

**COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED ON THE 30TH MARCH, 1882, FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ATLANTIC AND ST. LAWRENCE
RAILROAD COMPANY.**

{ Office of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad Company,
Portland, 24th March, 1882.

To the Directors of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Company:

GENTLEMEN,—A Committee of our Board intended to have gone to Montreal this week, but will now defer their visit till Mr. Galt arrives here.

We have heard, with much surprise, that a Committee of your Board, have entered into agreements with the people of Stanstead, to change your location from the Coaticook to the Stanstead and Derby route, under certain conditions, and with that view, have postponed your lettings. Such are the rumours that have reached us, but we do not give credit to them, as such agreements would be in violation of the mutual agreements between the two Boards, and as the question of route and point of junction has been definitely settled and agreed upon by Commissioners of the two Corporations, and the doings of the joint commission have been ratified and confirmed by votes of the two Boards, thus determining the route and point of junction in the mode agreed upon in the fundamental articles of agreement between the two Companies.

By the terms of these articles of agreement, upon the faith of which, the joint enterprise was undertaken, the Coaticook was fixed as the Western limit of the routes to be selected and agreed upon by the Commissioners.

A more Western line would be deemed an utter abandonment of the whole enterprise; and any agreements with other parties to determine the common route and point of junction, would be in violation of the compact between our two Companies, and we cannot believe that any such stipulations have been entered into.

A change of location would defer the completion of the road a year or more, involving a loss of interest to the two Companies, of more than half a million of dollars.

The line by Stanstead has been surveyed by competent Engineers, and found highly objectionable on account of grades and expense, in addition to the increased distance. We can conceive no possible inducements for your Company to adopt that route, were the question of routes still open, but insuperable objections against that line present themselves to us.

Our policy heretofore has been to get the shortest possible line, with feasible grades, and that policy should not be departed from.

With respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOSIAH S. LITTLE,
President Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad Company.