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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: E. J. Crandall

Abbey Coal and Mining Company,

OFFICE No. 417 PINE STREET,

St. Louis, Mo. Sept 10th 1875

R. S. Stevens, Esq.

Care Messr. W. B. Meeker & Co.

29 Hall St, N. Y.

My dear Sir:-

Yours of the 8th inst came duly to hand today. In reply would say I have just returned from a trip in North Missouri where I have been spending a week "austensibly" visiting some of my old friends, but really looking over quietly the coal interests on the line of the H. & St Joe. Knowing nearly all the coal men on the line, and they knowing me to be in that business, they very naturally talked freely. Of course I said nothing of having an idea of interesting myself there. I examined quite carefully the various works, but did not go into the mines thinking it better not to do. I am satisfied that the field is a good one. And if a company is organized with an assurance of furnishing the Railroad Company all they may require it would enable them to build up a large trade on the line and also supply large quantities in St Joe and Kansas City. By working the mines to their full capacity the cost of production would be materially reduced and the Railroad Co. would get fair rates for hauling.

My impressions are that under the present demoralized condition of the coal operators there that the best mines can easily be controlled by lease or otherwise. In furnishing the Railroad Company, we would be enabled to keep the mines constantly running and the price could always be made entirely satisfactory, which would only be governed by the price paid for mining. I know I can easily control the mine on Yellow Creek just east of Brookfield which is capable of producing from Eight to ten cars per day.

The mine known as the Railroad Companies just West of Macon you know all about and what could be done with it. With those we could easily produce twenty five to thirty cars per day when properly manned. The detail of its organization I would prefer to talk over personally with you, and will come up to Hannibal at that time when it will best suit your convenience

¹ FROM: 1875 Book of Letters to R.S.S.

for me to do so. Please drop me a line or telegraph me when you get home.

Yours Very Truly

E. J. Crandall