

CORRESPONDENCE, &c. RELATING TO

SLIGO.

FROM the Corporation of *Sligo*.(signed) *John McGowan*, Mayor of Sligo.
(And others.)

STRABANE, &c.

FROM the Merchants and others of *Strabane*, &c.(signed) *Saml. Donnell*, Strabane.
(And others.)

TUAM.

FROM the Merchants, Bankers, and others, of *Tuam*.(signed) *Denis Kirwan*, D. L., J. P., Castle Hacket, Tuam.
(And others.)

WATERFORD.

FROM the Mayor and Town Council of *Waterford*.(signed) *John Everard Feehan*, Mayor of Waterford.
(And others.)

WESTPORT.

FROM the Town Commissioners of the *Port of Westport*.(signed) *J. T. Browne* (Lord), M.P. for Mayo.
(And others.)

WEXFORD.

FROM the Corporation of *Wexford*.(signed) *John E. Hadden*, Alderman, Mayor of Wexford.
(And others.)

A P P E N D I X.

The Postmaster General to the Lords of the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 14 November 1857.

THE request of Mr. Cunard for an extension of five years beyond the term of his present contract is one which raises the whole question referred by your Lordships, in 1853, to the consideration of a Committee which was presided over by my predecessor, Lord Canning, and which reported most fully and ably upon the subject. In the principles laid down in that report I entirely concur, and they suggest, in my opinion, the gravest doubt whether the application of Mr. Cunard ought to be complied with.

One main principle laid down by the Committee is, that Parliamentary grants may be requisite in "establishing new lines of communication or introducing new methods of conveyance," "but that this having been once done, and sufficient time having been allowed for the experiment, the further continuance of the service, unless required for political reasons of adequate importance, should be made to depend upon the extent to which the parties interested avail themselves of it, and upon its tendency to become self-supporting."

The Committee proceed to instance this very contract as a case in point: "The heavy expense and serious risk of loss attending the introduction of ocean steamers might probably have prevented the experiment being tried." "Now, however, that success has been attained, it becomes important to consider whether the lines which have been opened cannot be made self-supporting; that is to say, whether they cannot be so carried on as to produce