

The primary cause of this diversion of the stream of emigration from the British colonies to the United States is unquestionably the greater facilities for proceeding to the interior from the ports of the States than from those of the British colonies, by the extensive introduction of railways into the States, and their total absence in the colonies; and also the extensive labour-market created by the introduction of those public works in the former which have been neglected in the latter.

This state of things must be very injurious, not only to the interests, but also to the feelings of the British colonists, and calculated powerfully, though silently, to alienate their minds from British connection.

Of the 41,367 persons who annually emigrate to the British North American colonies, the greater portion would travel over the Halifax and Quebec Railway; and it may fairly be assumed that at least one-half of the emigrant traffic diverted to the States from the colonies, as above shown from official documents, would return so soon as a stimulus was given to the labour-market by the construction of the railway, when in progress, and by the facilities afforded by it when constructed and opened for traffic.

The facilities afforded by this line from its favourable Atlantic terminus at Halifax, as giving the shortest sea-passage from England, would attract a very great share of the emigration from the Continent of Europe to America, and also much of that better class of travellers who are frequently passing and repassing between the old and the new worlds, and who would numerically increase in proportion as facilities of comfort, expedition, and economy were afforded to them.

The whole of these sources of revenue, which may be termed external passenger traffic, may be put at £40,000. per annum.

The aggregate of these sums amounts to £370,000.; from which, if £130,000., are taken for maintenance of way and working expenses, there will remain the sum of £240,000., equal to 8 per cent. upon an expenditure of £3,000,000.

But even admitting that the income above the working expenses only amounted to 4 per cent. upon the required outlay, this should not any longer retard this great and important work.