

RAILWAY AND SHUBENACADIE CANAL.

Halifax has no connection with the interior of the country, East or West, by means of a navigable river, considering which, its hitherto tardy growth ought not to excite astonishment. The opening to the Americans of the carrying trade to the British West Indies, previous to which impolitic arrangement fish and lumber, the two staple exports of the Province, were admissible for entry at the Ports in these Colonies only when transported thither in British bottoms:—the creation of a number of Free Ports within the Province, together with the "Reciprocity Treaty" with the United States, are among the chief causes which have operated adversely to the expansion of Halifax, considered as a commercial City. Whether the Provincial Railway, now open for traffic forty-five miles Westward, and which will shortly be extended some greater distance towards the East, will serve to counteract these influences remains to be seen. Thirty-four years ago a company, organized for the purpose, with the approval of the Local Government, and supported by a grant of Public money voted by the Legislature, to the extent of £15,000, commenced operations upon a canal, by which it was proposed to connect the Harbor of Halifax with the waters of the Bay of Minas. Unfortunately for all parties connected in this work but a very small part of it was completed, or rather approaching completion, when a sum exceeding in amount the estimated cost of the whole operation having been expended, (the Company being still in debt to the Province and to capitalists, both at home and abroad,) the undertaking was abandoned, as was thought at the time, finally. Within the past few years operations have been renewed by another Company, upon a scale less imposing, but, competent Engineers say, infinitely more practicable; and the hope is that before the close of the season in 1858 the canal will be open for traffic, without fear of opposing mud-banks, and other unforeseen obstacles. The Stock of the Company, at the present time, is not a favorite with City capitalists.