To whom it may concern:

Having for three years acted as President of the Senate of this State, while J. R. C. Clarke, Esq., was officiating as Secretary of that Body, I had ample opportunity to become acquainted with his capabilities, skill and fidelity in the performance of Clerkship duties. And I am prepared to say that, in my view, his correct Scholarship, fine Literary Taste, his Knowledge of Parliamentary methods of Business, and just appreciation of the duties and proprieties of the office which he held, together with his fidelity, promptness, and general aptitude for the Business of a Secretary, evinced in the uniform accuracy and neatness of his Records, presented...
Such a combination of qualifications for the place he filled, as is rarely equaled, and scarcely could be surpassed. In short, I can say truly and strongly, that I believe it would be difficult to find a man whose past could give a better guarantee that he was capable, and would be "faithful" in discharging the duties of any trust similar to that which he has held in this state for the last eight or nine years.

As per Eaton.

Eddleburgh, Vermont,
Jan. 4th 1849.
St. John's Bay, Jan. 13th, 18--

D. M. C. Clarke Esq.

Dear Sir,

I am this day in receipt of your favor of the 11th, and in accordance with your request have addressed a letter to The Steering. I have felt much pleasure in saying that The Steering that Sir Clarke is a gentleman qualified by long experience for the office—Of gentlemanly appearance, good address and speaking a refined voice.

And now my dear Sir, allow me to suggest an improvement, which I am sure you will greatly value after the discouraging result of the application for the Chairship. It is that you add to the other estimable qualifications which you possess, that of a slow, clear and distinct enunciation. This can only be acquired by practice, but it can be acquired

You may regard this as officious, and unaccustomed for no other man might do it—but I know my men, and your own person upon your good nature. O may be at Burlington next week, if so shall meet you. Mean time believe me truly yours,

[Signature]
Lancaster July 20th 1849

[Handwritten text]

With some respect,

Your obedient,

Hatchett Steers

E. Harbans Esq.

July 30, 1849.

Sir,

I have much pleasure in sending you the foregoing letter from Mr. Strong.

I think you—may only on the supposition of

"The Train." Truly yours, Steers.
Jan 1849

Erastus Fairbanks Jr

St. Johnsbury

Vermont