

understood :—It is proposed to look upon our Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, the Canadas, the Territory of the Hudson's Bay Company and New Caledonia (exclusively English, the Hudson's Bay Company having only a tenant right therein,) as representing five distinct powers. Political opinions are afloat that these parts of North America may be soon consolidated into one Kingdom. Already we have been told by one of our legislators that he contemplates "an extension of our dominion across the Continent, and the formation of new States immediately north of Lake Superior;" and the statesmen of British North America have been called upon "to feel themselves the rivals of those of Washington, and able to meet them on equal terms." And then we are told that "in Nova Scotia, in Lower Canada, in Upper Canada, in the new States that might immediately arise on their long frontier line, and also beyond the Rocky Mountains, north of the River Columbia, we should soon see them with expanded views and daring conceptions the really formidable opponents of that encroaching Republic which is destined to usurp dominion over the whole Continent, unless checked and circumscribed by a spirit as bold and free as her own."* How soon all this may be brought about I presume neither to judge of nor to give an opinion upon; but it does appear to me, my Lord, that the time has arrived when an unity of purpose in British North America may be at once obtained for the purpose of undertaking an Imperial Trans-American Communication. It is proposed therefore, my Lord, that in this Commission should be vested the complete sovereignty of the soil from Halifax to Fort Langley; that is to say, of a belt of land of any breadth that may be obtained from the first-named port of from one to twenty miles, or even more, across the Continent, varying according to the locality, the value of the land or the importance of the situation. (Your Lord-

* Roebuck on the Colonies.