

LETTER.

SIR,

THAT you should have rushed into print on the publication of my speech in England, does not surprise me. There were some things in it calculated to give offence, and matters discussed on which I have long known that we entirely disagree. As you were on the spot the keenness of your criticism was one of the unavoidable perils of publication, and as that was foreseen, it must be good humouredly encountered. I would, however, rather review your reply than have you complain that the speech was published here in your absence.

Before grappling with your main arguments, permit me to set myself right upon one or two points, and first, as to the passage which you assume to have been aimed at you. When that passage was spoken, I freely admit that I was in no humour to take the most amiable view of your public conduct upon the Railway question, and believed that the expressions used were warranted by the subject and the occasion. The speech, you must remember, was spoken sixteen months ago, long before the Select Committees to which you refer were appointed, and at a time when the Press and Parliamentary speeches in Canada teemed with accusations, that up to that