

who, not understanding the commercial policy of the country, or from some private motive, wished it carried in a certain direction.

His argument was ever, that no railway ought to be constructed that would not prove a *public* benefit to the country, or a sure and safe investment for capital. He was a strenuous opponent of competing lines, as destructive to public enterprise and welfare. Now that a railway era is dawning upon this colony, may his bright example influence those who have the direction of such important undertakings. Bitterly did he regret the numerous widows and orphans, reduced to poverty by the fathers of families, or the trustees investing money in a nonpaying line of railway.

Let us now once more follow him into private life, and see this great and good man there; still carrying out his schemes of benevolence and charity. Not only did he look after the general welfare of his labourers, but daily would he be seen visiting from door to door, making himself acquainted with the every day life of each family. The women hailed his appearance with joy; and pleasure beamed in the eyes of the children as they saw him approaching, each eager to catch his approving smile. Did any little disagreement occur in their respective homes, he had always a happy way of settling things in order again; and so much was he beloved and respected, that no admonition fell from his lips unheeded. On one occasion, observing a gloom depicted in the countenance of the wife of one of his best workmen, he asked her what was the matter?

"O, sir, I know you could make all right."

"Well, Mary, tell me the trouble, and I'll see what can be done; surely, you and John have not quarrelled?"

O no, sir, he is the best of husbands; but he has taken to drinking, and I know not where it will end; if you would only speak to him; but please don't let him know sir, as I told you."

"No, no, Mary, leave that to me; I'll see you again in a day or two."

When John came home to his dinner the next day, Mr. Stephenson walked in.

"Well, John, I have a little matter to talk over with you?"

"What is it, please sir?"