

THE LANCASTER GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1846.

OPENING OF THE LANCASTER AND CARLISLE RAILWAY.

We have barely left ourselves room to congratulate all parties connected with this great and nationally important undertaking, on the successful issue of Monday's proceedings. Already the benefits resulting from the partial opening of the line have developed themselves in a considerable reduction of the passenger fares between this town and Preston. And we have not the slightest doubt that Lancaster will reap still more substantial benefits from the new railway, when it is opened throughout, and its great feeders, such as the North Western, the Kendal and Windermere, &c., are brought into active operation.

We are aware that this is far from being a popular opinion, locally speaking, but we believe it will turn out, in the long run, to be a tolerably correct one. Towns, like nations, are mutually advantaged by facility of intercourse. To deny this, would be to outrage the most palpable of all historical facts. It is absolute nonsense, therefore, to assert, as some rheum-eyed reasoners are in the habit of doing, that Lancaster will be ruined by an extension of railway communication. A few coach proprietors may suffer from the change, but it is an old and valuable maxim, that private interest should ever be subservient to public good; and the money that has hitherto flowed into their pockets will find its way into the town, through other channels. Secretaries, clerks, superintendents, engineers, stokers, and railway constables, require meat, drink, shelter, clothing, fire, washing, and all the other etceteras that make up the sum of domestic comfort, as well as coach-owners, coachmen, guards, hostlers, and stable-boys. And if railway engines do not eat corn and hay, like horses, they consume coal and oil, neither of which can be had without money.

We believe, too, that for one visitor to the Lake District at present, there will be ten, when its beauties are brought, as they shortly will be, within three or four hours' reach of the affluent and enterprising inhabitants of Liverpool and Manchester, hundreds of whom, we are bold to affirm, will gladly seize the opportunity, either in coming or returning, of taking a peep at the "lions" of the county town, and thus dissipate the fears of an abbreviation of custom which have crept over our innkeepers.

We might enlarge on this subject did space permit. It is possible we may recur to it hereafter.