

MONTREAL. December 27th. 1873.

DEAR SIR,

We have received your letter of the 22nd instant, in which you take under review our communication of the 18th instant, written in reply to the counter protest served on us at the instance of your Company on the previous Saturday.

Before referring to the more important points in your letter, we deem it necessary to take exception to your remarks, that our protests contain any statements which are either not courteous, or incorrect as matters of fact. On the contrary, we were particularly careful in our correspondence to avoid adopting the intemperate tone and language which characterized the counter protest which was prepared under your instructions; and in the legal documents which we were reluctantly compelled, in self defense, to serve on your Company, we confined ourselves to the merest statements of incontrovertible facts necessary to establish that we were not responsible for the accumulations of freight and the consequent block, and to protect ourselves from losses and claims likely to arise therefrom for which we consider we should not be liable.

As, therefore, we do not find, upon examination of the legal papers we served upon you, or in the letter we wrote in answer to your counter protest, any ground whatever for your remarks upon the style of these documents, we think the reference you make to the mode in which you suppose them to have been prepared, quite uncalled for.

On the other hand, as you do not appear to dispute the fact that your counter protest is not equally free from the censure with which you visited our communication, and offer as an excuse for it, the fact of its preparation by your legal adviser, we are quite willing to accept that excuse: and as we have been careful to avoid giving cause for offence, we venture to hope that no further occasion will occur for any imputation of discourtesy. For our part, we have not only every desire to avoid using any expression that could give offence, but we are anxious for the most perfect cordiality and harmony in our relations with your Company, and it was only when we found that our interests were in danger of being seriously compromised, that we took the legal precautions we were advised were necessary. And we are pleased to find, on a second scrutiny, that their terms are such as to allow our legal controversy to be carried on without the necessity for any personal feeling.

In the face of the correspondence had with Mr. Stevenson in the