

Wat. Sterling N.Y.

Aug 20th 1879

Gen W. S. Withers

Dear bro;

If we were to defeat the report of the A. & M. Commission before the Legislature after such high expectations have been excited it might leave a very wide-spreading ulcer about Livingston, of such virulence that it could not be healed.

For that & other reasons, although I feel sure we could defeat it, I hesitate. If you feel like issuing the command I will call off all the hounds & stop all movements ~~in~~ within my influence, towards a conflict with the Legislature. Please let me hear at once what you think.