legislature having, however, evinced some hesitation in closing with this liberal offer, apparently because they considered the enterprise more necessary in a military, than in a commercial, point of view ; and, also, because they were somewhat apprehensive of involving the Province beyond its resources, His Majesty's Government have, it is said, resolved to undertake the important work at the sole cost of the Imperial Treasury ; and have, accordingly, sent out an officer of high character, belonging to the Corps of Royal Engineers, to superintend its execution. This gentleman has already proceeded to carry into effect the magnificent plans of the Government. The ground has been broken near the Richmond landing, on the Ottawa—a bridge, and other erections for facilitating the work, are in progress—and this vast undertaking promising wealth to our agriculturists, convenience to our commerce, and security to our country, is actually commenced.

The advantages which the Province will derive from the Rideau Canal, are, indeed, inestimable, as they regard the commerce of some of its most valuable and flourishing sections, and setting out of view every consideration connected with its military defence. The present determination to open that Canal at the sole expense of England, is, therefore, another signal and endearing benefit added to the long catalogue of favours which this Colony owes to the affection of the parent state, and which no return of the most loyal and faithful attachment can ever overpay.

It is not yet publicly understood, nor is it perhaps decided, on what scale the Canal is to be constructed. One of the three plans of the Commissioners may be adopted, or one of dimensions differing from all of them. In prosecuting the work, the superintending Engineer may be able to improve in some points on the line traced by the Commissioners, since in laying out the work for actual execution, a further and more minute examination of the Country must be made than was required in the original survey, in order to arrive, without unreasonable expense, at the objects contemplated by the Legislature. It is also probable that as under his management, the Canal will be constructed in a great measure, with reference to military purposes, or with a preference of them to those which are merely commercial, it may appear to him desirable to alter the course laid down in the Reports, even if the deviation should occasion a considerable addition to the cost. With the limited means of this Province, and with commercial objects in view, as those alone which we could hope, by our own resources, to attain, the Commissioners naturally sought for the cheapest route ; but different views prevailing with a military Engineer, planning a work principally designed for military uses, may induce him, in many instances, to regard the cheapest as by no means necessarily the best, or most expedient to be adopted. These remarks can, however, only apply to those places, few in number, where the