

The Institute have watched with a double interest the progress of the Victoria Bridge, not only as a work of the highest national importance, but also as closely associated with the name of Robert Stephenson: that renowned and much lamented engineer, whom the Institute had the high honor to enroll amongst its members on the occasion of his visit to Canada, prior to the commencement of the great undertaking which has just been brought to so successful a completion.

In the Victoria Bridge, Canadians must not only feel that they possess one of the noblest monuments of engineering skill and science existing on this continent; but that also, by the completion of this magnificent structure, a great highway has been opened, over which the trade and commerce not only of Canada, but of the furthest west, may at all times flow: uninterrupted by the natural obstacles which have heretofore opposed themselves for a large period of the year, to a free communication with the sea-board.

To the gentlemen whose names are so closely connected with this great work, the Council of the Institute desire now to express their sincere congratulations on the successful termination of their labours; and they desire also by this resolution, to record in the archives of this Society (expressly established for the promotion of Science and Industry) the completion of the noble monument of Science and Mechanical skill which has this day been opened to the traffic of the Province.

The Council further resolved that copies of the above resolution should be engrossed and transmitted to Messrs. Ross and Hodges.

(Signed,) G. W. ALLAN, President.

Reply. Copy.

MONTREAL, 27th December, 1859.

*To the President and Council of the Canadian Institute, Toronto.*

Gentlemen,—We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of copies of Resolution passed at a special meeting of your Council, convened on the 19th instant, in which you congratulate us, as Engineer and Builder, on the completion of the Victoria Bridge, that day opened for public traffic.

In returning you our thanks for the notice you have taken of ourselves in connexion with the termination of our labors, a notice, which to us is more valuable, emanating from a Society established for the promotion of Science and Industry, and numbering so many respected names amongst its members, we rejoice to think that the work with which our names have been connected, is one which is so highly calculated to assist in developing the interests of a country for the prosperity of which our best wishes can never cease to be formed.

And it is not only our present hope, but our confident belief, that the sacrifices which this Province has made with such enlightened foresight in order to establish a great and ever open highway of communication betwixt the rising territories of the farthest west and the Atlantic sea-board, will in due time find a return corresponding to the spirit in which that great enterprise was conceived, and the perseverance with which the means have been found for bringing it to a successful completion.

Amidst so much that is calculated to afford satisfaction to all concerned, our pleasure is yet damped by the melancholy reflection, that the distinguished man to