

1857
Burlington Vermont, Nov 16 '57

Dear Sir

Returning from New York on Saturday last, I found your kind favor of Nov 9th for which I am extremely obliged to you. I find my brother

has corresponded with the gentlemen at Dartmouth College, & from the data furnished by them, and a Rail Road Survey from Connecticut River to Woodstock has ascertained the elevation of that village with approximate certainty. I will send you the memoranda as soon as I can obtain them from him. I believe the old canal levelling along the Valley of the Connecticut was reliable; & the surveys made by U.S. officers in 1827 up the Woodstock or Green River & across the State were also. I have no doubt, faithfully executed, but the Rail Road levels in New England are in general entitled to no confidence whatever. There are cases within my personal knowledge where the actual and ~~the~~ reported grades differ by more than fifty feet to the mile, and that for considerable distances. In the discharge of my official duty as Com. of R.R. in this state