

Copy

His Excellency Sir Charles  
Metcafe Governor General of  
Canada

Sir,

I have the honor to  
acknowledge the receipt of the  
letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> ulto addressed  
to Mr. Little and myself by  
your command from the  
Civil Secretary's Office at  
Montreal. In that letter  
we are informed, that your  
Excellency will be desirous of  
learning the result of the  
Memorial to the Legislature  
of Maine in relation to a  
railroad, connecting the St.  
Lawrence of Montreal with the  
Atlantic at Portland. It is with  
great pleasure, that I can now  
assure

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society  
(Local Code: S-426 Box 16/18)

Date: Feb. 4, 1845

Description: Copy of a letter from Sir Charles Metcafe, Governor of Canada to William Pitt Preble about a railroad from the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean in Portland.

assure you, the memorial has met with uncommon favor from our people and legislature. The usual order of notice and the hearing in committee have necessarily taken some time, and occasioned some delay. The Committee have reported a charter just such an one, as the Memorialists themselves asked for. This charter we are assured, will certainly be granted; and will receive all the necessary sanctions from the legislature and Governor of Maine by the tenth instant at farthest. In drafting this charter we took great pains to guard against all possible encroachments, so as to secure and perpetuate for ever a free and untrammelled intercommunication between the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic at Portland, so far

assure you, the memorial has met with uncommon favor from our people and legislature. The usual order of notice and the hearing in committee have necessarily taken some time, and occasioned some delay. The Committee have reported a charter just such an one, as the Memorialists themselves asked for. This charter we are assured, will certainly be granted; and will receive all the necessary sanctions from the legislature and Governor of Maine by the tenth instant at farthest. In drafting this charter we took great pains to guard against all possible encroachments, so as to secure and perpetuate forever a free and untrammelled [sic] intercommunication between the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic at Portland, so far

far as Maine could grant and  
guarantee it. A copy of this charter  
I hope to submit to you in person  
before the twentieth of the present  
month. The object of the visit  
will be, to lay our views before  
Your Excellency, and your  
Government, if you should think  
proper, and others interested,  
to bring about cooperation and  
concert of action, and to receive  
and communicate any  
suggestions for mutual benefit,  
and in aid of the great enterprise.  
We shall be prepared to show,  
and, as we think, demonstrably,  
that this route, and this alone,  
will secure to Canada and  
Montreal the fruits of their  
own enterprise and improvement  
and the development and  
enjoyment of their own resources,  
and in a great measure the  
resources of that vast region  
around the lakes on both sides.

As

far as Maine could grant and  
guarantee it. A copy of this charter  
I hope to submit to you in person  
before the twentieth of the present  
month. The object of the visit  
will be, to lay our views before  
Your Excellency, and your  
Government, if you should think  
proper, and others interested, -  
to bring about cooperation and  
concert of action, and to receive  
and communicate any  
suggestions for mutual benefit,  
and in aid of the great enterprise.  
We shall be prepared to show,  
and, as we think, demonstrably,  
that this route, and this alone,  
will secure to Canada and  
Montreal the fruits of their  
own enterprise and improvements,  
and the development and  
enjoyment of their own resources,  
and in a great measure the  
resources of that vast region  
around the lakes on both sides.

As

As to the taking up of the stock,  
and the constructing of the road,  
we apprehend no difficulty,  
provided we are met at the  
line of Canada in the valley of  
the Connecticut near Leach Stream,  
and the two roads so join, as  
that each shall be in fact a  
continuation of the other.

We perceive that our Boston  
Verмонт and New Hampshire  
competitors, operating through a  
part at least of the Eastern  
Townships, have been actively  
engaged; while we have been  
unable to enter the field, not  
having yet obtained a charter.  
We have felt less disturbed at  
this state of things, because we  
have known that the whole  
subject was well understood by  
the head of the Government. —  
Since however the interests of  
Maine and Canada in this  
enterprise are mutual, reciprocal  
and

As to the taking up of the stock  
and the constructing of the road,  
we apprehend no difficulty,  
provided we are met at the  
line of Canada in the valley of  
the Connecticut near Leach Stream,  
and the two roads so join, as  
that each shall be in fact a  
continuation of the other.

We perceive that our Boston  
Vermont and New Hampshire  
competitors, operating through a  
part at least of the Eastern  
Townships, have been actively  
engaged; while we have been  
unable to enter the field, not  
having yet obtained a charter.  
We have felt less disturbed at  
this state of things, because we  
have known that the whole  
subject was well understood by  
the head of the Government —  
Since however the interests of  
Maine and Canada in this  
enterprise are mutual, reciprocal  
and

and in perfect harmony with  
each other, I may venture to  
suggest to Your Excellency with  
great deference and respect,  
that certain of the eastern  
townships in Canada, and  
certain of our townships in  
Maine, though their interests  
are not to be overlooked, are of  
but - secondary importance  
in comparison with the  
great and paramount interests  
of Montreal, Quebec, and  
Canada itself on the one part,  
and of the State of Maine on  
the other - I mean to say the  
main object ought not to be  
sacrificed or jeopardized in  
order to gratify and subserve  
local aspirations and interests.  
Intelligent men of Canada  
would feel it to be so in  
respect to our part of the  
railroad. In connection  
with

and in perfect harmony with  
each other, I may venture to  
suggest to Your Excellency with  
great deference and respect,  
that certain of the eastern  
townships in Canada, and  
certain of our townships in  
Maine, though their interests  
are not to be overlooked, are of  
but - secondary importance  
in comparison with the  
great and paramount interests  
of Montreal, Quebec, and  
Canada itself on the one part,  
and of the State of Maine on  
the other - I mean to say the  
main object ought not to be  
sacrificed or jeopardized in  
order to gratify and subserve  
local aspirations and interests.  
Intelligent men of Canada  
would feel it to be so in  
respect to our part of the  
railroad. In connection  
with

with this view of the subject  
They leave to add, that I perceive  
there is a great pressure to  
induce hasty action on the  
part of the Provincial Parliament;  
and this very apparently for  
the purpose of having the  
whole matter determined before  
the friends of the Maine route,  
can be heard at all.

This precipitancy and  
uncalled for earnestness are  
surely no favorable indications.  
May I then express the hope in  
behalf of the friends of this  
great enterprise in Maine that  
no definitive action, favorable  
to the grant of a rail road  
charter to the Canada line at  
Stanstead, may be had by the  
Government of Canada, until  
after we shall have had an  
opportunity to submit to you our  
charter

with this view of the subject  
They leave to add, that I perceive  
there is a great pressure to  
induce hasty action on the  
part of the Provincial Parliament;  
and this very apparently for  
the purpose of having the  
whole matter determined before  
the friends of the Maine route,  
can be heard at all.

This precipitancy and  
uncalled for earnestness are  
surely no favorable indications.  
May I then express the hope in  
behalf of the friends of this  
great enterprise in Maine that  
no definitive action, favorable  
to the grant of a railroad  
charter to the Canada line at  
Stanstead, may be had by the  
Government of Canada, until  
after we shall have had an  
opportunity to submit to you our  
charter

charter, granted by Maine, and  
lay before your Government  
and people such facts and  
considerations, as we think,  
will tend to enable them to  
act with a more full and  
perfect view of the whole  
matter. Your Excellency will  
pardon, I know; the liberty  
I have taken; because I am  
persuaded, the sole object, you  
have at heart in your  
administration is to promote  
the permanent and best  
interests of the people, over  
whom Providence has placed  
you.

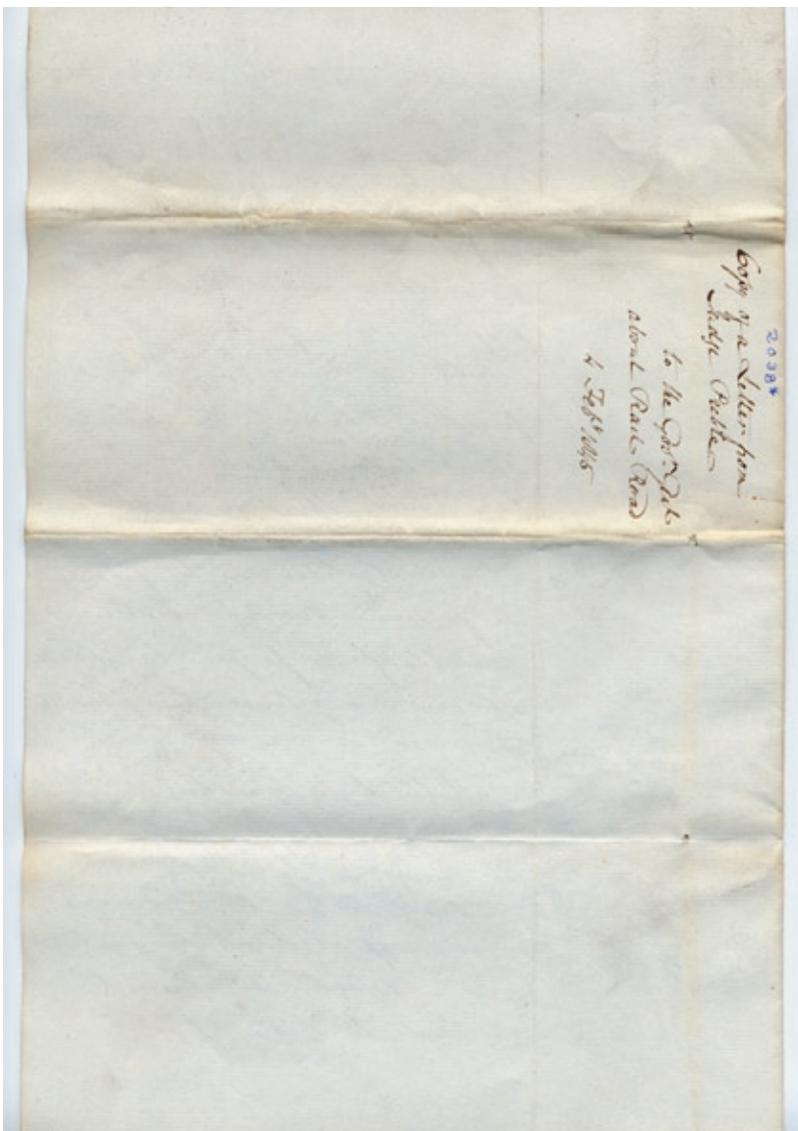
With distinguished consid-  
eration and respect I have  
the honor to be

Your Excellency's  
very obedient servant  
Signed Wm. P. Preble  
Portland M. 4 Feb 1845

charter, granted by Maine, and  
lay before your Government  
and people such facts and  
considerations, as we think,  
will tend to enable them to  
act with a more full and  
perfect view of the whole  
matter. Your Excellency will  
pardon, I know; the liberty  
I have taken; because I am  
persuaded, the sole object, you  
have at heart in your  
administration is to promote  
the permanent and best  
interests of the people, over  
whom Providence has placed  
you.

With distinguished consid-  
eration and respect I have  
the honor to be

your Excellency's  
very obedient servant  
signed Wm. P. Preble  
Portland M. 4 Feb 1845



Copy of a letter from  
Judge Preble

to the Gov. Gen.  
about Rail Road

4 Feb 1845