

present stage? Had the late Sir Robert Peel possessed the will, as he had the power, in July 1845, to give to myself and colleagues the co-operation we sought, the Railway between Halifax and Quebec would to-day—like others for which we have found during the interval 150 millions of capital—have been open. The central city on the banks of the Miramichi, which, in honour of the Founder of the noble Province of New Scotland, I propose should be named “JAMES TOWN ROYAL,” would ere now have been the seat of a happy and rising population. Seven eventful years, during which there has been an Emigration flight of one and a half million of her Majesty’s subjects into the bosom of a revolted Republic, would not have been expended in profitless communications with the Colonial Office. Three Colonies, forming the right arm of the Empire, would not have had ample grounds for considering their wishes in the case trifled with, and their interests neglected. Rival schemes, whether hatched by pirates of ideas here, or by fomenters of dissatisfaction in the Colonies, would not have been furnished with opportunities of developing themselves. The bountiful table—14,000,000 acres of virgin soil—spread by Providence for our surplus population within eight days’ reach of our shores, would not have been left neglected. Annexation movements in each of the Provinces would not have been rife. Nor (with twenty-two millions of gold in the Bank of England seeking profitable vent) would the choice of so foul an alternative be now presented to us as that this grand INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY between her Majesty’s capitals in Eastern and Western Britain shall be constructed either by Imperial gold—or by *Republican dollars*?

His late Excellency, Sir John Harvey, on opening the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia in 1847, thus spoke of the project set on foot by me:—“The period at, and the circumstances under, which we meet, afford me the opportunity of recommending to your continued attention an undertaking second in its importance to none which has ever engaged the notice of any Colonial Legislature in any portion of the British do-