

**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:** Angell Matthewson

R. S. Stevens, President  
Angell Matthewson, Cashier

Authorized Capital, \$300,000  
Capital Paid in 75,000  
Organized March 2d, 1872.

**First National Bank,**  
**Parsons, Kansas,** December 12, 1875

Hon. R. S. Stevens  
Hannibal, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of Dec. 4 duly received and I have been looking for you all week; but know, of course, that something occurred to prevent your coming.

Did you make the change for John Scullin's stock, as you expected? You said you would send the Certificates and have new ones made out in your name; but I have not received them.

If you do not find time to come down before Jan'y 1<sup>st</sup>, shall I consider you present for the purpose of declaring the semiannual dividend, placing to surplus, etc.?

I would like very much to have you come down, if possible, ~~as I would like to~~ for the purpose of submitting to you a proposition of erecting a two story brick building 50 X 100 ft. on your lots 6 & 7, Block No. 41, adjoining the Post Office - the first floor devoted to two handsome stores, each 100 ft. deep and 2<sup>d</sup> story to a large public hall 50 X 100 ft. to be called "Stevens' Block;" or "Stevens' Hall;" or "Stevens' Opera House," or something of that sort. The erection of such a building would add very materially to the value of your improved <?> in Block 41 and be a splendid investment; besides, I could for it in a short time from your stock dividends and you would have a valuable piece of property, without scarcely knowing where it came from. The two stores can be rented for \$1500 to <?>

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<sup>1</sup>FROM: Book of letters to R.S.S., July 1875 to April 1876.

per annum, and the hall would pay well, too. <?> a building could be put up for a sum upon which ?rents would pay 20% interest at least, besides enhancing the value of your other property. Two of <?> merchants would take the stores for a term of @ 5 years.

Should you think well of such an enterprise, I will set up plan of building and estimate of cost and ?show you, and then you could judge, perhaps, better.

If you desire, I will try and go up to Hannibal some time this month.

Yours Truly,

Angell Matthewson