

CONFIDENTIAL.

Letter from S. Fleming to R. S. Aytoun, Esq., M. P.

RAILWAY OFFICE, }
Halifax, April 24th. 1867. }

R. S. AYTOUN, Esq., M. P., London.

Dear Sir,—A gentleman who was recently in England as one of the Delegates to promote the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, received by the last mail a private letter which rather reflects on my character in connection with some observations said to have been made by you in the House of Commons, hence the liberty I now take in addressing you.

The gentleman referred to, viz., the Hon. Jonathan McCully, very kindly favored me with an extract from the letter referred to, and allowed me to make use of his name but the name of his London correspondent I do not know. The letter is dated London, 20th March, 1867, and the extract is as follows:

"It is said here that Sandford Fleming inspired Mr. Aytoun several years since against the road, and that he based his opposition to it upon Fleming's correspondence with him. You had better read this to Fleming so that he may know what is said of him. Aytoun, it appears, referred to some private man connected with the road, and in debate said to Adderly that if he named the party he (Adderly) would not dispute his capacity to judge. I heard this myself, and several in my hearing said it was Fleming, and referred to a conversation in the lobby the previous evening in which Aytoun was said to have specially named Fleming as being an acquaintance of his family and in correspondence with him, and was the party from whom he got the information which induced him to oppose the guarantee for what he considered a worthless line going through a desert."

When I inform you that I have occupied an important official position in connection with the undertaking, you will readily perceive how damaging the charges implied in the above must be to my reputation, and that I must naturally be desirous of exculpating myself. In this I find it will be necessary to allude to the *only time*