

very close relations with him, for we in no way identify Mr. Stephenson with the proceedings of his executors. The proposal to construct the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada, led to the selection of Mr. Ross by English capitalists, to visit the Province, and to report upon its condition and prospects, considered in their relation to railway enterprise. The task was not difficult in one sense ; for the impetus given by the Saint Lawrence Canals was then felt in every corner of the western country; and Canada was in a perfect tumult of excitement ; not perhaps in every case healthy, but the indications of prosperity were too palpable to be denied. What Mr. Ross had to guard against was the peculiarly visionary views which existed in strange contradiction, wherever he went. His mission of course was known, and everyone he met, had very definite ideas where the railway should pass, and as a rule, the exact and proper location was not far from the dwelling of the speaker. Mr. Ross met their suggestions, and the varied and extended advice which he everywhere received, with one unfailing characteristic—silence. He heard with Socratic patience the long and generally animated statement of all the benefits which would result, were some particular policy adopted ; and his only reply was still to listen, until the exhausted speaker ceased to declaim from sheer fatigue. The result of his report was the formation of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. We have now to turn to a subject which we believe was remotely the cause of his death, the Victoria Bridge. The question of its authorship has in Canada generally been considered to be one not admitting of much argument. It is regarded as the joint production of Mr. Ross and Mr. Stephenson, the public not particularly caring to weigh out the particular merits of each. But on Mr. Stephenson's death-bed, when it is believed he was insensible, it is pretended that he gave his sanction to a letter by one Mr. George Robert Stephenson, known only as some family connection, in which the whole claim of Mr. Ross was ignored, and his character in other respects offensively assailed. What caused surprise was the production of such a document, without necessity ; and the only explanation given was that it was considered by those acting with Mr. G. R. Stephenson that Mr. Ross' reputation, enhanced by the Victoria Bridge, would obtain for him the very first rank in London, when it was hoped that Stephenson's mantle would fall on some one with whom