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THE ATLANTIC EXPRESS AND THE FUTURE BRITISH PORT OF ARRIVAL.

106

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NE of the great problems just now exercising the minds of the world of shipping is the future Atlantic route. Everything appears to be tending to quick passages, quick delivery of mails, and the shortest possible sea route. A great impetus towards these ends has lately been given by Canada, which country has offered a subsidy of no less than £150,000 for a line of mail steamers to carry the mails between Canada, Great Britain, and France, and thus—with their Pacific railroad—make a regular and express through connection *via* Canada between this country and China, taking Japan *en route*. One of the chief matters requiring consideration in connection with this scheme is the choice of a British port or ports of arrival and departure, and we see Liverpool, Milford, Bristol, Southampton and Plymouth anxiously pressing their claims and, naturally, indulging in a good amount of special pleading. With regard to the other side of the ocean, it would appear that Halifax in winter and Quebec in summer are the chosen ports. The question is, "What British port is to be adopted?"

The first question is, "What is wanted?" We think that future Atlantic traffic requires a port in this country similar to Halifax or Quebec—a port allowing for the shortest possible sea passage and the quickest delivery of passengers and mails, but not necessarily a port of discharge. The mail and passenger traffic are the two great and important branches of Atlantic trade, ordinary freight takes a third place. For the most expeditious handling of these two important matters it is requisite that the port of the future—and it must come soon—should have the *absolutely necessary* advantages of being *accessible at all times, quite independent of tides or sea gates*, and able to land mails and passengers without transshipment or delay of any kind. The case of Liverpool shows that things are tending this way. Because that port is blocked by a bar it has already lost some of its Atlantic trade. It seems to us that Southampton is only a step in the direction

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