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751025-D.LTR<sup>1</sup>

**TO: A. B. Stone**  
**FROM: R. S. Stevens**

Oct. 25, 1875

A. B. Stone, Esq.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sir:-

At a meeting of the President and chief engineer of your Atchison Bridge Co. and the Supts. and managers of the several Railway Companies, whose Lines reach that place, among other things it was decided that the most satisfactory party to do the transferring of cars in bulk across the bridge, was the Bridge Company, and Major Gunn was requested to make arrangements so to do. As you of course know, he has no locomotive, and must either buy or rent one. Our Company has one, which I think is admirably adapted to that purpose. True, it is not of the build of today, and perhaps not quite so pretty as one could be made, still it is strong, in good order, and perfectly able to do the work.

I proposed to Major Gunn to sell it to your Company, or rent it for \$8.<sup>00</sup> per day. He was here one day last week looking it over, but declined to come to any settled arrangement, giving as a reason, that he had no authority to buy or hire one - presume he is waiting for instructions from you. As we have an engine on hand, and in view of our prospective relations with your Company, for future business, I would like very much to have you instruct Major Gunn, to rent, in case you do not care to buy, the engine; of course he will be governed by your instructions.

And while upon the subject of locomotives let me say: that we have a very fine one, which some little time since was put in perfect order, under an arrangement with the Old Keokuk Company, for the purchase thereof. It is a sixteen by twenty four, thirty two ton engine, Manchester build, but the drivers are but five and one half feet in diameter. This, on our heavy grade, renders it not well adapted to our use, but just the thing on your Road. I would like much to sell, or rent you this engine. Mr. Wells, of course, will do nothing without instructions from you.

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<sup>1</sup>FROM: Letter Book, "FROM R.S.S. - 1875-76."

On Friday last, an engine in use upon your road, broke down, and has been sent to our shop for repairs. The Master Mechanic has examined the same, and finds that it will cost about Two thousand dollars to put it in order. The cab is almost worn out, the crown sheet must be renewed and various other repairs needed. Of course under your instructions, or those of Mr. Wells, we will make all necessary repairs, and charge the cost of the same to you, without profit. In the mean time, Mr. Wells must have an engine, and with the extension of your Road to Louisiana, you will need of course considerable more rolling stock. Why not buy the locomotive referred to?

Suppose you instruct Mr. Wells, and his Master Mechanic to make an examination of the engine, with a view of becoming the purchaser thereof. Possibly after you have been advised of the result thereof, you will feel inclined to purchase.

I will sell it to you, and take pay in steel rails of 2" class, and use them in laying down the main track in own yard at this place.

Yours respectfully,

R. S. Stevens

Genl Mgr.