

K Raynor
Dec 12/67

Memphis Tennessee
Dec. 12 - 1867.

My Dear Sir

The signature to this letter will I doubt not awaken associations of past days, not interesting in their character. —

I have left North Carolina for good and for ever. — Greatly crippled in my fortunes — though not entirely ruined like thousands of others — by the accursed war brought about by the machinations of bad men in both sections, I have come to this great West with the view of trying to resuscitate my fortune. —

My wife owns 3300 acres of land on the Mississippi river some 11 or 12 miles above Memphis. — I am about erecting a steam-saw & grist mill on this property.

It has on it, the finest body of timber I ever saw any where, and I have been in 26 States of the union. It consists of Green, Yellow Poplar White oak Ash, Hickory &c. - The White oak exceeds any thing I ever saw or heard of - of great size, and remarkably free from defects windshakes &c. -

The reason why I especially write to you, is this. Your State, Indiana, is a great state for Rail Roads, and I think there are four rail-roads, running to & from your town. - I understood, a few months since, that there was in this place, an agent, from Penn-Santa, who wished to enter into contracts, for furnishing White-oak heart-sills across-ties, for some of your rail-roads. I regretted not seeing him although I was not then ready to enter contracts for such purposes. Now, I am ready - as we expect to commence sawing in two or three weeks. - I have concluded, in

thinking over this matter - That probably,
you may be of great service to me,
in case it be practicable to make
such contracts. - You can show this
letter to the authorities of any road,
who may wish to contract for crop-
-ties in great quantity - and you can
certify as to who I am - my credibility,
reliability &c. - I can furnish these
with a crop-ties in any quantity desired
all heart, free from defects. - I would
prefer delivering them at a good landing
on the Mississippi River at the head of
Island 40, which is by water, some 18
miles above Memphis. -

If you can serve me in
this business, I shall duly appreciate it,
as an act of kindness. -

I have thought that prob-
-ably the Illinois Central R. Road will
not probably be glad to make a
contract of this sort. It is a road of
great length, & running through a region
very deficient in timber. They must rely

in great increase on other sections. But
I do not know who is the President nor where he resides.
I shall be pleased to hear from
you - directed to me at this place,
care of Harrington & Howell. -

What will be the position of
Indiana, in the great political contest
of 1868? - The financial distress of the
Southern people is so great, that they
have but little inclination for politi-
cal issues, of any kind. You can have
no conception of the utter ruin and disaster
of the cotton planting interest all over
the South. - I have yet to see, or hear of,
the first man, that planted cotton ex-
tensively, that will not lose largely. -
You may rely on it as certain, that but little
cotton will be made next year except what
is made by white labor. The negroes will not
work. In a few days, several hundred thousand
of them, will be out of employment. Trouble, great
trouble is anticipated. - They will pour in upon you,
by thousands. - I owned 250, before the war. I would not have them
back if I could.

Hon: W. Thompson - 3
New Haven, Indiana,

71.2009.083.02533

Yours very truly,

J. Rayner