

population; open the greatest possible extent of wilderness, otherwise forever useless, to settlement and production; making it the means of benefitting and carrying comfort and happiness to thousands of our fellow-subjects in the mother country, suffering the worst of evils caused by a too dense population, whilst at the same time such immigration will benefit this country to an illimitable extent. Perhaps it may be thought that the Government of the country should undertake this work, and dispose of the lands as proposed. Private enterprize far exceeds any operations of the Government in celerity, and is much more economical and effective. If the Government undertook it, the sale of the lands would never meet the disbursement, and the difficulties to be encountered by delays in the transaction of the business of the Seat of Government, would alone retard the work and cause it to linger until it perished. Such a work by Government would absorb the entire legislation of the country, and being subject to changes of management and direction at each session, its progress would be utterly defeated; the management of such a great work, and the amount of money which this plan would place as a stake to be carried off by the successful party in the struggle, would lead to every species of political corruption and bargaining to secure so vast a prize, which of itself would preclude the selection of the men of the character requisite to carry out the plan; each administration would appoint its own partizans as directors, who would exert all the influence that their position and the immense means at their command would give them, to sustain in power those on whom their offices depended. The only true way of carrying out this work is by private enterprize connected with the sale of the lands, under the protection of Government; or else it must be accomplished by the Imperial Government alone.

The commencement of this work would make it a point of attraction to the whole population of Europe, daily flocking to American shores; most of these are generally without means—nevertheless their labour is the capital which would grade the road, and pay in part for the land. They would not only be interested in the road, as a means for their daily bread, but would be sure that its results would benefit their condition, and elevate themselves and families to affluence. Civilization, with all its influences, would march, step by step, with the road, and would draw to it, after the first two years, 100,000 souls annually. Cities, towns and villages would spring up like magic, because the road—the cheap means for the transit of the products of man's labour to a market—would leave a rich reward for that labour, and as it proceeded produce the further means for the completion of all. The Government in exchange for the substratum of a suffering population of indigent emigrants of the mother country would find its broad and fertile western territory sprinkled with hamlets and possessing a class of intelligent and happy husbandmen the best pride and boast of a free country.

It will be at once perceived, that the plan proposed is based upon the assumption that a great portion of the country through which such Railway might pass, is capable of sustaining a large population, and also of furnishing the means of carrying the work over such portions of the line as should be found barren or unfitted for the abode of civilized man.

I propose now to show that such a description of favourable country exists, to an almost unlimited extent, and that westward we have a vast wilderness of land which only requires the application of the labour of the now destitute, to produce abundant means for achieving this great work, richly reward that labour, and open out almost a new world as the inheritance of a British people. I might speculate upon the future, and predict what would be the vast, the mighty results by the accomplishment of this work, but it is my object to give a plain statement which I