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751201-J.TOR¹

TO: R. S. Stevens
FROM: S. S. Clover

Paola, Dec. 1st 1875

Hon. R. S. Stevens

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of 25th inst. was duly received. I am sorry to have to give up my efforts for the clerkship in the Indian Committee but poverty compels us to do many things that we could wish otherwise. Had I the money, I would have entered into the canvass full of hope, even if I was disappointed, for I have many strong and influential friends in Congress who would give me their support.

In the language of A. Ward, dec'd, "Sitch is life."

Between Baxter Springs and Venitia (*sic*) is a stretch of country inhabited by small tribes and the M. R., Ft. S. & G. R. R. has been trying to get the right of way but always have failed. Mostly because they never had men who could manage the Indians, but I think I can get the right of way for them because there are certain circumstances, by which the Indians can be controlled, and I have been placing myself in their way in such a manner that I hold the power over them and can force them to do what I want.

Besides that, the Peoria's and Miami's have failed in their efforts to unite because of my frightening them and they would consent to do something, that is fair for the purpose of getting me out of the way. Then I know the Chiefs and their weak points and by a judicious use of my knowledge I can overcome them, and get the way secured by then aid and Congressional action.

This road being one of the main feeders of your line, I thought that you would be the best posted as to whom I shall write.

I only want to communicate with the head men, for I would refuse to work if I am compelled to do so under Hemming or any of the local officers of the Road, and I would refuse to work with plenty of other aspirants, for

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

I do not purpose to shoulder their blunders, for if I fail I will have enough of my own.

I do not know to whom to write, nor what recommendations they will want.

Can and will you give me helping hand in this matter, that is if it does not conflict with your interests.

I remain your friend,

S. S. Clover