

prospectus of a Railway from Halifax to Quebec, by way of Fredericton, with a branch to St. John, in New Brunswick, to be undertaken by a Company with a capital of no less than Three Millions Six Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling ; and the other the Prospectus of a Railway from Halifax to Windsor, in Nova Scotia, to be constructed apparently by the same Company, with a Capital of Two Hundred Thousand Pounds,) and a copy of the letter in which they were enclosed. These Prospectuses, both marked "Private," and said to have been so in England, were made public in this City by Messrs. William and George R. Young, who are named in them as Solicitors, (in Nova Scotia,) to both Companies ; and a meeting of Merchants and others, was subsequently held, at which, as I am informed, much suspicion was thrown on the origin and management of the contemplated scheme in London. Opinion is therefore divided, as to the character of the Company ; but all parties appear to entertain the belief that the construction of a Railroad, (by solvent parties,) from hence to Quebec and Montreal, would lead to results highly conducive to the prosperity of the British North American Colonies.

Whether the (so called) Halifax and Quebec Railway and Land Company, has been formed with the intention, or possesses the adequate funds to execute the gigantic project, to carry out which it has been ostensibly called into existence, your Lordship has much greater facilities for ascertaining than I command, but various facts in relation to their proceedings have come to my knowledge, with which I consider it imperative on me to make you acquainted.

The Attorney General of Nova Scotia found his name on the prospectus of the Halifax and Quebec Railway as Standing Counsel to the company, without, as he assures me, having been in any manner consulted on the subject, either before or after his alleged appointment ; and I have read in the newspapers a letter from T. C. Haliburton, of Windsor, a Judge of the Supreme Court of this Province whose name was put forth on the prospectus of the Railway between Halifax and Windsor, as a member of the Provisional Committee, indignantly repudiating all connexion with the Company.

Mr. Robie, the senior member of the Executive Council, and Mr. Jeffrey, the Collector of Customs, who has been twice administrator of the Government of the Colony during the absence of the Lieutenant Governor for the time being, both of whose names appear in the same prospectus, as members of the same Committee, have written me a letter, a copy of which I forward, stating that their names have been introduced into it without their consent or knowledge, and without any communication having been made to them on the matter ; and that they therefore decline serving ; and I have likewise learnt that other influential gentlemen here whose names are inserted in these prospectuses, as being connected with one or the other scheme, have denied that they have ever sanctioned such insertion. Such reckless conduct, in the unauthorised use of the names of some of the most respectable gentlemen in Nova Scotia may very naturally inspire distrust and deprive the company who profess themselves ready to achieve this vast enterprize, of the confidence of the community, but does not, I think, militate against the highly beneficial tendency of the practicability of the Plan itself, to the success of which, provided it can be brought about by justifiable and proper means, it appears to me that every well wisher to British Interests and dominion in North America, must be anxious to contribute : and which therefore, solicitous as I am for the future welfare of a colony in which I have so long resided, I should deeply lament to see abandoned, either for want of every exertion having been made to ascertain its feasibility or from its having been undertaken by individuals not indowed with sufficient weight and influence to effect its completion.

As the most sanguine advocates of this costly project do not appear to anticipate that it can for some years to come produce the amount required to pay a fair rate of interest to the shareholders, after the abstraction of the sum necessary to defray the large annual expenditure, which such a work will entail to keep it in repair, it becomes requisite to consider from what sources they (the shareholders) may be guaranteed