

Extract from the work on the "BRITISH COLONIES," recently published by
R. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, ESQ.,
and dedicated by Special Authority to Her Majesty the Queen.

"Connected with an efficient transatlantic communication is the establishment of a railroad on the seaboard of British America, which shall connect the whole of the North American provinces and form a continuous steam transit from the sea-coast to Lake Huron; one line has been projected from Halifax via New Brunswick to Quebec, to which I have referred in the details of Nova Scotia; another line is actually in progress, termed the ST. ANDREWS AND QUEBEC RAILROAD, and is an undertaking carried on under the auspices of the Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Ashburton, and other gentlemen in England, combined with the principal merchants and inhabitants resident at St. Andrews and other points through which the line proceeds. The line will afford, at all seasons of the year a direct and uninterrupted communication between the Canadas and Atlantic, and will be the only one the colonists will possess through British territory.

"Its political importance can therefore be scarcely overrated, when viewed either as a high road to the mother country, or as connecting the different provinces in a common bond of communication; and in a mercantile point of view, it cannot be considered otherwise than as one of the best investments of the day, having been stamped with the patronage and approval of the late Lord Ashburton, even before the Company received their recent magnificent grant of land. Lord Ashburton's acquaintance with the country, from his settlement of the boundary dispute, renders his testimony of great value. The grant consists of all the unallotted lands comprised within a belt of five miles on each side of the railway, and, by a certificate from the Surveyor-General, contains upwards of 200,000 acres of some of the best land in the province, which in consequence, doubles, or even quadruples the profitable character of the undertaking.

"The Company is incorporated by several acts of the local legislature, confirmed by the Queen in Council, and in addition to the above grant of land, has obtained privileges and advantages which cannot be claimed by any other similar body, viz. 6 per Cent on the English capital guaranteed by the legislature for 25 years, which is chargeable on the revenues of the province. The Company have the power to make branch lines or extensions to, or in any part of the colony without applying for fresh legislative acts, and with the same facilities as to land and the free use of Crown materials as on the trunk line.

"It is officially stated to me that the capital of the Association is divided into 8,000 shares of £20, each: half of which, termed Class 'A,' are to be allotted in England, and the remainder, called Class 'B,' reserved for allocation in New Brunswick; the majority of these shares are already appropriated, and the works are proceeding with vigour, and it is confidently hoped that the first section to Woodstock (80 miles) will be opened in two years. Offices for the payment of dividends and the transaction of such business as must be conducted in England, are established at No. 10 Parliament Street, Westminster; and the interests of the English stockholders are guarded by a board of directors, resident in this country, whose sanction is necessary to all measures proposed by the local directors in New Brunswick. The land belonging to the Company, which has hitherto been of comparatively trifling value, will when the railway passes through it, most probably be eagerly sought after, and at once command a considerably enhanced price, which will far more than bring back their whole capital to the shareholders, as, for instance, there are 8,000 shares of £20, each, and if the 200,000 acres are divided amongst those 8,000 shares, it will give 25 acres per share, which taken at the low figure of £1. per acre gives £25. per share or £5 per share more than the actual capital subscribed: and although the land may be disposed of, and thus re-turn their capital to the shareholders, yet still the line will remain their property, and, from the provincial guarantee of interest, retain a comparative high value in the market.

"This is a strong inducement offered to the English capitalist, the use of whose money will only in the first instance be required; but to the homeless wanderer from the British shores its benefits will prove incomparably greater, as employment will be afforded him on the railway until he has had time to clear his land and become acquainted with the requirements of his novel mode of life; and by this he will be spared that fearful season of suspense which now intervenes between the first clearing of the land and the period when it yields its return.

"Some of the shareholders have agreed to give a tenth of their land for church, school, and hospital purposes. Thus will nuclei be formed, around which a Population will collect in a healthy and legitimate manner, and blessings, both present and prospective, be secured to all future emigrants."