

Stephen, George

August 18, 1881

R. B. Angus to Stephen

Re earnings; and surplus(\$732,000). "We are entirely agreed as to the manner of treating Mr. Villard. I believe he will ultimately seek to come to terms with us - he can hardly afford to do otherwise; but having made a fair and libera proposition we have now to go quietly about our business and pay slight attention to his threat What he states in regard to Hill is entirely false. We have from the first studiously avoided unfriendly or boastful language while Villard has pursued an opposite course, possibly in the belief that he would th by exact better terms In making an effort to prevent the building of

the Little Falls & Dakota Ry and offering to buy or exchange another road for the Casselton Branch we have made him believe more tenacious of his purpose and have concentrated his attention on these to the exclusion of what I conceive to be more vital points. Oakes who is expected here shortly is reputed to be an unscrupulous schemer. Van Horne says he will slash about in any direction without regard to consequences as long as people will pay the bills."

StPM&MRy(Angus)LetterBook,691(12/4/79-8/18/81)