

OTTAWA, 30th Sept., 1889.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 4th Sept., in which you state, on behalf of the sub-committee of the Board of Works: (1) That the contemplated opposition of the City Council of Ottawa to the Company's Amendment Act in 1868 was withdrawn on the faith of a pledge given by the Railway Company; (2) and that the Company has not attempted to redeem this pledge; (3) and that the committee has not proposed that the Company should surrender its Charter.

The facts are—as to the first statement, that the Corporation of 1868 did not withdraw their opposition to the Company's Bill, but pursued it to the last:—a reference to the records of the City Council will prove this. On the day the Bill was passed, the city member for Ottawa, in reply to the demands made upon him, telegraphed that he "could not justify himself in destroying the Company's Charter obtained at Ottawa." After the Bill was thus passed, in Feby., 1868, the Corporation, on June 5th, petitioned the Minister of Public Works to prohibit the Company from laying tracks over Sappers Bridge, as Government property, and on same date also petitioned the Governor General to disallow the Act of the Ontario Legislature passed in the previous February. On June 8th, the City Clerk published a notice that the City of Ottawa would apply to the Parliament of the Province of Ontario at its next Session to repeal or amend the Act above referred to.

All these steps were taken at Toronto and Ottawa, after it was known to the City that the Company had contracted for its iron and its timber. In September, 1868, the Company notified the Corporation of their intention to commence track-laying, and asked if any alteration of grades was contemplated, offering to lay their track in accordance therewith, and in such position in the streets as would involve least interference with the sewers. The Corporation replied to this letter by a