

proposed line would give large and increasing returns, the instant it could be connected with Canada, and consequently with England. This might be done in less than two years; when an uninterrupted communication, under British control, would be established between England, Montreal, and British Columbia, by the telegraphic wire; and thence later across the Pacific to Japan and China.

ANTI-COLONIAL THEORIES.

These, one would think, should be banished from the discussion of such a national question, as being foreign to it. And yet I am told by certain apostles of this school, that if trying to bring about so great a national work (which they almost deny, for they seem to think, that if the Americans are outstripping us, we must let them do so rather than spend a halfpenny abroad), it is simply because the Colony of British Columbia, whose interests I happen to represent in a certain measure, will be benefited by it. Of course it will, and so will Canada, and so will England ten times more. "But it is in the nature of things," they say, "that British Columbia, and the trade and control of the Pacific, with all its consequences, should belong to the United States." More than that, "We might perhaps be taxed in order to keep them; and, therefore (though rather annoying), we had better make up our minds to give them up at once." But if such conclusions are worth listening to, England is also *in the nature of things*, and of itself, a small unimportant island. In which case, our forefathers have been working strangely against nature for the last two hundred years, and acting very foolishly in trying to add to it those foreign possessions which have made it what it is. We used formerly to be taught, that England owed her greatness and prosperity to these possessions; but this doctrine has been abolished by these gentlemen, and in the face of the most convincing facts to the contrary, the fashion with them now is, to deny that we derive our present prosperity from any such source. Many of them even go further, as is well known, and indignant at the thought of any new expense, maintain that England without colonies would be more prosperous than with them. The conclusion is, to say the least, singular; and shows how the reasoning powers of over-clever men may become perverted, and their notions gradually contracted, by continually taking the same narrow view, and only reasoning on one side of a question. Fortunately, such theories are not those of the great majority of the nation.

But whatever may be said about the cost of our colonies to the mother country, Vancouver Island never cost her one cent, unless it be an old hunting given or lent it in 1846, on the day when the island was proclaimed a Colony. On the contrary, she has been annoyed in every way by the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company, and was even held in pawn by her for some time! British Columbia yields over £600,000 of gold yearly, and would yield the double or the quadruple if her mines were more accessible; and of this sum she takes back