

NOTE: The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: C. B. Benedict

C. B. Benedict & Son, Bankers
Attica, N.Y., Oct. 3, 1875

R. S. Stevens

Dear Sir:-

The day you left we voted to accept your proposition and Judge Wall drew contracts which I supposed would be signed yesterday but those Syracuse men and one Southern Southern director staid over here the day after you left and I suppose some extensive talking was done and I have no doubt some promises of a secret nature.

The Board of wise men met yesterday and another proposition was handed in by Syracuse men \$7,000 less than yours and after very much talk I saw that arguements had been used against which there was no use talking and a committee was appointed to go to Syracuse and investigate the sureties offered. We meet again on Thursday.

I think I can handle the matter when the time comes but I talked so plainly to them that it will take a few days and perhaps longer for them to get over the rough edges. I would like above all things in view of what has been said to have you build the road but in view of the feeling and the position I am obliged to take, it may not be advisable for me to take any preliminary interest with you. I would very well like to do it but after being obliged to fight the matter, I do not like to put myself in position of fighting for my own pecuniary interest. My anxiety for the road is so great that I do not think of self interest or care about it. A number have spoken to me, among them Drew, to know if they could get an interest with you and I have no doubt arrangements enough of that kind could be made if desired, but if I fight the thing out I want to be relived of all questions of personal pecuniary interest.

If you would in connection with South like the contract, please telegraph here.

We meet again on Thursday next and hope to receive your dispatch before that time.

Yours Respectfully,

C. B. Benedict

¹ FROM: Book of letters to R.S.S., July 1875 to April 1876.