

Georgetown, KY, March 7, 1871

My dear General,

Your letter of the 3rd inst. has been forward[ed] to me here, where I am attending Court. It gives me pleasure to hear from you after so long an interval, and I will give you the best answer I can to your enquiries.

The Southern RR was lost in the KY Senate by the fogyism [*sic*] and obstinacy of a portion of the House, greatly aided by the Lou & Nashville RR & city of Louisville. But, half the Senate goes out this year, and we had strong hopes for next winter. What effect the approval to congress will have, in the state I can't yet tell. In my opinion it was unfortunate an[d] wrong. You can judge as well as I of the prospects of a congressional act.

However, without being able now to go into particulars, I have no doubt that with a short time – to use your own words, “in a reasonable time” – this great road will be built. It is a necessity, and the South, the North, and all central KY demand it. Hence if I thought of removing to Chattanooga I would count this as one of the inducements.

My relations with the trustees of the road are not very special – being confined to making the arguments for them a year ago; and all my efforts since have sprung from public consciousness. Still, I know them pretty well and if you go to Chattanooga will do all I can to place you on a proper footing with them. If you go, I would do so at once, and try to form a business connection with some good man there – one who has relations with them. Mr. James of that place has been their great friend in Tenn.

Pardon this, which is written in the confusion of the court house.

Faithfully yours,
John Breckenridge

Gen. Patton Anderson
Memphis, Tenn.

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.