

public confidence in me, and that is the reason why I have been compelled to publish the story of my life, in which it will be perceived, that throughout my whole career all my mishaps have arisen, not from any fault of mine, but from the incapacity of others. The errors of the past have been perceived and frankly admitted by the chairman, and with the determination expressed by the right honourable gentleman, to use every endeavour to guard against them in future, the shareholders may look to a more prosperous result in their next undertaking. I myself have no hesitation in predicting, that if the errors of omission and commission of the past be avoided in the future—if, instead of constructing me in secret, and trusting to the overweening confidence of self-sufficiency, and launching me when completed under such superintendence, "with all my imperfections on my head," without even subjecting me to the necessary tests—if, instead of doing this, the directors will invite the co-operation of the scientific world, will call to their assistance men acquainted with the indispensable requirements for my construction, and seek the aid and advice of those possessing a practical knowledge of the element to which I am destined, and of the mode of placing me there—if they will do this, and collect, collate, and cull from such sources all that may be deemed valuable, and reject all that is problematical—if they will conduct this search in a spirit of humility, and not of self-sufficiency, and place their reliance upon an All-wise Providence for their guidance—if this be done, I repeat that I have no hesitation in predicting, that their next attempt to establish me across the Atlantic will be as successful as their recent ones have been disastrous.

But it is not in the Atlantic alone where my services are at present to be placed in immediate requisition. The scheme, which I have already mentioned in the earlier part of my history, my projector proposed so far back as thirteen years ago, to the Directors of the East India Company, is now being carried out—that of connecting this country with the East Indies. That portion of me intended for the Red Sea is now actually being deposited there, between Aden and Suez; and although the European route selected is not in accordance with the one my projector then propounded, there is very