

VIEWS,

ETC.

[It may be necessary to state that the following remarks were written in the summer of 1851, before legislative action had been taken upon the scheme which so much excited the public mind, commonly called Mr. Howe's plan. They were not then published for fear of the appearance of hostility. As the charge of interference can no longer be made, they are now at the request of friends, with diffidence submitted to the public.]

The great object of British North America under the fostering care of the Imperial Government, appears to be the development of her resources, thereby to provide employment for a healthful and vigorous emigration of the surplus population of Great Britain and Ireland who are there burdensome and expensive, and thus with great benefit to herself, to furnish a distressed people with a prosperous and happy home in British territory.

One might reasonably suppose that the advantages mutually to be derived by the British Government and these Colonies, would almost necessarily lead to the accomplishment in a very short time of so important an object.

Providence has bestowed on these Provinces the elements of wealth in as boundless profusion as upon any portion of the Globe. Our Agriculture, Fisheries, Navigation, Shipbuilding, (for which our forests supply inexhaustible materials,) and our mineral resources—all require an immense amount of human labor for their development. None of these interests will interfere with those of Great Britain, but on the contrary their expansion will diminish British pauperism, and give employment to the British agriculturist, no longer able to obtain it at home by the operation of Free Trade. It seems only necessary on the present occasion to give a general sketch of what may be supposed to have retarded the increase of our own population and the development of our resources to the present time, and to suggest the measures necessary to be carried into effect to ensure future prosperity. The tide of Emigration from Europe has of late years directed its course to the United States, where the industry of the Emigrant is encouraged and protected by enormous impost duties. Experience has shewn us that we do not and cannot prosper under the circumstances in which we are placed; our principal Agricultural productions and the products of our Fisheries (equal to any in the world) heavily taxed in the only foreign markets which require them and no counter-vailing duties imposed on our own

part for our defence, high bounties and extraordinary privileges being granted by Foreign Countries to encourage their fishermen in our neighbourhood, and no encouragement being given by us to our own, not even amounting to protection from the encroachment of foreigners or the enforcement of Treaty stipulations; we are placed in a very disadvantageous situation and suffer severely as British Colonists. Such seems to be our position that no man or company would take the responsibility of inviting even one hundred able bodied men healthy vigorous poor Emigrants, or ten men with £1000 each to make this their home—on the contrary, the most robust, active and enterprising young persons of our population are daily leaving us, for countries where their industrial pursuits are fostered, encouraged, and protected.

The first object which presents itself to our notice as now engrossing all our thoughts and which would be most likely to lead to the introduction and employment of Emigrants and the development of our resources is the Construction of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec.

This measure in its present aspect, originated in a letter from the Colonial Office, was advocated in England by our Countryman, the Hon. Joseph Howe, and will soon be submitted to the calm consideration of the Legislature of these Colonies.

It can hardly be imagined or perhaps desired, that the proposition of Earl Grey, munificent as it appears to be on the part of Great Britain, will ever be accepted by all these Colonies without much modification. It may, however, form the basis of future negotiation, but delay, so much to be deprecated, appears to be inevitable.

The offer of a loan of five millions sterling at an interest of 3½ per cent. upon the conditions stipulated will not appear so bright a light when submitted to the rigid calculation of a Financier. The offer of the Colonial Secretary contemplates the payment