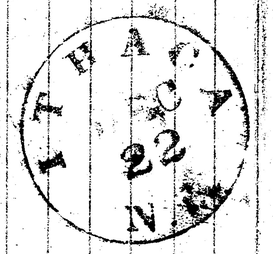

Ithaca 15 Dec 1846

Dear Sir

I suppose the best way for me to get to Detroit will be to go through Canada. I expect to be off in about two weeks. I would go immediately but I want to complete some arrangements for the manufacture of our Clocks this winter, and it will take some two weeks to get the patterns all right, and get them fairly under way. I mean to have 100 ready to be put up in the Spring.

I have renewed confidence in being able to get the Stock subscribed for our line. I see a paper to day from Milwaukie, with my letter on the subject of the Telegraph and a favourable notice by the Editor.

When shall I get the ready, which you propose letting me have? suppose you leave it with Livingston & Wells at Buffalo? I have spent all I could get in the clock trade, and made promises for a great deal more, and am as poor as piss.

J J S Jr

Mr. E. Cornell
Auburn

Mr E B Cornell

J. J. Speed Jr
Dec 15th 46

Dec 19 - talks about Cheney Com &c
Sage & Grout appt to Ex Act &c

Jany 3. 31 1846 Mr Eddy sends me the Articles of Association the second time amended for me to sign,

Jany 30. Eddy writes me that he cannot get the Stock Subscribed, will try the postage plan,

Feb 17 Eddy writes that he has $500 subscribed on the postage plan, and asks what William will do about building, &c

Feb 28 Eddy, that he has again altered the articles and wishes me to assent to the alteration, to find what William will do that a young man could be named to attend the business and would take 2 or 3 hours per day, he will advertise for posts,

Apl 21. Posts all bot, commd digging yesterday, at F.C. Strong lent $400

May 16 writes that he recd mine of 26 Apl but had set up a 1½ Posts 26 to the mile before getting it got 13 miles posts up, discusses the question of iron wire

June 3 poles up 1 mile north of Aurora, hope to get all up by 20 inst at furtherest, Estimate for Digging & Setting &c, which covers cost, have recd $362,

June 8 poles up within 12 miles of Auburn Can A.S. Wood Start the line? Will you see Flaxton and learn how they will attend our business? I go down on line again tomorrow morning.

June 29. Only 1800 lbs wire recd to Saturday, Posts all up some days, "William having left we must take the load our selves" I go to Aurora this P.M. and if the glass caps are there, go to put up wire at once,

July 1 Gloſs caps arrived this day. when it stops raining
shall commence put up wire. who shall we
have to start the line and operate it untill I am
qualified. O S Wood thinks we had better get
Dr Tichnor from Rochester & I shall write this Eve
to get his terms,

July 15. only 4½ Groſs caps recd— Shall have them
all used this week. hope to finish putting up
wire in a fortnight. "I have been compelled to
be with the men thus far in putting up wire"
We have engaged Dr Tichnor to assist us for 3 or 4 weeks
when we get ready for him at $2, per day"
"Our Register Munger says will be done this week
or next"

July 20 I wrote your 15th informed you gloſs
caps nearly used up. I found some at Aurora
are now waiting for them the wire is up
20 miles, must lie still untill caps arrive,
July 27- out of caps 18th done nothing since

August 8. Gloss caps arrived 5 Aug. men
again putting up wire, I returned from line
last Evening, Genl Cole in relation to Elmira
line. agreed with him to get $50 per mile
subscribed, we would build line for 100 & pay
him $300, for his trouble. wire will be up
in a few days,
Shall write Tichnor to be here next week
unleſs I learn you cannot have magnets so soon

17 Aug finished putting up wire last week,
Tichnor is here, on the line all last week.

28 Aug. Can you make bargain with main
line to attend our inst at Au. ~~Find nec-~~
Articles for Elmira drawn up better
Order wire for Elmira line,

Sept 28 Shall endeavour to have Elmira poles all up next week, will you obtain the wire, Caps & inst without delay, the wire we had better get time on 6 & 8 months, then have $ for to pay notes for I & Alin,

Oct 3. poles up for over ½ El line am making papers for Patentees

Oct 5 20 miles poles up Tracy attending to it. Nothing done with Binghampton line.

Oct 15. Shall not be able to pay my part of the note due on 23rd Poles on El up nearly a week, no wire when I left Ithaca I let Tichnor go home last Sat, used El funds to pay Tichnor, & in settling bills here, Written Mandeville on Sub. B. line

Oct 20 no Caps rec & only 1 Bbl wire Tichnor left 9th Oct since that I have operated the Station,

Nov 6 O. E. Allen pays me $10 to have him Offer to pay $500 to two men to get $5000 subscribed on B. line "you know our Contract expires on 25 inst", - Do you approve my offer.

Nov 24. Sent 350 to pay for wire, Should have sent more but some of Elmira funds has been used to pay Tichnor & $500 is yet unpaid by subscribers. Elmira wire is all on

Dec 15. will send ball funds to pay half of note tomorrow,
cant go to Binghamton –

5 Decr $5000 is subscribed on Binghamton line, can make $1,600 after paying 80 to get Stock subscribed,

1846 [?]

17 Decr Sent money to pay half the note;

Nov 10. I regret you do not approve my aus- to Binghampton, Shall send some money tomorrow for wire

Extracts from J. Eddy
Letters.

Troy Dec 18th /46

To Mr E Cornell

Sir, Nothing but the absolute want of the rest of the money that the Telegraph Company owe to me causes me to write to you at this time

I Buried my wife on the 10th ult, after an illness of more that 18 months; 8 of which she was ~~been~~ unable to do any thing and for 3, she was ~~confined~~ immediately confined to the house,

A good part of the above 8 months I have been incapable of engaging in any steady business as it required a considerable part of my time to wait upon her

At the request of Mr Parks some time in the Early part of August I went into the town of Schodac to work at putting up the wires on the A & N.Y. line and at the request of Mr Buell on the 26th day of ~~October~~ ~~August~~ I went to work for the company in this city, on the same day I was set at work by you at coiling up the wires that lay upon the roof and told to attend to them and the Bridge, The next day I was told by Mr B, to move the pole that was at the bridge and the next day told to remove 3 poles in West Troy so that the line should not be interfered with by a new building that was then being erected, all three days I did as I was told on the following days up to the 3d of Nov I was told to attend to the draw of the Bridge and which I did remaining there untill 10 or 11 o'clock at night except such time as that it was necessary for me to be, away, On the 3d day of Nov, I was sent by Mr B to Albany ~~in the rain~~ to untwist the wires, I was obliged to walk to Albany in the rain in consequence of the frequent twists, I then continued to tend the draw until that you and I finished by stretching the wires over the pole,

Neither you or Mr Buell said one single word to me as to the price that I was to work for, and if you had and had set that price at $1.00 per day I should not now have been under the necessity of writing to you at this time as I should not have gone to work for the company, When I got nearly through work you left me at the Bridge saying that you were coming to the Office since which time I have not seen you. Although I have more than once sent to you for my pay and have got part of it, and for the rest of which I am in much need you will much oblige me if that you will give to Mr Buell an order to pay to me the balance as I wish to pay as far as I can debts that I owe,

I will refer you to Mr B to know if that he engaged me at one dollar per day,

Respectfully yours &c
Russell Cole

Z. E. Cornell

Troy Dec 18th 1846

N.Y. A & Bu Telegraph Company

1846 To Russell Cole Dr

Oct	26	To	straining coiling up and rigging wires on Top Mast at Bridge tending draw &c	$2,50
"	27	"	Moving pole at Bridge	6.00
"	28	"	3 " in West Troy	7.50
"	29	"	fixing lightning rod on Bridge tending draw &c	1.50
"	30	"	Tending draw at Bridge	1,50
"	31	"	" " " "	1,50
Nov	1	"	" " " "	1,50
"	2	"	" " " "	1,50
"	3	"	" " " " And going to Albany in rain	1,50
"	4	"	" " " "	1,50
"	5	"	" " " "	1,50
"	6	"	Moving pole And tending draw at Bridge	2,00
"	7	"	Fixing wires &c	1,50
Oct	29	"	Alcohol 1/- Staples 1/6	,31
Aug		"	3 1/2 days work on line in Greenbush & Schodack @ 1/ pr day	3,50
				$35.31

Rec'd on the Above of N.C.B, Twenty five dollars And Thirty one Cents,

R, Cole

11,
5.31
16.31

11,
13.50
.31
24.81

TROY
DEC
19
N.Y.

V

Mr E. Cornell
at Telegraph Office
Auburn

R. Cole
18 Decr—46

1/1/506

a

Auburn Decr 20. 1846

My Dear Alonzo

Your favour of the 10th inst is before me taking its turn to be answered.

Your views as expressed in this letter on the subject of your studies I accord with, as you appear to with mine expressed in my letter to you of the 6th inst,

I refer to the choice of the "English Gent's Son" made in trades, as what appeared to me to be a just comparison with your own views, He chose the trade that seemed to him to involve the least labour and afford the most splendor to its possessor, And you applied to me for permission to learn to attend a Tel instrument, instead of applying for permission to become a farmer, or to learn the trade of a Machinist or something of that sort, for very similar reasons. Now I think in this you are wrong, and misjudge the in regard to the surest way to secure happiness in after life, I disapprove of your depending on the Telegraph business for employment for the reason of its uncertainty and the constant risk that all operators will run of being thrown out of employment at any time, whenever it may please the fancy of the managers of a line or the interest of a company to discharge them, then again the price that such services will command is not long to be above the level of other employments, as learners will multiply faster than the places will causing a competition that will reduce prices, again it is not as healthy an occupation as I should wish to see you pursue, I think none but lazy men and boys will aspire for these places in a few years from this time,

What I mean by lazy is, persons who are compelled by their situations to procure a living by their own exertions and had rather starve than labour for it, such will seek a place that he thinks will give the support without much labour, I look upon labour in a different light from this, I regard it a blessing and I am confident that those persons who labour hardest for a living (provided they can get it by such hard labour) enjoy the most happiness.

Such being my views of telegraphing & of labour, that I should prefer that you would seek other employment for a livelyhood I should prefer that you would choose a rural occupation, and become an intelligent scientific farmer, The time is not distant when such farmers will be more respected as they will be more useful than Kings or Princes;

In ~~proc~~ choosing a profession or occupation by which to procure a livelyhood a person should look at the prospects of its permanency, and see how far the continuance of his business would depend on his own will and how far on the will of others, choosing by this rule, Why not decide to become a farmer and when you settle in business settle for life on a farm. On a farm of your own if its but one acre, it would be large enough to support a small family if managed with scientific skill & determined industry, and it would soon beget acres more rappidly than at compound interest,

I am glad to hear that you have again commenced the reading the life of Franklin, I think you will find it as usefull as it is interesting, Franklin wont advise you to become Telegraph Operator in preference to farmer,

My Promise in regard to books I made in good faith and will adhere to, but I must question the propriety of your selection, this time, Your wish to read the life of Gen Scott, at this time or at any time, arises from feeling of military glory or heroism, This I disapprove of, God says "Thou Shalt not kill," Why then admire the lives of those whose trade it is to violate ance of Gods laws.

I am so thurorly disgusted with the whole of this missrable mexican war that I have no patience even to concider the good qualities of some of our best and bravest men.

This war I firmly believe was provoked by our rulers, to gratify a lust for conquest, and extend the curse of human slavery.

I dont believe that our constitution authorises the waging a war of invasion, and it only authorises a defensive war through the sanction of the peoples representatives in Congress.

This is not such a war as any man in my opinion can justify by that sacred document the Constitution of the United States,

I would therefore defer the reading of the life of Gen Scott at the present time, and perhaps you would do as well to read Lardners Lectures again if so write to Uncle John Bristol to send them to you when he is done with them I left them in 2 bound volumes with him to read.

Yours Affectionately

E. Cornell

A B. C

E Cornell
Nov 20th 1846
Auburn N York

DEC 20 1846

Ithaca Dec 20th 1846

E. Cornell Esqr

Dear Sir

Yours of the 17th in answer to mine of the 15th was duly rec'd and in answer I regret exceedingly to find that you should have given any weight to the Calumnies which there are always persons enough to set afloat

You must be well aware that there are many persons in and about Ithaca that are naturally envious so much so that they become man haters. they do not do well themselves nor do they wish to see any one else prosper

What would become of yourself & family and almost any person who has done much business in Ithaca were all reports of a similar kind brought to bear upon you at particular times

Divest S H Culver of his property and let him rely upon his integrity to recommend him to the Confidence of those of whom he might wish to get employment and at that very time let any person mention that they had seen hand bills posted all thro' the County that he was a perjured rascal and that it could be so proven "What would be the Consequence"? I leave you to answer. Nevertheless such is the fact I having seen the hand bills myself. But he is a man of reputed wealth and therefore it must be overlooked and I do not say that it ought not to be nor do I say that there is any truth in the report Yet I must be victimized in an instant by a mere reference to a single transaction with a man that has been thus published

It seems strange that such things should be overlooked in Mr Culver & at the same time a mere suspicion from report that I had wrong'd him should damn me forever in this Community I think it will not & will endeavour to show you that it has not and that it is all false & that there is no foundation to it

Previous to my being a partner of S H Culver I was Clerk for him about 8 mo's during which time he was almost daily saying something in relation to a change in his business as there was too much responsibility resting upon him &c and wanted some one interested to bear some portion of the load of responsibilities at the same time it would be the means of closing his old business which ~~which~~ would be very desirable also. Consequently he made me a proposition which I excepted and soon after divided my intrust with John C McWhorter against the will and views of Culver we three Culver McWhorter and myself Constituting the firm of S H Culver & Co

During the partnership Culver was in the habit of finding fault with John for inattention to business &c &c and at about the expiration of 13 mo's Culver undertook to buy John out and succeeded so far as to get a proposition from him which being much higher than he expected he asked me what I thought of it and without any hesitation I said it is low enough upon which Culver instantly flew into a passion intimating that there was a Collusion between John & myself to take the advantage of him This was the first time that Culver ever showed any dissatisfaction toward me He then said in a passionate manner that the Partnership should be dissolved & went forcibly to work to effect it I at the same time objected to the course he was taking and insisted upon the best and any other than his unjust method

Over

He however continued his arbitrary course until I found that I must act in self defence or be duped

After he had removed the Money from the Bank & taken Books advertised a dissolution of the firm without my Consent thinking that he had got every thing secure but turning us out of Doors which he attempted to do afterwards "There is a time when forbearance ceases to be a virtue" I thought this was the time and finding that our Notes Mortgages &c was still in the Store I deliberately took them across the way to Mr Camps and deposited them in his safe for safe keeping which resulted in the final and amicable arrangement of our affairs

So long as he had the power in his own hands he was determined to drive us to a Legal Course in obtaining our just dues You necessarily see our position it was at least an unpleasant one

This was my version of his plans at the time for every thing indicated it and warranted me in arriving to this conclusion I acted accordingly in the honesty of my heart nor shall I ever have one unpleasant reflection in regard to the Course I pursued in that matter so far as honesty of motive on my part was Concerned

Suffice it to say this matter was finally settelled and as I had hoped & supposed amicably for after the settlement Culver took me by the hand and with a tearful eye said he had been to blame & asked my forgiveness & friendship to himself family & future business I told him that I freely forgave him & had I done wrong which as yet I could not see I heartily asked his forgiveness & then we solemnly agreed to drop it and be on terms as usual all this was done as I supposed in sincerity of heart

Having made up my mind some time in 1844 to go to N.YK I thot before going I would aske some of my friends to say a word upon paper in my favour if they could do so I went to Culver and got as strong a letter from him as any man could aske I would copy some of the many letters which I have had I time to do so. I also have letters of the strongest and most satisfactory kind from the following persons

Jos Esty
Asa B Clark
J, S. Tichenor
Fred. Barnard
J. B. Williams
Chas V Stewart
D W Hale

Ezra Weaver
W S Hoyt
E Atwater
Jos E Shaw
Wm Halsey
R & W Halsey
H Wilgus

Norman Blye
S Hunt
D T Tillotson
T S Williams
S H Culver
H H Kellogg
Horace Mack &c &c

& I venture to say that I can get all the prominent business men in the Village of Ithaca & should have obtained more but my friends said they supposed of no use to me All of these letters speak of my integrity particularly and if any one of the above named persons doubts my honesty he has given himself the lie by putting his hand to paper to the Contrary which I have in my possession I, have been thus lengthy hardly knowing what to say I must Confess I was surprised at your prompt way

over

of handling Character

You say that you was surprised to find me learning the art of Tel &c as much as to say that my Character was so notoriously bad I ought not to have the presumption to undertake any such business I here say upon the honour of man that it is the first time that I ever had it questioned to my knowledge

I cant say that you meant any thing I hope you did not but I must tell you that I think Character is a delicate article and consequently should be handled lightly & I venture to say that any man who ever had any will say the same.

I appreciate your desire to befriend me on Condition I deserve it and am fully Confident that when you become acquainted with my true Character you would readily do me a favour if you are a Philanthropist of the most modest Kind

Finally should you consider me hereafter worthy the favour which I first asked of you and would do me this Comparatively small but would be considered by me a great favour it will be remembered by one who knows the value of such favours & was it ever in my power to reciprocate it would be the heighth of my pleasure and ambition to do so & rest assured ~~that~~ should you want secu[illegible] that I cannot produce I will not say you have no[illegible] done me justice or that any one has not

I presume you will not think that I pretend to have any Claims upon you in the way of asking a favour of the Kind I mentioned I have none but I asked you as I would any other man with whom I am acquainted I have done many such myself and hold myself in readiness to do such favours while I have Character sufficient to give me the least influence saying nothing about Integrity

There is one thing to console me I am aware that there will be a hereafter when it may be I shall have the privilege of meeting some of those "may be Christian persons" who so much doubt my integrity - I wish it was so that one person might make a correct map of anothers Character & honesty with now and then a River or Lake of Friendship it would be my delight to have mine taken and hung up to public view beside some of these Confidential talkers about question=able Integrity

I hope you will excuse any thing which I may have said amiss - I have written hastily

Yours Very Truly
Oliver E Allen

Received Dec 22/46

PAID

ITHACA
DEC
22
N.Y.

O. Cornell Esqr
Telegraph Office
Auburn
N. York

O. E. Allen
21.B-5Ct46

Ithaca 22nd Decr 1846

Dear Sir

The property mortgaged to you by E. Cornell is about 5 Acres which I sold him in 1835. and on which he built a small house and barn, and made other improvements. His family has since 1836 and now do reside on this property. You are aware that the Moores Mortgage, covers these 5 acres.

His mortgage to you also includes 66 feet by 99 feet immediately opposite the Woollen Factory, on which there are two small houses, which together probably rent for $100 or more perhaps $120. I supposed the Mortgage abundantly good when it was given, but property has depreciated, and you could not raise $1500, out of the property mortgaged by a forced sale now. He has the money to pay with as I understand from Speed, but he probably wishes to keep it to go on with his contract in Company with Speed to put up the Telegraph from Detroit West to Milwaukie. I am he gets $1750 a year as agent of the Telegraph Co from N.Y. to Buffalo, and if submits to a foreclosure, it is to keep the money he has to a more convenient season for him to pay. If he will pay you half say $750 you will be safe to wait for the ballance and perhaps that may be the best way. I presume he will do that without delay

Cornell is a hickory Quaker — Close Selfish — Pharasaical, destitute of gratitude and the kindlier feelings of poor human nature,

I hired him in 1830 a perfect Stranger, to mind my Old Plaster Mill for me,

At that time I presume he was not worth $10. perhaps not 10/- I found him steady and Ingenious, and capable for a very ignorant uncouth man, after a while I hired him by the year, and he continued in my employment up to 1839 upwards of 8 years and much of the time at $500. per year,

During this Period he had great opportunities, and was constantly experimenting in Mechanicks, which probably cost me much money, I wrote him sometime ago that when I first employed him. I was worth $30000 to $40 000 and he 40/ that now he was traveling on lightning, and I on the Old boots I bot 7 years before, His case with me that he alludes to in his letter is this. I Owed Capt Holman $690 in 1842. I could not pay him, I gave him a note signed by Cornell and myself for it, and to save Cornell from possible injury as far as I could. I made a mortgage of my own accord — unasked by Holman or Cornell, on property that cost me $1400 cash in 1836. and took it to Holman and requested him to put it on record.

Holman holds that mortgage against me, on property that in the present depreciated state, would not probably more than $400. or $500 and he has sued and got a judgment against Cornell on the note, Cornell never paid a dollar for me in the world, but I have paid thousands for him, and he now owes the Fall Creek property and me at least $330. which he holds on to on the ground that he is bound to pay Holman on my account, His letter to you is a great piece of impudence and indiscretion

He was always a coarse impudent man, so much so that many complaints was made to me about him when he was in my service, Whether I shall ever be able to arrange with Holman depends very much on circumstances not now within my controll, But whether I do, or not, has nothing to do with the mortgage he gave you.

But I repeat, if he will pay you half, you will be safe, and that I presume he will do to save cost

Yours Truly
I. S. Beebe

S. B. Munn Esq

Copy of a Letter
from I. S Beebe
of Ithaca to S. B. Munn
of N. york. on Subject
of What I. Owed Munn.
Decr 22. 1846

My Dear Brother Christmas 1846

If I were in the habit of trying to apologize for neglecgence I would try it now but I see so much hollowheartenes in excuses that I have long since become disgusted with them and the sayings of Dr Franklin always occurs to my mind viz "that those who are good at making excuses are seldom good for any thing else" And I always am suspicious of ones friendship who has a plenty of excuses at their toungues end. One of your enquiries in your last was respecting Father Wood. he was very comfortable and around the house when we rec. your letter. but in all probability you have heard ere this that "he has gone to that bourne from which no traveler returns" his last sickness lasted about ten days was quite painful. but he seemed insensible the most of the time. He died to Mr Robertsons where he had gone on a visit M.B. had the corpse brought home and his funeral was attended from the Presbyterian Church in Homer by a large and respectable congregation who seemed much impressed by being permitted to ~~[illegible]~~ pay the last tribute of respect to one of the soldiers of the Revolution and in all probability the last they would ever follow to the grave.

We were much pleased with your last letter and hope you will succeed in your efforts of establishing the line you anticipate. M.B. says if he can do any thing to assist he will try to so arrange his business as to be on hand.

The prospect of Farmers are very dreary at present. Wheat is only 40 cts pr bush but thank our good luck we have none to sell. M.B. says making bbs is better than raising the wheat they fetch 31cts half cash he has three coopers at work. He has not rec the deed yet but has had a letter from Benj. stating the reasons.

The ground is bare and weather fine for winter and wheeling good. I supose you enjoy som of the pleasures of the Greenlanders in your state by the accounts we have

One great fault in our winters we have no snow so as to make the winter pass of pleasant. Edward goes to school as usual and I hope makes some progress in his studies. he will be at liberty to take the advice of friends in regard to continuing in school or going to work at any business. M.B. is not depending on his help as he has hired a man for a year. What do you think of the President's message and the Mexican war will it ever terminate.

I see by the papers that you have plenty of jobs of repairing the telegraph which was injured by the storms I think by all accounts you have had very rough weather this fall and winter so far

we rec. paper from you frequently. M.B. was much pleased with those Albany papers. I suppose you think that he does not make much acknowlegement for favours rec. but he employs me as his agent although he has not procured a very able one. you will please accept

I think some one told me you thought of buying a farm when you retired from public business. now we have some most delightful farms here. and by improvings could be made to be an earthly paradise and the facilities for educating children are almost as good as in any state. Mary is sewing this winter she has an apprentice and they are doing a good business

I just stoped writing and cast my eye on an eastern paper and read of the execution of a poor guilty murderer. Thank Heaven the barbarous custom and relict of Heathenism is abolished in our own dear state and that if nothing else would be a motive for my loving and not leaving my own dear ~~st~~ adopted state. We often hear people living in states where the inhuman custom prevails say that it would not answer to abolish capital punishment for our penitentiaries and prisons would be filled to overflowing. but I do not think so. for there is no state in the Union of the number of inhabitants that are as clear of the cry of the murdered victim as Mich. while eastern papers are filled up with the records of murders crimes of every hue the western papers seldom have to record a crime. but enough of this painful subject —

The loss of the Shells I sincerely regret but feel thankful that it was not themselves as I see by the papers that there has been an unprecedented number vessels and lives lost. this season and if by my thanks you draw the inference that I consider you obligated to send more I will withdraw them from paper but shall ever feel to cherish a greatfull remembrance in the deep recesses of my heart. that I can not help

The name of the Steamer on which they were shiped was the Boston she is a new boat and was built at Millwakee or Chicago (some say one place and some say another) When she lays up for the winter so I think you can do nothing about it. if she pass the winter at Buffalo you might possibly find them.

H. D. Robertson Albion Mich- was marked by Johnson with red chalk. a very improper way to mark boxes or bbl. sent at a distances but Johnson thought it was sufficient

I have some very nice green house plants setting here by my side among which is a bridal rose which Sister Mary Ann gave me last fall which is puting forth a large quantity of buds. and I shall have a crop of fine roses in Jan. I am pasionatly fond of plants and flowers but such ones which have such pleasing associations I allmost worship. Gentlemen are not very apt to sympathize with us in such feminine particulaties and I could not hope that the history of my flowers would interest you only that the name of your wife is coupled with them.

We are very sorry to hear of Harriets ill health an fear she never will be well again. the family seem to be very much afflicted with poor health. I wish we could hear more favourable reports from M.L. and wife. Carra is a lovely woman and one I very much esteem. it seems a pity one so young and lovely should be deprived of the greatest blessing of life

My health was never better and I think I might say the same of M.B. if his actions and feelings correspond. Wednesday Eve we were out to a social party with the upper crust. and M.B. appeared to have renewed his age for I never was out with him when he seemed to enjoy himself better

I arrived at the bottom of the page before I knew it and do not know how much more I should have writen had it not been for that interruption so, I will bid you adieu hoping to hear from you soon

Phebe Wood

E. Cornell
New York City

HOMER N.Y.
DEC 23

Homer Dec 28th 1846

Dear Brother

I take my pen and ink, for the first time to inform you that we are all well, and injoying good health, I resieved your kind letter about six weeks ag. and I am quite ashamed, that I have not wrote before, I am a goin to school, this winter to Homer. My studdy is Arithmetic, Geography, and Gramer, Grammar is a study that I never persued before this winter I find it very interesting more so, than I expected. I mean to employ my time, to the best advantage I have arived at the age now that I know how to value Education ti is the best trasure that we can posess for if we have that we can have most any thing that we desire. I have got on the so right track for an Education if I ever have one my teacher is well gratified to explain any question that I ask, and explain so as to be understood. then if a person haves a desposition to learn he can.

M. S. resieved a letter from E. B. C stating that they are all well and that E B talks agoin on a farm with his father. Burdick if they can get one that suits them. They have one in view six miles from Ithaca. that they can get for $2.000, he wrote to Martin to look around here and see if he could not get one that was under good circumstances, and if he could to wright back to him. I like Michigan extreamly well, so much so that I could not be persuaded to leave it for some other, for all we have very poor winters hear. I think winter in its place is the plesantest season of the year. I like them pamplets that Alonzo sent me well they are very interesting. I cant studdy and peruse them as I would like to for my school studdy keeps me back. I do not let noymoments slipt by uninproved. you must excuse me wrighting on this paper for I had no other. I will be more punctual in wrighting for the future. wright if you pleas as son as you recieved this. E. S. C

Edward Cornell
Dec 28/46

Washington Dec. 28th 1846.

E. Cornell Esq. Stockholder in Mag Tel. Company.

Sir, The impracticability of procuring suitable material has prevented a call for funds to put up an additional wire from Philadelphia to Baltimore. A sum equal to 25 per cent on the original subscription (or 12 1/2 per cent on the stock held by each stockholder) is now wanted for the construction fund, one fourth by the first of January next, one fourth by the 15th of that month and the balance by the 31st.

If you desire to furnish any portion of these funds, please state the amount in reply to this letter and deposite payments as they become due without further notice to the credit of Geo. H. Hart Esq. Treasurer of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, in the Seventh Ward Bank, New York, Philadelphia Bank, Philadelphia, Mechanics Bank Baltimore, or the Bank of Corcoran & Riggs, Washington City.

If you do not wish to furnish any of these funds, no answer to this letter is necessary.

Very respectfully.

Amos Kendall

For Patentees

P.S. For the condition of our pecuniary affairs and prospects apply to Geo. H. Hart Esq. Treasurer, Philadelphia.

Payments made within ten days of the times mentioned above, will be sufficient

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E. Cornell Esq.
Albany
N. Y.

[illegible]
28 Dec 46

From the Office of the New-York, Albany, & Buffalo Telegraph Co.
POST'S BUILDINGS, EXCHANGE PLACE.

No.

Hour. Minute.

New=York, Dec 29th 1846 Tues=day, 8 ' 20

By Telegraph from Utica

For Mr Cornell

The board are here and in session and would like to know what the prospect is about getting the second wire into successful operation. Can you inform us?

T S Faxton
Prest Tel Co

Washington Dec. 29th 1846

E. Cornell Esqr

Dear Sir, Your letter of yesterday is at hand but I have not heard from Mr. Smith. If he recommend it, I shall withdraw objections as to Binghampton Line.

I have bargained with Mr. E. M. Townsend, subject to the approval of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Eddy applies for routes from Elmira to Corning & Bath, and I shall send him a copy of my letter to you on that subject.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Amos Kendall

P.S. Accounts not rendered according to contract. Please see to it.

CITY

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E. Cornell Esq
Sup. Mag. Tel
Albany
N. Y.

Utica Sunday morning

Dear Brother

I recd. your note pr S H Culver & will write you this morn. Carter came up yesterday to talk matters over. I have had my hands full since we got the Syracuse line started.

I first put that line in operation with my battery here & work both ways for 2 or 3 days with the same battery (old acid).

I was very much surprised to see the A line work & work sure too when the Sy line or circuit was closed, but such were the facts.

Since Tuesday or Wednesday last we have all worked in the same circuit & with the exception of the Sy station has worked admirably. Mr Partridge has not got things OK yet & I think I shall go up to-morrow & see what the trouble is (or try & see).

There is something wrong in his local battery & he does not know what, but he has made it go finely about 2/3ds of the time.

You wish to know whether we will
try your plan for independent circuits.
I want you to write me fully the
advantages, of it. I think it would
be too expensive for battery for us to
adopt it, for instance if we have 4
intermediate stations between A & Buffalo
we shall be obliged if we all work
in the same circuit to have about
6 times as much battery as our present
arrangement requires as each station
would then want a battery of sufficient
power to work the whole line from A
to B. It is true it would be more
pleasant to dispense with the wedge
& the clattering of your own instrument
but we must look more to economy at
first. Do I not look at it in the
proper light? If I do not I should like
to be corrected.

I am now more fully convinced
that it will not be the true policy
to re-write as it makes more work
than 2 men can attend to in the
office where it is done & the only way
is when an inst gets out of adjustment
for the operator to keep his circuit closed

& let those that are in adjustment do business & be adjust by their writing.

As soon as he is ready to do business inform the other stations of that fact.

I think we shall be able after a month or 2 of organization to all work together from A to B. We are very successful thus far. Mr Backus the man who puts up 5 miles wire pr day with the aid of one man has been to see me, & wishes to have your Contract for stringing the wire.

He will do it at 2 dollars pr mile (2 wires) if you will deliver the wire every 8 or 10 miles, & clear all obstructions of trees limbs &c which should be done by those who set up the poles as they have more implements along to do it with. He thinks it will not be as convenient to have the wire in small bunches & wishes to know how it is to be handled &c. Write him fully on the whole subject or me & I will make a contract with him, Absalom Backus Auburn address.

He desires to know how much R R & how much Common road, & does not wish to commence operations short of 2 or 3 weeks when he will want every thing ready to go ahead without detention. Says he can safely calculate on putting up 40 miles per week if you do not hinder him for materials &c.

How are you getting on? Father has sold the Snyder farm to Capt Jerry Snyder

I have a young lady from Waterloo preparing to take charge of that station but it will be a failure & say nothing about it however. Write soon

Yours very sincerely O. S. Wood

Mr Backus must be informed immediatly what to depend upon as he has some 75 or 80 miles West to put up

O S Wood

E Cornell Esq
New York

Supt of Mag Telegraph

Albany Jany 6 - 1847

My Dear Alonzo

Your favour of the first inst with a happy new Year was recd this morning, I was very glad to hear from you and thank you for the Seasons Compliment,

You Speak of not hearing from me it may be that it was owing to my visit to Washington I wrote on my return from W. and presume you have got the letter before this,

I recd letters from you & Mother at this place on Monday last, have answered mother but not had time to write you before,

I will talk to you about the telegraph business when I get home, where I expect to be in a few days. as I think I shall resign the Superintendence of this line, and spend the ballance of the winter or a part of it at home,

Dont neglect your School;

I sent N.yrs presents to some of my friends, I did not send you, but that we will make right yet,

Yours Affectionately.

E. Cornell

A.B.C.

Ezra Cornell
Albany
Jany 7th 1847

A. B. Cornell
Ithaca

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Chicago 7 Jany 1847

Dear Sir

I have not written to you for several days, because I have heard nothing from you or any one else, and nothing to write about. This morning I received two Registers, which is more of an event than has occurred before for some time, and on the strength of which I hobbled across the way to the office and sought it out. If I had been sick for the last two months, and delirious half the time, it would not have seemed so long, or been so tedious; but I am thankful that my knee is in a fair way to get well, and not effect the joint. I can now bear my weight on it, and I think in a short time it will be well again. Last week I sent Jackson to Kalamazoo for a load of wire, to finish between here and M. City. He got back to M. City last night with 2500 lbs, and will put it up immediately. How Wood gets on I do not know, as Jackson had only time to say that he had arrived at M. City before the stage left.

Altho I have not heard

from you since you wrote about buying
50 tons Eng. wire which comes from England, I have
been in hopes that you would contrive
some way to send on the balance of
the wire for this end of the line, and I
still suppose that you have done so,
and that we will be able to get it up
and ~~start~~ open the whole of the offices in
three or four weeks, or at any rate
before the 1st of March. Should we be
able to do so, and O'Rielly, or Ely, gets
his line down to Detroit, as I suppose
he will in a week or two, as he has
been operating at Sandusky for several
weeks. Shall we unite with him at
Detroit? or shall we refuse to have
any connection with him at all? The
public will send their messages to Detroit
and get some friend to have them forwarded
by O'R's line, and altho I do
not like the idea of having any
connection with him, we will be
forced to send communications to our
subscribers here, and at Milwaukee,
which may be sent from NY over O'R's
line. How can we refuse to send a message
to W.B. Ogden, of importance perhaps to
him, because it comes over O'R's line

when there is no other way for it to come.
do you not see that we will be in hot water with all our friends, by refusing to unite with him? and yet we publish to the world that we will do no such thing. I wish the devils were in Tophet or some better place. They have raised the very devil with our Finances, and are destined to be in way still more. O'Rielly is advertising, and trying to get subscriptions to build a line from St Louis up the river to Galena, and thence to this place. I think I had better do as Smith wants me to do, that is, go to St Louis and commence suits against all his subscribers there, and at Vincennes, I would do so at once, if I could ride in the stage: but as soon as I can safely ride, I can walk, and see our sub. and try to collect some money. It will take at least two thousand dollars more to finish this line, and pay the freight bills, saying nothing about Woods indebtedness in Michigan, and if we have to cut the wire from Buffalo it will add five or six hundred more.

I wish you would take some Sunday, after church, and

and answer some portion of the thousand questions I have asked. I know that he is a poor devil who fights only in the sun shine: but I confess that it has looked squally for some time, and I can see no clear sky yet— I fear that you will be compelled to stop payment, and I will soon be unable to stay here, and afraid to go home— What a damnable fix for honest men—

I am determined that I will not try to get up another line, after we get through to Buffalo, until the cursed fuss with O'R & Co is settled, unless Smith will back me up with the funds, ~~and~~ that he won't do. I will fight O'R, and do him all the harm I can, and would rejoice in having time to go along his lines, and frighten his subscribers, but to work so hard to obtain a subscription, and then work twice as hard to try to collect it, and fail to do so. Having one of O'R's bulletins pushed in your face every five minutes as an excuse ~~for not paying~~: is a little too much for humanity to bear.

Your tickler I have by heart, and repeat it every day: but "it's no use knocking at the door" I cannot make the stuff, and cannot even get enough to pay bills here. As soon as I can get the use of two legs I will keep trying

Yours truly, but a little under cow J. J. Speed,

J. J. Speed Jr
Jan 7. 1848

Dr Sir

On the 9th of September last the line of Telegraph was put in operation from New York to Buffalo working through 8 offices, with about 100 Cups in the battery,

Its operation appeard to be very perfect, though at many of the offices the large magnets were in use, which have since been replaced by the small ones, that are said to be much superior, Then there was no dificulty in communicating to and getting a prompt answer from any office on the line, from either extremity of the line,

From that time to the present there has been a constant increase of battery untill it now reaches from 150 to 200 Cups in use, the large magnets are all thrown out of use and places supplyed with those of the most approved pattern Regesters of the best discription furnished, and every precaution taken to have every thing in the best possible order

And now at the end of 4 months. I find frequent interrupting to busineſs, which are said to arise from the bad condition of the line, Constant Complaints are being made, that the line is in such bad order that it wont work &c &c

Mr Cornell has examined the whole line recently from Buffalo to New York and I have examined it between Albany & Buffalo and find nothing apparently out of order

Mr Cornell Sais the line is in as good order as it ever was,

It is apparent that there is some cause for the dificultys complained of that are not fully understood, and I am desirous of ferreting them out, And for that purpose wish you to write me on the Subject, explaining the Causes of this state of things, and the best remedy to apply in your Opinion

Also give me your Opinion of the practicability of working the the second wire, and the causes that has prevented them from its being put to work,

your early attention is desired to this subject

Yours Respectfully
&c

Copy of letters for
Mr Foxton to address
to each of his
Operators, written for
him by me at his
request. this day.
Jany 7. 1847
E. Cornell

Office of the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company,
MONTREAL, 1st January, 1847.

SIR,

I am requested by the Provisional Committee of the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph of Montreal, to apply to you for any information you may have it in your power to give respecting the best mode, and the cost of constructing an Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, together with any suggestions which you may consider useful for their guidance in connecting such lines of Telegraph as they may construct, with similar lines of communication in the United States.

I am further requested to say that should you have it in your power, by means of your connexion with any Telegraph Company in the United States, to make a proposal to the Montreal Company, respecting a junction of lines or any other scheme for mutual advantage, it will afford the Committee much gratification to be favored with such proposal at the earliest possible day.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

FREDERICK A. WILLSON,
Hon. Sec.

Boston Jany 8. /47 -

John - I have this day rec'd the above. and the enclosed - I shall make no proposal, as I cannot be drawn away - I give the opportunity for your consideration & improvement, if you think proper.

I shall be in N. York next Tuesday - If the Buffalo Co. did not declare a dividend, I will sell $5000 of that stock at par for cash - if you know a customer - or at that rate, exclusive of the dividend if one was declared. Get me a customer, if you know how-- Or, I will do the same, with the Southern stock -- $5000 at par--

In haste,
Yours truly
T. P. Shaffner

Hon E. Cornell
N.Y.

Mr E. Cornell --
Pres of N.Y. & Buf. Tel. Co.--
New York City

[illegible] 2 1847
[illegible]
Canada [illegible]

PAID

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MONTREAL
PAID
JA 2
1847
CANADA

Electro Magnetic Telegraph Co

Boston

Paid E.M.T.
Jair

Dear Sir Manchester Jan 8 1/47

Mr Holmes requested me to inform
You if it would not be best for him or Nutter
to go to White Hall and Commence putting up
H left here Yesterday & Nutter at the same time
last night H. was 14 miles North we want 12
bundles more to reach to Rutland no wire
has Come from the farmers Inn Yet we have
finished all that is here & now Employd in fitting
in glass in Caps & wedges ½ barrel of inside Claps
Came with caps that McCoy brought what shall
be done with them Mr Orvis P M at this place
requested me to inform You that he had a Convenient
place in the Post Office for Tel office & if Goodwin
still declines his partner in his store by the name
of Wm M. Sperry would like the Situation
I wish You would send orders if You do not Come
by the return mail what we shall do or where go

Yours F. W. Pinkham

E Cornell Esq

F M Pinkham
Jany 8, 1848

FORWARDED

TROY
9
JAN
N.Y.

E Cornell Esq
Tel office
White Hall N.Y.

To F. O. J. Smith I found the following
letter Here ~~to~~

Washington Jan. 9th 1847

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir, Since I wrote you in reference to the side lines in New York, I have been requested by Prof Morse not to make the arrangements proposed, including the renewal of your contract upon the Binghampton route.

This of course is as decisive with me as a revocation of my power of Attorney would be.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Amos Kendall

10

E. Cornell Esq
Albany
N. Y.

Kendall
9 Feby 47

(Duplicate)

Washington Jan 9th 1847.

E. Cornell Esq.

Dear Sir, Since I wrote you in reference to the side lines in New York, I have been requested by Prof. Morse not to make the arrangements proposed, including the renewal of your contract upon the Binghampton route.

This of course is as decisive with me as a revocation of my power of Attorney would be.

Very respectfully.
Your Obt. Servt.
Amos Kendall

By the tenor of yours of the 14th it is presumed the above addressed to you at Albany has not been received.

INGTON CITY
JAN
18
D.C.

FORWARDED

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NEW-YORK
JAN
21

E. Cornell Esq
~~Ithaca~~
~~New York~~
Tompkins Co
NY

[illegible] Grinnell
9 Jany 47

White Hall Jan 12, 1847

My Dear Alonzo

Your favour of 10 reached here this morning, was sorry to learn that the wires had broken. I wish you would in all such cases try to learn the cause and inform me,

Brayton is a poor tool, and is not worth employing,

My Stuff arrived here to day from Saratoga and I have got my men & wire gang, at work putting up wire here, dont hear from boys South but think they must be near Rutland, I shall go to R tomorrow and back here the next day,

You dont write me about the Caps to Castleton, Did Brayton send any there or are they all here? let me know by return mail -

Also let me know if Brayton has heard any thing about the last load of wire started from Albany, where is it? The Thermometer here yesterday morning stood at 40 below Zero, to day 10 above

Yours Affectionately
E Cornell

A B C

WHITE HALL
JAN
13

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Mr A. B. Cornell
Tel Office
Troy N.Y

1 Tel
E C 4126

E Cornell
Whitehall
12 Jan 1848