

DOWNING STREET.

31st July, 1862.

H. H. BERENS, Esq.,

Sir,

I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to request that you will bring under the consideration of the Hudson's Bay Company the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., and other gentlemen, relative to the formation of a Company, for the purpose of opening a route for Passenger Traffic and Telegraphic communication across the Continent of British North America to the British Colonies on the Pacific.

His Grace, appreciating the importance of the scheme submitted to him, is disposed to give it every encouragement in his power, and for that purpose intends to invite the co-operation of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

As however the proposed communication could only be carried through the Territory, over which the Hudson's Bay Company claims rights, his Grace, though not permitting himself to doubt from the tenor of your letter of the 19th May, that the Company would afford such facilities as are in their power for co-operating in this great public object, would nevertheless be glad to learn distinctly whether they would concede a line of territory to any Company, which