

ANGLO-ASIAN INTERCOURSE

AND

MONARCHICAL SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

"Westward the course of Empire takes its way,
The first four acts already past,
The fifth shall close the drama with the day,
Time's noblest offspring is his last."

BISHOP BERKELEY.

IN the JOURNAL OF ELEMENTAL LOCOMOTION, so far back as March 1833, Sir Richard Broun first drew attention to the important subject of opening direct elemental intercourse between Europe and Asia by way of the British North American possessions, and planting monarchical colonies upon the vacant crown lands along the line. After adverting to the magnificent prospects which such an entirely HOME VIADUCT between Great Britain and the Oriental World unfolds to view; to the circumstance that the town of Nootka, on the Sound of that name, is likely in time to become as large as London, as the trade between it and 200 millions of the Asiatic race would be wonderfully great; and to the conclusion, warranted by the mere statistics of the case, that the route of a prodigious commerce across the regions stretching from the serriated shores of Puget Sound to the waters of the great lakes of Canada, would soon inundate them with a vast population, Christian temples, cottages rich in domestic comfort, towns boasting the best gifts of civilisation, and settlements rising rapidly into centres of knowledge and power; he thus observed:—

"That the enterprise—THE JUNCTION OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC BY ELEMENTAL MEANS—is a mighty one is without doubt; but a mighty result is to accrue, and mighty means can be brought to operate it—The physical energies of the two most promising nations of the New world, together with the wealth and power of their common parent, the greatest of the Old. To such a coalition what is impossible? Over and above the advantages just glanced at, this route meets the only difficulty in Mr. Seward's plan (steam navigation with India by the Cape of Good Hope) viz., that arising from the want of fuel—a difficulty indeed which affects neither its possibility nor its expediency, but one, notwithstanding, which could only be overcome by immense labour and expenditure. Upon this magnificent line of march, which may be made the means of diffusing science and religion, with their attendant blessings, over the most populous empires in the globe—besides creating new ones in its way—God, as if in provision for such an event, has beneficently laid up, at points nearly equidistant, inexhaustible supplies of the material required. In the islands of