

## P R E F A C E .

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IN my pamphlet of September last, on a proposed "Overland Route through British North America," I merely showed the general practicability of such a route, without entering into details which would have been tiresome to the general reader. The pamphlet has had a wider circulation than I expected; and as doubts have been raised on several points, more especially as regards the direct line of railroad to the north of Lake Superior, my friends have urged me to answer them. This I cannot do better than by the following more detailed description of the road, which will serve as a supplement to the pamphlet. With the few elements at my disposal, such an abridged sketch must necessarily be very imperfect, if not occasionally incorrect; but it is the first attempt yet published, and as such will, I trust, be found useful by those who take an interest in this grand scheme, and their number is daily increasing.

The discovery of a practicable route through the mountains of British Columbia was naturally the first step towards opening an Overland communication. I have already explained how that difficulty was overcome; and now that the Hudson's Bay Company have accepted the proposal made to them by Lord Granville for the surrender of the North-West territory, another obstacle, hitherto considered as next to insurmountable, has also been removed. The speedy accomplishment of this important measure, owing chiefly to the untiring efforts of the Canadian delegates and the good sense and energy of Lord Granville, can but encourage the writer to fresh perseverance in his efforts. The difficulties still to be grappled with are great, it is true, but the worst, it is believed, have now been surmounted. The future of the Dominion, the development of its great resources, and the consolidation of its power depend on the opening up of a communication between Canada and the Pacific through the Red River settlement and the Fertile Belt. These will therefore now be quickly thrown open; the general confederation of British North America will naturally follow; and the lately so-called