

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN:

I am apprized by the fair colleague whom you have associated with me in this interesting ceremony, that she is ready to undertake the task of turning the sod, if I will endeavour to express in her name, as well as my own, how grateful we feel for the kind terms in which you have referred to our attendance on the occasion. It may seem a singular application of the principle of division of labour, that the lady should dig and the gentleman speak. But this is an age of progress in which we must be prepared for much that is strange. It is no new thing with me to feel an interest in the construction of a Railway through the District which it is intended that the line we are now assembled to inaugurate shall traverse. Four years ago, on the occasion of my first visit to Toronto, I was so much struck by the great amount of local traffic, as well as by the fertility and capabilities of the country through which I passed in the course of a drive which I took along Yonge Street, that I ventured to predict that we should soon see a Railway running through it. The favourable impressions which I then received have been strengthened by subsequent observation, and they are further confirmed by the valuable statistical information contained in the Address which you have just now read. That this Railway, which is to connect Lakes Huron and Ontario, should be commenced while I am still in Canada, is therefore a subject of no ordinary gratification to me; and I am glad that Lady Elgin should have consented, on your invitation, to put her hand to the work. I shall not attempt to dilate on the benefits which Railways have conferred on all countries where they have been extensively introduced, and which we may hope by enterprise and perseverance yet to realize for Canada. The theme is too large for such an occasion. But I may observe that the hospitality of our friends in Boston gave many of us lately an opportunity of seeing what they have done for New England; how materially they have contributed there to raise the value of property, and increase the public wealth. Of the extent to which the Railway system has been