

INTRODUCTION.

“The consummation of our Colonial Empire is necessary for our domestic peace.”*

OUR most gracious Sovereign the Queen having been pleased to grant her Royal Authority that a work, now in the course of publication, “to make the condition and worth of the colonies more generally understood and more fully appreciated,”† should be dedicated to Her Majesty, I venture again to call the serious attention of my countrymen to the vast importance of an IMPERIAL RAILWAY COMMUNICATION between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans; not merely as regards the ultimate consequences of the work itself, but as it will afford the means of establishing distinct, yet regular and permanent systems of emigration and transportation.

We were told last year that we had “a superabundance of capital, a plethora of talent, scientific and commercial,” that only wanted “an outlet to be beneficially employed;”‡ and this year we learn that “manufactures, commerce, shipping, money and credit are increasing, we are evidently approaching

* Edinburgh Review, January, 1850.

† Montgomery Martin's new work on the Colonies.

‡ Morning Herald, 1849; Times, 1850.