

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

Minute of a conversation in the Commons' committee-room of a Scottish group of railways, May 22, 1845; the line immediately under consideration being the "Glasgow, Dumfries, and Carlisle," a rival scheme to the "Caledonian," the promoters of which had just previously laid their case before the committee.

A professional accountant of Glasgow, who had been engaged by the Directors of the Glasgow, Dumfries, and Carlisle line to prepare their estimates of traffic and revenue, had been some time under examination in chief by Sir Thomas Phillips, the leader in the case, when the following colloquy took place between members of the committee and Sir Thomas :—

SIR PHILIP EGERTON.—The traffic and revenue tables put in by the other side (the Caledonian) are much clearer and more comprehensible than yours. They are more easily dissected, too—yours are prolix and confused.

SIR THOMAS PHILLIPS.—Yes, sir, no doubt our friends on the other side have had the best assistance they were able, on this head, to obtain.

THE CHAIRMAN (John Parker, Esq., M.P. for Sheffield).—The Caledonian tables are a model for the Statistical Society.

SIR THOMAS PHILLIPS.—Yes, I believe it is agreed on all hands, that in these matters there is no second Mr. Pare.