

men of such position and character as those who have signed the enclosed letter might form for the purpose.

His Grace is in communication with Mr. Baring on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERIC ROGERS.

(Copy.)

MR. THOMAS BARING AND OTHERS *to the* DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

London, 5th July, 1862.

My Lord,

The growing interest felt by the commercial world in British Columbia and in the communications which commerce, as well as considerations of empire, require across the Continent of British North America, renders it, as it appears to us, opportune and desirable for some adequate organization to apply itself, under the sanction of Government, to the task of providing a telegraphic service, and of securing the means of travelling with regularity to the British Territory on the Pacific.

Connected with a country so new and so vast, and as to which so little is popularly known, such an enterprise could only hope for success in the event of its being undertaken with the full approbation and support of Government.

As a preliminary to any practical discussion of the question, it is desirable to ascertain how far Her Majesty's