

days in active exertions to interest the population in the future of British America.

We waited upon the Mayor and Corporation of Manchester who received us with great courtesy, and who, convinced by our arguments, have since memorialized Her Majesty's Government in favor of the Railway. We accepted invitations from the Mayors of Oldham and of Ashton-Under-Lyne, to dine with them and to address public meetings in those cities. In both we were received with marked distinction, and heard with great patience; and from both we brought away with us the conviction, that if more pains were taken by the North American Provinces to make their resources and their policy known in the great cities and rural districts of the mother country, it would tend to their mutual advantage.

Other cities would have been visited, but the sudden death of the Prince Consort occupied all minds, and overwhelmed the country with grief till after the close of the year; and besides, our presence in London was much required, to furnish information to the departments charged with preparations for the defence of British America. We were often consulted, but, while we could not but admire the generous promptitude displayed by Her Majesty's Government in vindicating the national honor and preparing for the defence of the Colonies, we were often painfully impressed with the conviction that, had war been declared, costly errors would have been committed in every department, for the want of just such information as well-trained Colonists could supply.

It was apparent that until the issue of peace or war was decided, we could expect no answer to the proposition we had submitted; because, if war came, all the laboring population of the Provinces would be required for self-defence; and, if called to bear its burthens, it was not reasonable to expect that the mother country would assume any pecuniary liabilities that could be postponed until after the termination of the contest.

Mr. Tilley was compelled to return home at the close of the year. I lingered till the news of peace came, and, in the meantime, accepted an invitation to the ancient city of Bristol, the commercial metropolis of the West of England. I addressed the principal merchants and most influential citizens, carried a unanimous vote in favor of the Railway, and was most hospitably entertained, by the descendants of those who saw the keels of the earliest navigators, fitted out by the "merchant adventurers" of Bristol, start on those voyages of discovery which have so long connected their names with the history of British America. Mr. Nelson accompanied me to Bristol, and was there, as elsewhere, of great service, from his knowledge of the city and of its inhabitants.

On my return to London, Mr. Vankoughnet and myself addressed ourselves to the discussion of certain points, informally raised by the Colonial Secretary, and furnished such information as was required to complete the case we had presented.

Having been in England several times, on missions deeply affecting the interests of my countrymen, the conviction has been for years becoming stronger that the North American Provinces ought to be represented in London by some permanent body or association. The experiments made, during this and former visits, satisfied me that the people of the mother country require only to be informed to take a deep interest in these Provinces—to turn the streams of immigration hither; and to supply, for the development of their boundless resources, any amount of capital. Australia is represented in England by a body of far seeing persons, interested in her prosperity. Australia votes £100,000 to promote emigration, and dedicates £5000 of it to pay able lecturers on her capabilities and resources. The results of this policy are everywhere apparent. If you take up a newspaper or a periodical, Australia strikes the eye on every page. If you enter a scientific society somebody is lecturing on the topography or resources of that great Island; and, in society, for one person that you meet who knows anything accurately of British America, there are ten who have either returned from or read something about Australia. The conviction that the time had come when these Provinces should secure some means of permanent advocacy, and illustration