Not knowing when the Comet is. I send this to you, which you will please forward to him

Rec'd Jan 7. 1847
Montreal C.E.

New York Monday 1 Jan' 47

Dear Sir

I got to this busy Saturday night, and yesterday found Mr Park has instead of at Halifax He says that he and Wood went to St Johns and ~~examined~~ the Country among the bay of Fundy until they were satisfied that it was impossible to get stations so as to cross the bay. They then examined around the head of the bay as long they had any money, when they all concluded to send Park with what money they could all meeten to find you & report. He left Wood at Bangor, and Thatcher and Mc Rea some where in the neighbourhood all out of funds and had to leave their baggage in pledge for their bills. Park says that the mountains in New brunswick & Nova scotia are covered with a thick forest, and they have to climb a tree 75 feet high to see each at all, That we can do nothing without climbing. from one to ten acres on each mountain, and then he thinks the boys would have one using three fourths of the time. He estimates the chances of success as being, four to one against us, even after expending at least five hundred dollars more. in making the necessary preparation. He says he is willing to return with me: but it is useless to do so with less than five hundred dollars to buy Expences That the boys now have over $50 for their board

and cannot get away until it is frozen
I suggested the feasibility of running an express
from Halifax around the head of the bay and
pen enough this way to get out of the bays, and
reach the mountains in Maine which are clear
of timber: but Park says that we would have to
run the express near 350 miles which would use
up nearly all our time, and be expensive, as horses
would have to be stationed every 10 or 15 miles. on this
whole he thinks our best way to get out of the scrape
is to buy the logs and not make any further effort
but is willing to go and do all he can if I will pro-
vide the necessary funds, that he had but one cent
left when he got home and went without his dinner
to boot. From his description of things I conclude that
they are all pretty thoroughly sick of the job, and
wish they were at home, believing that it is almost
if not quite impossible to effect the object, and
entirely impossible without five or six hundred men.
under the circumstances. I shall not go on until
I hear from you. I will go to Boston and see
Smith or write him until he comes, and try to
make some bargain for enough to buy the logs
in the Halifax woods. In the mean time Park
and I will try to borrow $50 to send to Brooks
and have him stay where he is until he hears
from you - From Parks description of things we
are in for the expenses, with a mighty small chance
of doing better by spending more. and then is our
only serious difficulty which stares us in the face
just about these days, we have not got the money,

and I have financiered so much and so long that without paying back any that it requires more skill than I have in that line to make a raise of the needful. So you had better be making tracks this way, and either conclude to go ahead against wind and tide, clear up the mountain in Pennsylvania, scare off the wolves, poison the rattlesnakes buy some running horses, charter a steam boat or set the boys to work at something else and redeem this baggage - called a hand scrape and cut it so at that. I will be somewhere in this part until then from you. as soon as you get within reach of a Telegraph, let us hear from you. I will see Smith and perhaps have to go and see Kendall and do all I can to arrange the matter about the Buffalo & Detroit line. Hurra for Cuba or Mexico and let Halifax go to the devil

Yours, in the fog

J J Speed

PAID

Mr. C. S. Wood

Montreal

Canada







9 August 1847

Panzoo June 2d 1847

Friend Addie

Thatcher & McRae are with me — Thatcher has just rec'd a letter from Connell dated 27th ult stating that speed would start with 2 men on the following day for us Where he is I do not know but he will find us — He no doubt has the provender in his pants Connell says "he will put us through if we do not succeed before he gets there" — Thatcher mails a letter to Connelle to night — I get no letter from you yet

Yours in great haste

M L Wood

Please call at Boston & Portland for letters for me as I think some must have come since you passed as they should be here before this M L Wood

Newyork 2 June '47

My dear Sir

I got to this City Saturday night, and intended to go on to Boston Monday morning: but on Sunday I saw Park a young man who had been with Cornell in Maine and who explored the country from Maine to the head of the bay of Fundy. After a full talk with Park I came to the conclusion to abandon this effort to organize a line from N. to Boston. It has now cost but a little more than the cost paid by the hunters wishing it done and the difficulties are so great that I doubt its practicability, without being at more expense than would pay. Say nothing to any one about this Eastern project, as Cornell may conclude to go on with it. I expect Smith here in a day or two and shall remain here until he comes, or go on to Boston & see him, and make great efforts to get matters fixed as we want them, before I leave. I will write you again when I see Smith and in the meantime I will see about wine, batteries, & Registers.

Yours truly

J. J. Speed

Could my son Willy be of any use to us, to send from Albany to Ithaca, or on to getting poles. He is anxious to go. I write him now: but I shall send him home with Sim De Witt tomorrow. write me at Ithaca I doubt whether Bill could do us any good: but to gratify him I ask the question

Newyork 4 June

I delayed sending this, as the parties who wished the Eastern stars were so anxious to have me go on and make the effort I did not know but I might be induced to do so but I have concluded not to do it, and left William home yesterday

Smith will be here tomorrow and I hope to settle matters all right in a day or two, and will write you again The Steamer news reed, this morning - great excitement in the flour Market, Said to be worth $12 pbbl in Liverpool, prices not settled here, but will be from 9 to 10

If you can make a raise of any funds more than will supply your own wants I wish you would send some to me at Ithaca as I may have to go to Washington to see Kendall before I can have any will spend all I had before I get back to Ithaca, consequently I will have to make an effort strike somewhere to get bread and dinner on the road to Detroit I do not mean to leave without having some arrangement about the Buffalo line, It must be done this fall

10

Mr. D. J. Tittotson

Sherman House

Chicago

Illinois

Bangor June 2d 1847

Mr E Connell Esq

Sir yours of the 27th ult has just reached me at Bangor. Mr Keen received a letter from Wood May 21st telling him to send for me & go himself immediately for your station near Belfast accordingly I started for Belfast where I found Mr Keen making diligent search for you but to no effect I told him from what you said when at Franklin it was probable you were then at New York not having but little money though it best to return to Blue Hill and there await further orders we did so on the 29th ult received a letter from Wood at Bangor ~~Castine~~ where he & Park had come in consequence of a deficiency in funds, Park left for New York on the 28th for funds Wood, McKe. & Pare and Mr Brown & Backus are at Calais waiting for Park to return. Relative to this success across the Bay you probably have been informed already by Park

Your Ob't Serv't J D Baxter

J. D. Thatcher
2 June 47

E. Cornell
New York

Poughkeepsie June 3 / 44

Dear Brother Cornell

In the first place I will say to you that sad news have come to hand a few moments ago Otis says he rec'd by Mag Del a communication from B In Squire yesterday stating that sister Elmira is no more she expired yesterday A M; funeral tomorrow You may have heard of this, wherever this shall have reached you But notwithstanding I spoke of it I very much feared when we left home that you & I had bid her adieu for the last time Poor Sister she has left her miserable husband in very embarrassing circumstances but I trust she has run her race for no other purpose but to deal her name high in the page of dutiful mothers & Eminent Christians for an index of which her children only need to be reflected upon Heaven bless her. And in accordance with her wish may it extend throughout the circle of her friends she has left [redacted]

You may perhaps be surprised to see my letter dated at Poughkeepsie But if you have rec'd Speeds letter you have, or will whenever you get it understand the reason of my being here He thought it advisable for you & me, to not proceed any farther upon the Maine expedition Finding Park in the City he, that was very fortunate. Circumstances being [redacted]

ing me (Parks) reported. Speed said it would be all nonsense for his Boy & myself to go farther and consequently advised me to come back here & commence learning to operate upon the Register of Mag Tel as fast as possible then be ready for ~~the~~ a Station upon the Troy & Mont. line or the Western After hearing his advice & considered upon it & concluded that it would be far better for me to Engage in Business of more permanency What do you think of it? You know we have broken up keeping house & are prepared for me to be absent from home 1, 2, 3, or more years just as circumstances seem to require but being the case I then I might better be preparing for a permanent stand Had I not?

I told Speed I had enlisted for your & his service, and was prepared & willing to go ahead to Maine with him whenever he got ready But he said No No he that it for your & my interest to take this Course

I wish you would write me soon as you receive this & give me a long string of advice

I already think I am benefitted in the difficulty I had in my breast & back by getting my perpendicular

Please write me of your own health & Brother Amos

This from Brother J Dunham

Newyork Thursday 4 June '47

Dear Sir

I wrote you at Montreal and directed the letter to Wood, but as you may not receive it, I now write to ~~Albany~~ Troy, supposing you will return home that way. I shall also write to Albany lest you should not stop at Troy. When I got here Sunday last I found Parker and instead of his being as I supposed at Halifax and the others at their Stations, he reports as follows: Says that after you left them, he & Brent as far as Mount Shepandy - that they found the tops of all the mountains in the Provincines covered with a thick dense forest, which would require much time and labor to clear, in order to see out. that they were told that all the mountains from Shepandy to Halifax are also thickly timbered, and would have to be cleared, in order to see from one to the other - that Mount Shepandy is the only high ground in the neighbourhood of the head of the bay of Fundy, and that it is covered with Fog more than half of the time. Parker thinks that one third of the time is as much as could be relied on, if one should use Mount Shepandy, and that the only practicable way would be to run a horse express for something like 100 miles around the bay of Fundy, and be at the Expense of Clearing the mountains on each side of Mount Shepandy, all the way to Halifax, and

South to the State of Maine. Parks says that the sum of getting ready cannot now be less than $1000. and he thinks it will be more likely to reach $1500. That they went as long as their money lasted and then pledged their baggage for their board, and all hands mustered but money enough to enable him to get home. That Wood is at Bangor, and owes $15. That McRae and Hutchin are at Bluehill and owe near $40. Brown and Baker at Calais owe about $30 That it will cost $76.60 to get them from where they are to Shrieky, saying nothing about living on the road, so that it will require $150 to buy their way and stage fare alone. That it will cost from $10 to $100 each to clear the mountains of fire stations saying nothing about lanterns or signals of any kind except the Pyrotechnic lights they have, and on this whole he was not disposed to go back at all; but would do so if money enough could be raised to make the trial, which he says must be at least $1000. I saw Stetson Tuesday + could not find him until noon, and then to every thing he could do nothing until night. Tuesday night Stetson & his friend Scott came to my room, and heard Parks story. I told them that I still thought the thing could be done, and if they would raise the funds, I would go on and make the effort: but I could not go with the very limited means I had, as it would look bad for me then. They said they would let me know yesterday + I called on them yesterday morning and they were unwilling to advance any thing more, said you might not approve of it &c. I think sent by son William

back home, and advises Lenihan to go to Poughkeepsie and practice on the Telegraph, as he wishes to prepare himself for taking charge of some office. The news by the Steamer is in today, and Flora has advanced one dollar bobbin. I saw Storton about noon, and he swears a blue streak and will mount your rough shod when he sees you. Says that he has lost half a million, and you have lost $10 000 by not doing as you should have done. That the news would have made you and him rich, and if you had attended to it yourself, instead of leaving boys to do it, without means to do it with it, you could have had the news him in time He is thick anxious to have the thing done, but wants you to find the money to do it. I think I could induce him today, to advance two or three hundred dollars: but as it would not be enough, according to Mr Parks, to get us there it would be useless for me to go on, with the small cash Storton would advance, even if he would do anything. The whole matter will consequently remain as it is until you again put the wheels in motion. I must confess that Parks has frightened me, and I had rather foot up the present loss, than to undertake to accomplish it, without adequate means, and even if we could get the money, I think they ought to have some protection against the risque of failure,

I send a Tel dispatch from Smith. who is to be here on Friday (that is tomorrow) and I will try and get matters arranged with him so as to give us some chance ever West.

Yours truly S L Shumway

J. J. Sperry Esq
4 June 47

Wm. E. Connor
Despatch Office

Newyork March Friday 4 Jan 47

My dear Sir

Smith has just arrived and I have had an interview with him. He says that arrangements are making and will be consumated in a few days to settle the whole controversy with A.P. & Co. and enable Livingston & Wells or some one else to go with the line from Buffalo to Detroit. Livingston wants me to take charge of the line for him, and go see it through. I am to go with Smith to Boston tomorrow and it is not unlikely that Smith will go with me to Rochester & perhaps to Buffalo. I have little doubt but I will be able to get things in proper shape before I am done with them; but it may take two or three weeks to accomplish it— You may rest assured of one thing— that we will not be Prolifted on our route, and that the line to Buffalo will be built this season. I shall endeavour to make some bargain with Smith for such routes as you and I think of for future operations— We will unquestionably be able to get something which will pay. The news by the Steamer has knocked us from to 9.50 and if the private advices which will be received to day are favourable, it will go to $10 or over— The Baltimore men called on me again last night and said that they had lost a million of dollars by not

having the money, which Cornell should have given them - They are now willing to advance all money required to try the tricks: but I am unwilling to go any further unless they will secure the cesspool of the failures. If they will furnish all the funds, and if we fail pocket the loss I might still be induced to make a trial of it but I do not believe they will be disposed to do it, and I am not inclined to hazard much myself. So I think Cornell may fight the wolves and rattlesnakes and I will try to make a good bargain for our benefit next winter, and then go and dine you or both Livingstons & Wells get this matter in shape.

Yours truly

J J Speed

I will write you again as soon as any thing is accomplished & I find we can get one will not galvanize for it

Mr. D. T. Stilson
Sherman House
Chicago
Illinois

Bangor June 4th 1847.

Friend Parks

Yours just recd. Have communicated its contents to Brown and Backus from whom last evenings mail brot letter—Brown writes that Backus "has found employment in a hardware business and is more resigned" Brown says he himself is "patiently awaiting the moving of the waters" (which is no doubt the case) Am happy to hear that you arrived flush a sixpence— Am very glad to hear that Speed is coming— Give him my compliments I understand also that Dunham is in company with him and shall be extremely happy to grasp his hand—

Best respects to you all

Yours M. S. Wood

P.S. Don't keep us waiting— Come on if possible

M L Wood to
J D Park from
Bangor June
27

J. D. Park Esq
Care A.L. Buffum Importer Liquors
New York City

If Park is in the city when this arrives will my brother please see that he gets this. If he is not — Please burn it — M.L.

Copy

I hereby constitute and appoint Doct. James D. Graves of Milwaukee my true and lawful agent for me and in my name to collect and receive the different instalments as they become due and are made payable by the Articles of Association and Agreement of the Subscribers to the Stock in the Erie & Michigan Telegraph Company in the City of Milwaukee.

Dated Milwaukee June 5. 1849.

D. D. Dilloton Atty for
D. D. Speed & Contractor
and Agent for the Trustees
in said Company.

Copy

I have this day agreed with James D Graves of Milwaukee to collect the different instalments due and to become due from the Subscribers to the Stock in the Erie & Michigan Telegraph Company in the City of Milwaukee for which I agree to pay him per cent on the amount so collected by him.

Dated Milwaukee June 5. 1849.

D. D. Dilloton Atty for
D. D. Speed & Contractor

I hereby agree to do the collecting agreeable to above, and to deposite the amounts so collected with D. C. Ventine subject to the order of said Dilloton.

Milwaukee June 5. 1849.

James D. Graves

Capt. [illegible]
Samuel Johnson
Mate
U.S. Revenue Cutter Service

Napanee June 6th 1847

Dear Sir

I received yours in due course of mail, But was compelled to defer answer tell the return of that day on which Telegraph men can rest

A man of your taste & feeling must feel that you are very near the regeions of the blest, here under the devine planopy of that heavenly charm, ~~The~~ Petticoat government !!!

My health is good, And has been possable since I saw you last And I hope you are in the enjoyment of those infernal grades, I dont prosper much, Am getting for ~~my~~ ing per month & Expenses here & in the states is pretty much the same thing. Not so hard work The expens of building telegraph here is generaly considerably less than the N.Y & Albany line Although we have just finished a section on the bare face of nature, which is altogather peculiar It is a clear piece of work

Posts I think can be got for any line
in western Canada at from
thirty seven to fifty cts delivered on
line The digging is much better
than My state Where you can dig
But On this line, there are sections
from five to twenty five miles that
worse than good a damn'd sight
Men are good, work well as in N.S.
At least the Irish do. Plenty of them
Pay twelve dollars per month and
pay their board Task from
Breakfast at six, to half past, and
work them all day, Touching what
Kingston had better do, I have had no
chance to form a judgment But have
a strong impression that she will do
but little, Little business there
aside from what the soldiers make
I know nothing about them B.
loads of poles, had nothing like it in
my operations, As to the fifty
pole, I am unable to state
what the facts are For want of my
papers which are in Toronto
I believe I gave you receipts for all the moneys
for poles which I claimed to have paid

I recollect the name of Palmer as one of the contractors But for where he lives, But think it is in Anson ville If so, I did not pay him but understood you that you did, But it should not have been fifty poles, as, eight or ten of his poles were condemned If this is not the man, And you will write to me where he lives, Where the poles were delivered, Who contracted with him And what other particulars you may be able to, I will ascertain the facts And inform you

your brother told me something about poles got to paid for this spring perhaps he knows about it

I would like to hear from you by letter, And should any correspondence occur between us, I would like to write a clearer letter than (other letters) cuts this sheet

The necessity of writing

Respectfully Yours

L Kosnek

L McDish

L W Fiske 6 Spruce



Ezra Cornell
New York city
~~Rochester~~
N.Y.

New york Saturday 6th June '47

My dear Sir

Smith is here, and wants me to go to Boston with him to night. where he expects letter from Kendall and Morse, accepting some one of his proposals in reference to the Western Lines, Smith thinks they will look to him, and he are then just things in shape for me to negociate with O,R,&Co. I shall go on with Smith, as I think I had better drive at it until I can get the matter settled. And I also expect to hear from you in a day or two. at Boston, when if you say so, I will go on East but I doubt the prosperity of doing so, under present circumstances. After the arrival of the Steamer, Norton was anxious to have Parks and me go on, and offered to advance $500 on your Credit. I told them that I would go, if they would pay half the cost in case of failure: but to borrow $500 of them for you to pay back, after spending $500 or 1000 more, I was unwilling to do, especially as Parks & Smith both thought it would be imprudent to do so, I saw them again to day, and told them that I was going to Boston, and when you got back, if you still thought it advisable to raise the funds, and make the trial, I would aid all I could: but should do nothing until I saw, or heard from you. Smith thinks the fog will prevent our getting more than one steamer in June, and he would

consider us devilish lucky if we get on in time,
but with all the difficulties which they men-
tion, I still think it can be done, by sending
money enough, in making the necessary com-
bination: but I would not do it, unless Boston
would do something more towards the
expenses of our suit, and if we get only
two or three combinations of figures, they should
pay, as even one combination would have
given them a fortune, if they had got it
before the last Summer. I shall stick to Smith,
and try to get the Western lines all O.K. and
leave you and Boston to settle the Rubicon
thunder Nightening as you can.
I will probably remain in Boston until I hear
from you, or at any rate will write you
at Troy, before I leave there. Telegraph me
when you reach Troy.

Yours truly

J. J. Speed

NEW YORK
AUG
9
1865

Mr. E. Cornell
Telegraph Office
Troy
N.Y.

Troy
June 10th 1865

Milwaukee, June 7, 1847

Dr. Sir:

I am inclined to think that it will be necessary, before I shall be able to call in the 10 per cent on stock subscribed here, to have it announced publicly that the work is onely going on. I called this morning on several who has received the impression from Speed communications to the Chicago Paper, that the work was abandoned, & now they wish some Evidence that the work will progress. I consulted with Mr. Hubbell & he advises that not much effort should be made until you are in a situation to announce in a public manner that the work is to be pushed to completion. I was not aware that the impression was so prevalent created by the Speed letter. I have spent most of the day in informing such as I could see that I should call upon them in the course of the week, & most of them will be prepared, but many will be taken by surprise, & some publick announcement will be necessary to call out the funds. I shall deal gently with them all till they have an opportunity to talk over the matter & become familiar with it.

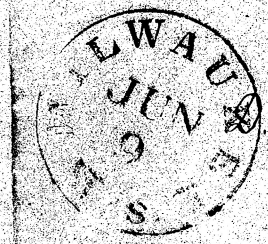
Please write me by return mail your views — whether you are prepared to make a publick announcement or whether you deem it advisable to wait awhile.

Yours truly

James A. Barnes

D. J. Tilotson, Esq.

Chicago



5

T. Tillotson, Esq.
Chicago
Illinois

Rochester June 7 1849

Dear Brother

I rec'd your kind letter Mailed at Spencer Port was glad to hear from you & ment- to have seen you on your return but did not get- in Auburn in time I was ~~soon~~ there soon after you left for the East, I am sorry you could not- find time to answer my letter in full

I am not very Contended here as I dont have business Enough to keep me from getting the blues I rather work a little harder & get more pay Provisions are so high here that it takes all I Can Earn to support my family I Can't get a dollar a head to pay debts with

I shall try and get something to do aside from the line if I Can to help along

Hart left here this morning on his way home he feels pretty well over his prospects I should think I wish I was situated to go on with him & help put up that line or to come down and help you put up the Troy & Canada line but I suppose I am Cheated for one year & must Get along as well as I Can but I dont know what I shall do for money to pay some small debts which must be payed soon pleas let me hear from you often we are all well Yours respectfully

To E Cornell Esq

B B Cornell

Bangor June 7th 1847

Dear Brother

I have thus long delayed writing in the hope of being able to inform you of something definite but since affairs have taken the turn they now present I see no prospect of a focus at present —

Dart is possessed of all the information I have in reference to this business and will give a more satisfactory detail than I can do by this medium and whenever you reach N. Y. you will find him as readily as you can this letter — My only object in writing at present is to inform you we are very anxiously awaiting further orders and funds to carry out whatever is determined upon — Every day is adding to our bill at this place and we hope soon — very soon to "do something" as we are not extremely fond of being boarded here even tho' we have a good boarding place

Every mail is watched closely as we wish to know what you are talking and thinking about this business I want a hand in the conversation and if you with any information I am possessed of let me know what and I will despatch it in Telegraph time I have read all the letters you have forwarded I guess

I have no more

Lets hear from you

Your affd Brother McLaws

McRea & Thatcher are here and send respects

Mrs L Moore
7 Jan 62

Comes

Bungoo June 10th 1847

L. D. Parke

Dear Sir

Yours just recd
Shall hope to hear from you farther in a
day or two Had I known this length of
time would have elapsed I should have
obtained board in a private house but
for the last week have looked anxiously
every day for intelligence by mail or
boat directing our movement to some
place As it is our bill as you are well
aware is running up rapidly and we
have not the means to change our quarters
at prest Do if possible bring things to
a focus sufficiently to get us away
from this expensive boarding place
And get us at work earning something. I
am about as anxious as our friend Packard
was when we left Calais

Yours Respt &c Wm D Wood

L. D. Parke Esqr