

Scotian branches, which have been so zealously promoted by Mr. G. R. Young, of that Colony, and his brother, the Speaker of the Assembly; and millions of acres, now almost valueless, would become, by the mere interjunction of a railway, worth, at the very lowest estimate, as many millions of pounds sterling. If such a scheme of railways should employ, first 1,000 then 50,000, and, in the course of a few years, 100,000 labourers, *directly*, in the "navigating" and constructing, Mr. Perley's evidence goes to show, and common experience may convince us, that four or five times that number will be employed *indirectly* in the creation of new settlements, the founding of towns, the establishment of foundries, mills, and furnaces, as well as in the formation of ordinary roads, and the erection of bridges.

How ample, therefore, is the security for an almost unlimited investment in the prosecution of such "heroical works," through a country within ten days' reach of England, teeming with natural resources of the most varied kind, and, in connection with the territory of the great lakes, embracing, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, hundreds of millions of cultivateable acres, the property of Great Britain, in all parts of which are to be found the germs of enterprising, agricultural, and commercial settlements.

The recommendation to the House of Lords, by Lord Monteagle's committee, to consider and examine the great question of the effect likely to be produced by the imperial encouragement of railway undertakings in North America, and the importance of the subject at this crisis, both to Great Britain, and to what Sir Robert Peel wisely calls, those integral parts of Great Britain, the Colonies, will more than justify us in hoping for a little of the public attention to a digested and practical consideration of the principal evidence adduced.

Voluminous Parliamentary reports and evidence, are, *unless digested*, productive not of good, but of evil; for they are neither, as they are unfortunately regarded, an end, nor are they of themselves an operative means. Doubtless it is always dangerous to attempt a large benefit in a hurry, as witness, from this very report, the fact that the devastating fever in Canada has been mainly owing to suddenly supplying the wretched pauper emigrants with what they have not been accustomed to, good food. But after so much information has been collected by various commissions and committees, it is surely not unreasonable to express regret that, instead of digesting the facts already obtained, in order to action, we are only promised in this report of 500 or 600 folio pages, another examination, and another Blue-book, next year.

EVIDENCE OF GEORGE PEMBERTON, ESQ.

1. Mr. Pemberton settled in Canada in 1816, and his evidence is the result of 30 years' experience as a merchant in the district of Quebec, where he was largely engaged in the export of timber; a landowner to a moderate extent; and a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. He also visited many parts of Upper Canada, the United States, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and had given a good deal of consideration to the subject of the condition of emigrants.