

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following letter has been written in reply to a communication signed "Old Settler," which appeared in the columns of the *Times* on the subject of the choice of the terminus on the Pacific coast for the proposed Canadian Pacific Railway.

The writer, a resident of Victoria, Vancouver Island, possesses great local information, and naturally desired that the disparaging remarks of "Old Settler," located on the mainland, should be refuted in the same journal that gave them currency.

With the pressure on the space of the daily press it seemed hopeless to ask the insertion of so long a reply in the *Times*, or to seek the insertion in any other paper, whilst it also appeared desirable that the letter should take a less ephemeral form, and pass in a convenient shape into the hands of persons taking a special interest in the subject-matter.

From a spirit of fairness, and to facilitate a clear understanding of the question discussed, the letter commented upon is printed in an appendix.

It has also been considered that the formation of a correct judgment on the matter at issue would be aided if in the appendix works of authority were instanced, from which valuable information is obtainable, and if extracts were given from some of those least accessible.

Upon reference to the appendix attached to Mr. Fleming's report on the surveys and preliminary operations for the Canadian Pacific Railway (*vide* p. 282) it will be observed that he was desirous of eliciting the experience of the officers of H.M. Navy who had served on the Pacific coast respecting "the several harbours where the land lines are projected to