

NOTE: The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: S. S. Clover

Paola, Aug. 22nd 1875

Hon. R. S. Stevens

Kind Friend:-

Your kind and welcome letter came duly to hand and its contents more than pleased me, for I thought that I could see a gleam of hope of procuring a situation that I need so badly.

I shall look forward with brighter hopes for the future.

But I now address this letter upon another subject. I am the inventor of a machine (not yet patented) that is placed before the engine (R. R.) above the cow catcher and is to perform the duty of driving stock off of the R. R. in front of the train.

Mr. Sands gave it a thorough examination and pronounced it a success, but being unable to accommodate funds to make it a success, I have let the matter drop.

I desire the name of some person who has money and would likely take hold of and help perfecting the invention.

Of its importance in helping to prevent accidents and the saving of stock, you are fully able to judge, and if you should desire, I will furnish you a diagram of the invention with full explanations as to its workings.

By employing my idle time on this and like inventions, I am kept out of a good deal of mischief.

Hoping to hear from you,

I remain Your Friend,

S. S. Clover

¹ FROM: Book of letters to R.S.S., July 1875 to April 1876.

P. S. Since the writing of the above letter, I have learned of the intended treachery of a person who pretends to be my friend and I make it a rule that only my friends shall make money out of my knowledge and I never furnish the enemy with the sinews of war, if I can help it. Therefor in view of the fact, I will make a startling and apparently strong assertion "that the legal title now held by the (pretended owners) residents of Lawrence, Kansas, is not worth the paper that it is written upon." 2nd, That I can get the true legal title to the City of Lawrence Kansas.

These statements may seem to you as the idle fancies of a disordered brain, but in my assertions I am fully backed by the legal opinion of Judge Nelson Cobb and Hon. W. R. Wagstaff. Had I the time or deemed it prudent, I could explain to you fully my grounds for the above strong assertions, but not yet knowing whether you would be willing to enter into such an arrangement with me, I will defer the explanations that would be necessary.

I will make you a proposition and you can consider it and give me your views on the subject.

I want you to go in and furnish the cash (estimated cost of about \$1,000 or less) and we buy the true legal title. My points to be presented to any one, two, or three eminent legal attorneys for their opinion, and if their opinion is adverse to the program, then the matter to be dropped, otherwise to be favorably considered.

Should you deem this matter of sufficient importance and desire my personal my personal attendance so that all points may be known, even to the minutest detail, I will meet you at any time or place and talk the matter over only asking that you pay my expenses, for to tell the truth, I am as poor as a church mouse. I pledge my honor as a man that what I have written above is true, and that you can fully rely upon it.

I would be pleased to have you answer this part of the letter immediately as I must move promptly if I want to save myself. These facts (of the title) I have known for over five years.

I remain Your Friend,
S. S. Clover