

Philadelphia: Feb 20/59

Gentlemen.

I desire to call your attention to the well-known case of oppression & spoliation of the Board & Stockholders of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Rail Road Company, ~~perpetrated~~ ^{perpetrated} ~~by~~ ^{by} the Virginia Central R.R. Road Company, involving as it does, virtually this District, the reputation of your Commonwealth. I have therefore endeavored to arouse the People of Virginia so far as it might be done by so unimportant a person to a consciousness of the fact that the State had been publicly charged with a repudiation of its pledges given in the most solemn forms to the Richmond & Fredericksburg Company, in a manner not only violating of the Law & the exposure of ordinariness, but in violation of the higher & more special obligations of Justice known & conceived. I have been reluctantly compelled to admit that this grave charge is at least technically & literally true because ~~the~~ ^{the} investigations into the facts of the case have allowed

my judgment no possible escape
 from such a conclusion. It cannot
 be improper therefore to appeal
 in this matter directly to the Board
 of Public Works, of which honorable
 body you are the selected member.
 Since the complaint on which the
 allegation is based is one it has
 in your power partially to remedy
 I think it can hardly be doubted
 that you have at heart the public
 & pecuniary interest of the State you
 so worthily represent. You it may
 presume it will be a fatal mistake
 to suppose that the Richmond & Falmouth
 Company is the only party or the
 party chiefly interested in a proper
 determination of the question. While
 I do not pretend to affirm, as it has
 been distinctly alleged in the most
 public manner, that the treatment
 to which the Richmond & Falmouth
 Company has been subjected by the
 illegal encroachment of the Virginia
 Central R Road Co; has had the
 immediate sympathy or collusion
 of any of the Public Officers of
 Virginia, I fear it cannot be
 denied truthfully that there has

have an apparent wilful and
 deliberate neglect of the indisputable
 rights of the Richmond & Fredericksburg
 Company which neglect necessarily
 supposes ^{if persisted in} under the circumstances
 a forfeiture of the good faith of the
 State pledged in the Charter of this
 Company. Indeed it does not admit
 of dispute that the account reported
 to the Commission which has confided to
 you your important & enlightened
 trust is much more deeply concerned
 in the ~~direct result~~ that has been
 gained which is destined to be vigorously
 prosecuted by those who have it
 in hand to a final result, be it
 what it may than any mere
 report or ~~proceeding~~ ^{proceeding} ~~extension~~ ^{extension} the
 operation ~~in its~~ ^{substantive} rights. This will
 be evident when you come to reflect
 that the credit of ^{the State} in the present
 situation of Virginia cannot be
 measured by millions & that the
 credit of a State like that of our
 individual depends on its established
 character for honesty in its transactions
 & solidly established in its principles.
 And thus reasoning & feeling I am
 sure that no member of the
 Board of Public Works of Virginia

would find to support the assumption
 that a State any more than an
 individual can permit itself
 to repudiate a plain ^{and undisputed} ~~contract~~
 contract at its own pleasure or
 profit & to the injury of those who
 have trusted its honor in violation
 of all moral rules & every principle
 of Human Justice without necessarily
 inviting the denunciation & exposure
 of any such act of violence & perfidy
 & without the inevitable loss of social
 & political & pecuniary credit.

If that I know need be
 I have there are there but there
 points here for arguing & proper
 Desires
 Determinations.

In this case there are but
three points to be ^{argued} considered.

First. Is it true that the guaranteed
rights of the Richmond & Ferry Company
have been deliberately & wickedly
infringed & usurped by the Virginia
Central R. Road Co: & that ~~the~~
retreated Company is forced to submit
to downright robbery, because it has
in vain sought to obtain redress for
the damage it has ~~suffered~~ ^{suffered} & is now
suffering from the Courts of the
State.

Second. Is it not in the power
of the Board of Public Works to apply
a remedy in this case to prevent
all future injuries, ~~altho~~ it may
not be in its power to afford a
redress for past wrongs, thus de-
livering the State as far as practicable
from the odious of complicity either
direct or indirect, with these disgraceful
proceedings?

Third. What will be
the effect, probably, on the credit of
Virginia if she shall ^{visit} ~~visit~~ ^{visit} ~~visit~~
becoming ~~known~~ ^{known} ~~known~~ ^{known} ~~known~~
party, ~~known~~ indirectly to the
practical repudiation of the Charter
of the Richmond & Ferry
Company, as against ~~the~~ Stock-
holders residing in other States
of the Union.