

But to show still further that Major Robinson does not undervalue Halifax and Quebec as the termini of the proposed railway, or the traffic which would flow between these important places, he states that

"The population of Halifax (the Atlantic terminus) is estimated at 25,000 souls. It is the capital of the province, the seat of government, and its commerce extensive. The value of its imports and exports is estimated at £2,500,000. Halifax may be considered to be the nearest great seaport to Europe.

"Passengers travelling between England and the Canadas would adopt this railway as the shortest and best line which they could take. Emigrants would do the same.

"The mails, troops, munitions of war, commissariat supplies, and all public stores would naturally pass by it, as the safest, speediest, and cheapest means of conveyance.

"The city of Quebec (the other terminus, according to the census of 1844, contained (including the county, which is not given separately) 45,000 persons.

"But this city derives additional importance from its being the one great shipping port and outlet for all Canada. By its port passes the whole trade of that province. It may be regarded as the focus of commerce for a million and a half of souls. The value of the imports and exports together may be estimated at £5,500,000. sterling, giving employment to a very great amount of shipping."

In addition to these important termini, the intercourse between the British North American colonies and England, or rather Europe, ought not to be lost sight of, as it would unquestionably be very considerable, and would nearly all fall into this line of communication so soon as completed throughout.

The intermediate and collateral traffic which would flow into the railway as its most natural and most legitimate channel, are stated at length in Major Robinson's Report, comprising

"St. John's and Prince Edward's Islands. The former with a population in city and county together, of nearly 44,000 persons, with a commerce of the value of £1,800,000. in exports and imports, giving employment to a great amount of shipping. The latter, with a population of 50,000, engaged principally in agriculture and the fisheries. The exports and imports of this island are about £200,000. annually.

"Between the city of Quebec and the river Metis there are settled along the south bank of the St. Lawrence 75,000 inhabitants all engaged in agriculture," and all in close proximity to the proposed railway, and forming "one long and continued village for 200 miles.

"A more favourable disposition of a population (comprised of small farmers) for contributing to the way traffic of a railroad could scarcely have been desired."

Of this amount of population, and of its peculiarly favour-