

PRESENT:

VISCOUNT BURY, M.P., IN THE CHAIR.

The Rt. Hon. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, M.P.

Capt. the Hon. JOHN VIVIAN, M.P.

The Hon. Sir A. NAPIER MACNAB, Bart.

VISCOUNT GODERICH, M.P.

The Hon. SAMUEL CUNARD.

Colonel BOLDERO, M.P.

JAMES WYLD, Esq., M.P.

The Hon. CHAS. FITZWILLIAM, M.P.

R. P. NISBET, Esq., M.P.

The Hon. Justice HALIBURTON.

JOHN NEELD, Esq., M.P.

FRAS. S. HEAD, Esq.

ALFRED ROCHE, Esq., and Others.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, before opening the proceedings, I have to read two or three letters from gentlemen who have expressed their interest in the cause, but who have been unable from various circumstances to attend here to-day. The first is from Mr. Cummins, a director of the British North-American Bank. He "regrets" that it will not be in his power to be present at the Meeting to be "held to-morrow, having, previously to the receipt of your letter, "made another engagement." He then says, "I am strongly convinced of the expediency of the object you have in view." I will not read the whole letter. The next is from Mr. Terrell, chairman of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. He regrets it is not in his power to be present at the Meeting, but he says "he considers that "the completion of the railway is of great importance to the country "generally, and to this locality (Bristol). Should our relations with "the United States become unsettled, it would be absolutely necessary that there should be an uninterrupted railway communication "between Halifax and the interior of Canada." I will not take up the time of the Meeting by reading the remainder of the letter. What I have already quoted is sufficient to show Mr. Terrell's interest in the matter. There is another letter, from Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P. He regrets that his absence from London will prevent his attending the Meeting.

I may also say I have had conversations with Mr. Headlam, M.P.; Mr. Schneider, M.P.; Mr. George G. Glyn, M.P.; Mr. Ackroyd, M.P.; and Mr. Collins, M.P. They state that they are perfectly ready, if this Meeting resolves on any course of action, to further that course of action to the best of their power.

Now, gentlemen, it will be my duty, in as few words as possible, to state the objects of this Meeting. (Hear, hear.) We all know that we are met in the interest of a railroad, having for its termini