

LETTER III.

To the Editor of "The Morning Chronicle."

SIR,—Before entering upon the subject of the probable cost of construction of the Halifax and Quebec railway, and the anticipated returns of direct income derivable therefrom, as well as the collateral results which are sure to follow its construction, it may be as well to make a few remarks upon the Report of the Commissioners of Railways, to whom Major Robinson's report upon the proposed Halifax and Quebec Railway was referred on the 22nd of Nov. 1848.

The Report of the Commissioners of Railways is dated January 12, 1849, and appears upon the whole to be a very oracular kind of document, as it will admit of almost any kind of interpretation.

It bears internal evidence of an intention to throw cold water upon the project, but still not so completely to overwhelm it as to exclude all hopes of being resuscitated by the application of the drags and other appliances of some humane society at some remote period of time.

The Commissioners profess to have but little other data on which to rest their opinion "but the facts contained in the report of Major Robinson;" still they draw different conclusions, if they can be said to have drawn any legitimate conclusions at all.

The Railway Commissioners at this time were no doubt writhing under a consciousness of having, by their recent sins of omission, allowed railway speculation in this country to run riot to such a degree that companies were allowed to spring into existence without any rational pretence (unless the disreputable pretence of gambling in letters of allotment), and, having attained a sort of spurious existence, were then allowed to devour each other in contesting the most contemptible nonsense in undergoing the ordeal of a standing orders committee.

Major Robinson states in his report, "that there are very good general grounds upon which to form an opinion that ultimately, if not at once, the line will, in a commercial point of view, be a very productive one." The Railway Commissioners, however, are "disposed to think that, although in a military and political point of view the completion of the railway between Halifax and Quebec may be of great im-