

**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:** James N. Burnes

*The Bank of St. Joseph*

*St. Joseph, Mo.* Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 187 5

Col. R. S. Stephens  
Genl Manager, &c.  
Hannibal, Mo.

Dear Colonel:-

Having learned that you contemplated a change in the general superintendency of the H. & St J. R.R. I feel that I am doing you and your Company a real service in warmly recommending Mr. James R. Hardy of this City for the position.

I know Mr. Hardy well. I know him morally, socially and as a railroad man. He is thoroughly honest, honorable, capable and devoted to his work and to every duty. His broad and extensive experience, tuition, and practice under some of the best railroad managers in this country make him, in my judgement beyond doubt, one of the best, if not the very best of practical Superintendents.

Young, skillful, full of life and work, he will give you a supreme, unusual satisfaction. I am confident and earnest because I feel sure I am not mistaken.

Faithfully Yr frd & svt,  
James N. Burnes

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<sup>1</sup>FROM: 1875 Book of Letters to R.S.S.