

instruct you, for I will not take charge of it for him.

Tell Mick that my policy of Insurance may cover every thing shipped to me or may not at my option; as soon as I receive any Bills of Lading of the Cotton I will present it at the Insurance Office, & cover it at the rate he mentions. Of course if nothing is shipped, no Insurance is to be paid - I heard of my venture arriving safely at Memphis on the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. & as no bad news has come since, I suppose the Ohio Belle & my M. D. (Mule Driver) stores are all right in Vicksburg - I have felt a little uneasy on the subject, for the new advance by Sherman's Corps up Red River, is accompanied by all the Gunboats, & the Mississippi is now left open for the guerrillas.

The Gunboat which patrols the River in front of Canton Place is the Conestoga, which was built & officered in Cincinnati. I had a drink with the Pilot two days ago, he being here then on furlough. He has now gone to join his boat, he knows the place perfectly, & was well posted & "equipped" before he left! Mick asks 32 cents per bushel for coal on the cars. When it gets from 5 to 7 cents lower in price, I would advise laying in a year's stock at Lexington. The price of coal will not be less this Spring, & perhaps not while this "Cruel War" lasts.

Alfred & Tom Hopper are coming out here next, & I have to accompany them to Paducah & Evansville on business, we will start about this day two weeks, & be absent about ten days. I should proceed on to Vicksburg, but I do not think I will, I am inclined to think my business will go on perhaps better under charge of my agent, who is a horribly blue Lincolnite, than