

*combine* the European and North American line commencing at Halifax, thence to the city of St. John, N. B., and thence to the boundary of the state of Maine."

Your Committee deeply regret this termination to the negotiations between the Colonies and Her Majesty's Government, as it may delay for a short time, the commencement of the Halifax and Quebec Railroad; still your Committee are not surprised at the result, as the deviation made by the Colonies through New Brunswick, from the original line of railway surveyed by Major Robinson, and strongly recommended upon commercial, agricultural, and military considerations, was not likely to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government.

Neither have your Committee any doubt that the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be able to raise, on their own credit, the funds required for the construction of the line from Halifax to St. John, New Brunswick, and thence to the borders of the state of Maine.

Having briefly but fairly stated the proceedings of the Colonies and Her Majesty's Government for the last year, in respect to this great national project, your Committee will now state in the same brief manner their own proceedings.

The Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia having kindly offered to give his best advocacy, "to any well-devised plan for improving the Colonies and benefiting the working classes of this country," your Committee placed in his hands a document, requesting him, "if possible, to procure for the Association a charter of incorporation from their respective Legislatures, containing all the ordinary powers granted for managing their own affairs in the colonies; to receive grants, and purchase and dispose of land, minerals, metals, timber, &c., establish fisheries, contract for and execute railway and other public and private works, clear and cultivate land, build houses and vessels, and dispose of the same."

"Also to empower the Association to issue a circulating medium, based on the capital of the Association, and convertible into its fixed or moveable stock, for the benefit of the Associa-