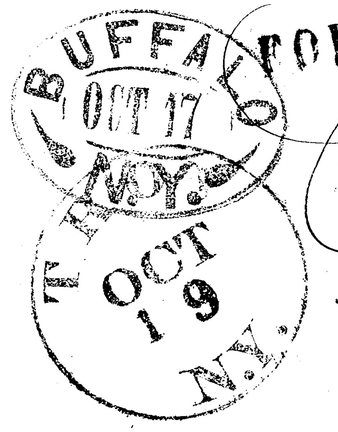

Oct 15th 1847

Dear Sir,

In regard to our progreſs in getting along with our job this way, I can say nothing that is encourageing, We have not had good succeſs in finding men, and consequently make slow work, One of the hands left in about two hours after you left, and we have not been able to get any more yet, have had 3or 4 promise to come but disappointed us, Our number amounts to 7 men ——

We are pestered very much in regard to poles, not ½ of them will answer the contract, we find them from 2½ to 5 inches but the most under five, in the contract of Mr Rice we run and worked around till we got him to furnish suitable poles for setting, The next contract there was a vacancy on the south end of 6or 8 & on the north they have got enough to supply the vacancy, both contractors have taken on the same ground, the poles on this contract we have condemned Report says the next contract is as bad as this —— ——

Mr Pinkham went today to see Gardner, he says you told him if the poles were 4½ they would do, but he dont come to see about them, says we must see the contractors and have them get better ones, He also says he wants his pay

What is to be done? Mr Cornell's orders were not to put up any poles under 5 in. The contract says they must be such, and for us to be running back an forth will be considerable damage to Cornell & no credit to ourselves

If you know any more about these contracts, or have made any verbal contracts let us know immediately dirrect to Middle Shaftsbury, I dont know as I can say more for your information, Yes; we have 970 pins if you want any send on or let us know by you letter. Respects of Mr Pinkham

Respectfully Yours

J. Northrop

So Shaftsbury
Oct 18

5

Mr. S. A. Holmes Esq
Castleton Vt

J Northrup
18th Oct 47

Ithaca Oct 15th 1847

Mr E Cornell Dear Sir

We Recd a letter from you enclosing a piece of platinum Wire for which trouble we are much Obliged. We have got along rather Slow So far. it was not till the 15th Sept that we got a Sight of one of Mr Chubbucks Machines. Consequently we labored under a very great disadvantage previous to that time after we got the patterns we think we have made good progreſs. have had great difficulty in regard to getting hands in fact we have not been able to get any except what we had when you was here. had a Couple engaged but through the influence of some designing persons they backed out. We have had to Alter and repair the engine for Cutting teeth. have got it now So that it finishes the wheel at one operation and makes a handsome wheel Some of our work we had to remodel over again after Seeing Chubbucks instrument we have been as much as half the time making tools as almost every operation required different tools we have got two Machines nearly done Shall probably Finish them this week. We have had Communications from one or two persons a Mr Haviland and Mr Holman Stating that you wished them to take a Couple of the instruments next will it be right to let them go! We have altogether 17 instruments of each Kind in proceſs of Construction and they are Considerably advanced. but Still we do not see how we can finish them all by the first of November. Mr Atkins feels a little uneasy on account of it we should like to have you let us know whether it will make much difference with you whether they are all done at that precise day if it should perhaps you might get some of them elsewhere We have driven them night and day so far and shall finish them as soon as poſsible You would much Oblige us if we Could get an answer from you soon

Yours Respectfully

J. Burritt & Son

Mr E Cornell Esq
Troy N.Y.

J Burritt & Son
Oct 15. 1847

FORWARDED

TROY N.Y.
19
OCT
5cts.

6

Mr E Cornell Esqr
~~Ithaca~~ Burlington
N.Y. Vt

[illegible]

White Hall Oct 15 1847

Dear Ezra after A hard days work I sit down to redeem my Promise of writing to you as agreed it was Tuesday afternoon before I Could get my troops together to Commence opperations as A Part of the help that I first hired Backed out and I had to hunt others and got the Poles on the ground & began Setting the hands all Irish of the raw Material and it was enough to make A Man swear to have such help but it was the best I Could do and I knew I must be doing Briskly But I begin to work them into it better since I have A good fellow to help me I am getting along as well as I Can but it goes slow I have the hardest kind of A rout to set very hard Brick Clay that is almost impossible to drive the spade into it Consequently hafto bore it up before we Can shovel it out and other Parts of the way so rocky that we Cant get down more than A foot or Eighteen inches before we are Brought up all Standing with Solid rock and then we hafto do the next best thing Pile stone round the Pole and Brace them you may think when you see it that it is not done as well as it should be but I have kept the line as straight as it was Possible to do under the circumstances and made the Poles as Permanent as Possible perhaps I take too much Pains if I Could have you with me one 1/4 day I should know better how to manage them

I am Staying to knight at Mr Adams 4 1/2 Miles from white hall Village the Poles are up from Collins town to this Place and Some Holes ready for to Morrows opperations Collins town they Call one Mill from Wh. Hall Village So you See I have not got along very fast but if I ever get out of this devlish Hole I hope I Shall be able to go Ahead Some if you Cant be here as soon as you expected Please wright on the rect of this and Much Oblige yours

J. S. Bristol

Williston
Oct 15

Way 5

E. Cornell, Esqr
Burlington
Vermont

J S Bristol
Oct 15 1847

Racine Oct 16/47

Dear Sir

I Returned Last Evening from Chicago all things moving on well - I left here on Monday Morning with the Expectation that our Team would follow me the next day & Mr Campbell would commence setting posts - the Teamsters Family was sick & Campbell men Disappointed him so that part has stood ~~still~~ still - I went to Littlefort & commenced getting Posts on & before Noon I let out a Job of Putting two miles of Posts on - & I moved on 17 miles below Littlefort & commenced getting out Posts or put on two miles & let out a Job of 4 miles & a Job of setting 20. Miles from Littlefort South & when I left the men were putting on 8 miles of Posts which would bring it within 11 miles of Chicago which I shall endeavour to fill next week - Mr Campbell & French are going on strong with their work on Monday towards Southport & so on to Littlefort & says that part shall not be behind - My Brother is going on while they set up 63 posts the day before I went there - he has contracted for 1000 - post with will complet his Sub— Mr. Speed Examined the Route about Chicago & decided to Runn the Line from the Race Course to Bridgeport & from Briddeport to Randolph St. on the West side of the South Branch & from there to the middle Roads to Lockport & Set the Reggular Line Between Milwaukie Racine & South port & Give Chicago a Side Line over the Drawbridge & that will not interfear with the Continued Line from ~~Milwauke~~ to Detroit as they are backward in paying their Subscriptions we are under no obligations to Give them an office — I Gave my Brother $300.00 I pa. Mr. Russ $75.00 & I have paid out $103.00 besides which has Runn me out of your Funds & my own to — I have Rec.d of your one Hundred of Judge Hall $200 — & of Mr. Smith $60. he say is all he can collect at present Making in all I have Rec.d $360.00 & I have paid out $478.00 — I have drawn on you to day in favor of Messrs Davis & Moore for $64.00 Ballance due them on my private a/c —

I shall want for the Telegraph Line the Next week $350 — Dollars at Least & If they all complete their Jobs & I fill the Roads with timber I shall want at Least $500 — Next week I shall go on and make my Calculations accordingly as you from your letters have urged me so to do — I wish you Would say whether you will want my Brother & my Self to help put up the wires — Send the money to me at Chicago

Mr. O'Rielly agent has run away [illegible] as the men have no money to pay their men at Chicago & north — they have called their men from Indiana & left the [illegible]

Monday or Tuesday Care of Messrs Lyman & Walker
of the Sherman House as I shall Leave on the First
Boat tomorrow for Chicago — I calculate to have
that part of the Road done from this to Chigo
in two weeks raddy for the wire so you
can make your calculations accordingly my
Brother Expects to be to Chicago in two weeks
at the West side in two weeks from monday
we can go to putting the wire up — If you
want us to go to Detroit as soon as we get
this done I want to make my calculations
accordingly — We shall want to complete our
Jobs from $1100 — to $1200 — the Next 3 Weeks
& principally the Next two weeks — do not
Let the money fail & the work will be
done before you knew it done if fail to

T. Jackson
Oct 16. '47

Mr. D. T. L
M

Office of the British North American
Electric Telegraph Association
Quebec 16th Octr 1847.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your conversation with the Directors, of yesterday evening, I beg to inform you that, in consequence, they abandon the intention of putting up the wire this fall. They have arrived at this conclusion from the exposition by you of the many advantages likely to arise from delay, and the desire they entertain to make use of your improved caps – in preference to the old ones – should the experience of this winter confirm your recommendation of them.

Will you, therefore, favor me, at your earliest convenience with a statement of your present claims against the Association, which I shall, immediately submit to the Board; and at the same time state at what period of the coming spring you will be prepared to re-commence operations along the line.

I am, Dear Sir

Your Obedt Servt

J. Smith
Secy

Ezra Cornell Esq

Ezra Cornell Esq

Albion Hotel.

J Barker
[illegible] by Canada
[illegible] Hoy

Wm McKimbin
Oct 16/1859
wont put up wire
untill Spring

Albion Hotel Quebec Oct. 16. 1847

To the President & Directors of the British North American Electric Telegraph Association

Gentlemen

In obedience, to your request made through W. Kimlin Esq your Secretary, of this days date, I have the pleasure of transmitting to you a statement of my demands against your Association, which you will find annexed hereto.

In making up this account I have omitted all demands for damage arising from delays and lost time occasioned by the action of your board, which I might legally make, believing there was no disposition on your part to embarrass my operations, ~~but that they arose from circumstances which were beyond your controll~~,

The amount that I have deducted for the cost of putting up the wire is the same as that paid by Messrs Livingston & Wells for the same work on the Montreal line, and the same for which I have proposals to put it up by parties in this city who offer good security for the proper performance of the work if put on the old fashion Cap. If you adopt the new and improved Cap the Cost of putting up the wire will be reduced. In reference to putting up the wire in the Spring I should prefer that you would release me from that job and Contract with others to do it unless you desire me to build that Section of your line from Metis to the boundary of New Brunswick. in that event, I could send down my men to put up the wire and then let them Continue with the work from Metis towards the boundary of N. B.

It is desirable also to settle on building the lower End of your line at this time, as Early winter is the time when the posts can be obtained at the lowest prices, and the contracts for them should be made immediately.

British North American Electric Telegraph Associan

To E. Cornell Dr

To building 204 miles Telegraph from Point Levi to Metis, at $90 per mile, less $36 per mile for wire to be furnished by the Association, and "delivered at convenient landings on the way along the line of the work," — Say equal $54 = $11,016.00

Less also, cost of putting up the wire which is defered untill next Spring by the request of the Association and for their benefit — say $2,50 per Mile = $510.00

$10,506.00

Cr

By 2390 poles furnished by the Assn at 60 cts each $1,434.00

1847	"	Advanced on Contract —	810.00	
Aug 4	"	Cash Pd Mr M. L. Wood —	60.00	
" 10	"	" " " " "	320.00	
" 16	"	" " " " "	600.00	
Sept 13	"	" " " " "	3000.00	$6,224.00

Amt due E. Cornell — — — — $4,282.00

Oct 16, 1847

If you decide to have me build the lower end of your line, I should like to continue and build through N. B. and on to Halifax - and would be obleiged to you for your influence in obtaining that Contract,

If it should become necessary I could aid your enterprise by getting Stock subscribed for a portion of the New Brunswick Section of the line, I could also facilitate satisfactory arrangements in the connection of the line from Boston through Maine to St Johns,

The Registers, Magnets & Batteries are ready for your line and I will forward them on my return to N.Y.

The glass Caps are on the way here if they are not already here,

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt
E. Cornell

Hon Geo O'Kill Stewart
President

Copy of a/c
and Letter Oct
16. 1847 —

Copy of letter
to B.N.A.Tel.Assn
Oct 16.1857
Quebec

2043
5/16
/820
10
11.016

Buffalo Oct 17 1847

Dear Brother

your letter Containing funds is at hand and I can inform you that I have bin out on the line and have contracted 12 miles of poles 7 Miles for 50 cts next to Buffalo and 5 next for 45 cts. the other Company payed 50 centes for all as far as we have yet heard from, there line as far as I have ben is the most substantial looking ~~line~~ that I have seen the poles 30 feet long and from 6 to 7 inches at the small End, I find it difficult to get our poles anny leſs than they payed although they are 5 feet Shorter they say there is more than that difference in the halling the roads are now so much worse than when theyrs war halled I dont hear how far beyond Erie they have got with there line, I have not yet seen anny one interested in that line

When at Ithaca I saw O.E. Allen he was anxious to engage with us at some price to assist in contracting poles and puting up the line saying that he understood Speed wanted to see him he supposed to go to work on the line I told him he mite come out and try it and we would pay him what ever he Could Earn according as we payed others, he has not yet come if he does come I shall set him to buying poles. the contracts

now made are to be on by the 25 Oct & that
then Commence seting up I have 1 good hand that
Came with Burdick who will goto puting in the pins
as soon as they commence droping the poles we get the
pins for 75cts per hundred delivered at differant places along
the lake he wants to furnish the whole at that price
shell I give him the job they are to be of white oak
I have only agreed with him for 1500 you will write
me at ~~Erie~~ Silver Creek Chautauque Co Ny
let me hear how the boys get along at the East
I have not yet heard any thing from John B
the old Gentleman is here on the line

Yours respectfuly E B. Cornell

Bro E. Cornell

E B Cornell
Oct 17. 1847

BUFFALO OCT 17 N.Y.

FORWARDED

TROY OCT 19 N.Y.

~~5~~

10

E. Cornell Esq

Hudson

~~Troy~~

Burlington Vt

Mr E. Cornell

Milwaukee Oct 17. '47

Dear Sir

Yours of 8th is just rec'd. you say "off coats and go to work" — What shall we go at? Our posts will be all set before we get our wire, caps, & shields here, there is now One ton of wire, without a single Cap, or shield, if they were here, I would commence putting up tomorrow, but it's much easier to hurry than perform, if you think there has been unnecessary delay you are deceived, after talking all we have we have not convinced our Stockholders it was for their interest to pay any more or any faster than they are amend to do So, and many I fear who paid their 10 pr ct will forfeit it, my opinion has been it was best to get all we could, thinking you would want it, therefor we have been only able to get about as fast as we wanted to set our posts, We have on hand here about $300.— and as soon as our freight bills come in and Conrads Dft. it will use up all that and more too — You are not aware of the mess that 10 words from O'Reilly kicks up, any excuse is caught at to prevent payment, and all are distrustful as the devil — Col. Speed is somewhere between Chicago & Detroit, I have heard from him but once since he left 2 weeks ago, but I suppose he keeps you advised — all that I can do to forward the line and collections I have done, but I cannot work "miracles" — We have been put in a fix and I can only say it was no fault of mine. The navigation on these upper Lakes is getting uncertain & expensive, therefore our materials should not be delayed — Very truly

D. T. Tillotson

I do not know where to write Col. Speed till I hear from him —

MILWAUKEE
OCT
18
WIS.

10

Mr. E. Cornell
at Telegraph office
Troy
N. York

[illegible]
[illegible]

Castleton Oct 17th /47

Dear Sir

I received your letter on my arrival here but cannot comply with your request for the reason that the poles are not deliverd. When I came here the poles were not deliverd to castleton east by two miles and none west towards White Hall I commensed work at the bridge 1/4 of a mile east of the village going towards Rutland but now Morgan has got his contract to the village done

I find that I have got as bad diggin as possibly can be and it will be so to Rutland as it is the same make of ground it is either hard pan or on the high ground gravel and sand that will run into the hole as fast as you can throw it out

The first day there was 8 hands yesterday 6 and we have got the poles up about 1 mile but have not yet got fairly agoing

I saw Brayton paid him the money he appears to take hold well I also stopt and saw Pinkham helpt him 1/2 days he has got well at work and a good set of hands I cald at the bank with the check they told me that the first instalment that was credited to you Peck had sent for and they had forwared to him there is now funds in the bank Credited to the company but they will not pay it out without an order from Peck the Cashier said he would write to him, since then I have heard nothing

I have paid out all the money I had
with me and have borrowed more to get
along with to pay so far I have made a bargain with
my hands to pay every 2 weeks they say that then
they shall expect their pay and they will need it for
they are married men and will want their wages
for the support of their families

Your now know my situation in relation
to funds and you must govern your self
accordingly I would like to have you come
this way on your return so that you could
see what digging we have and how we get
along Write me at Whitehall and tell me where
to direct if I should write, Direct to Rutland

E, Cornell Esqr

Yours &c S, A, Holmes

S A Holmes
Oct 17 1847

Detroit 17 Oct 1847

My dear Sir

I believe I have you posted up to Michigan City. The arrangement I made there was probably the best that could be done at present. I think they will nearly all pay their stock in full, as soon as we reach there. At Niles, they have not paid very well, and some of them were from home. I saw Mr Paine the Cashier and most of those who have not paid, We will be able to collect something like $1000 there. At South Bend, nearly or quite every man will pay, and all did pay who were at home when Tillotson was there. I did not stop at Kalamazoo or Battle Creek, Tillotson collected a part only at Kalamazoo: but thinks they will generally pay — Battle Creek paid well, Marshall did: but little. It stormed all day, and Collins was sick, and Tillotson on the board of Supervisors, who were in session, so that I did not do much at Marshall. They have not paid well there, and probably will not pay over half —

Faxton, President of Buffalo Co. has sent me Copy of Resolution refusing to connect with O'R.

Collins came with me to Jackson, I called a meeting of the Stockholders, and had a talk with them. I think nearly all will pay: but I thought so before, and when Collins went there to collect, he got but little. Yesterday he collected $110 before I left, and I believe we will get 3/4 of the amt there. At Ann Arbor Collins collected about half. but few refused to pay - because some were from home, and, some others had no money. ~~Battle Creek~~ Ypsilanti paid up promptly. better than any other place. I think your subscribers are better trained than mine, at any rate they behave better, and pay better.

I recd of Collins and Tillotson near $1100 - dolls - Have paid Wood a part, and he will want the balance soon - I got here last night, or rather this morning - Found a large bundle of letters, which took me all the forenoon to read -

Smith seems pleased with all that I have done, He was much pleased with Mr Andrews of Columbus. and says.

"I have also given him all needful instructions and transcripts of papers to enable you

to have suits at Law for infringements commenced as soon, and whenever you may deem expedient, against O'Reilly & any responsible parties you may find are aiding him, both in Indiana and Michigan and also in Illinois. Employ the best Counsel to follow out Messrs Swan & Andrews instructions in my behalf".
Judge Swan is still absent: but I am much pleased with Mr Andrews - He is pleasant, cool, and clear headed, & quick - and I have both empowered and required him to go ahead with all possible energy in the business, which he promises me he will do. I see no escape these fellows can now make".
Smith has sent me lots of Letters, and articles for publication, to use as I think proper. I shall fire up at them again, and will send you the papers, and hope you will have some of the articles Copied at Milwaukie.
Cornell says go ahead, that he will have half the line from Buffalo here done before the 1st of Jany, and we must meet him half way by that time. Smith will aid in furnishing wire - I shall let out a part of the line say 100 miles to some men this week - Cornell says that all

that all the wire for our end is shipped, and all the material we will want. We have four hands here soldering and putting up wire, and hope to reach Ypsilanti, and start an office here, and there, in all of next week. The poles are all up to Michigan City, except a few miles, and the holes are dug, and the poles on the ground all the way; two or three days will finish the poles, and the hands go on the Buffalo line, to help Cornell.

Elijah Cornell with a gang of hands is coming on from Buffalo this way, and we must meet them; the whole line must be in operation in June.

I will send you some papers which will spike O'Reilly artillery about the use of the House Register.

I will also have the necessary papers forwarded to Hubbell from Columbus, so as to be prepared to serve them on O'R & Co, as soon as they open their office at Chicago.

I will write you again in a few days.

Yours truly J. J. Speed

Smith says, "all the Stories about House's concern working, are the sheerest fabrications of a desperate quarrelling spirit - My short horn Bull, Burritt, that you know weighs about 3000 lbs, can carry a message from Boston to St Louis quicker than House's entire invention, can be made to do, with all the wires ready up for its use, and all the lightning to aid it, that can be made of any ingredients yet made known - It is more harmless than a sucking dove", though its managers are as wily as a copper headed serpent." Smith also says. O'Rielly had entered into contract with Davis, Gholson and Shaffner to build a line from Louisville to New Orleans - That they had 60 miles of post holes dug, and the poles delivered. "That they have come voluntarily, surrendered the O'Rielly affairs, House, Pease and Moss, and turned their whole work into a contract under us. and publicly abandon O'Rielly, wholly! and this after they had investigated House's Machine - seen all the attempts to make it work &c. This trial of House, drives the last nail into the coffin of that invention, and followed up by my offer, which they dont accept, shows the utter worthlessness of that concern". Smith's offer was to relinquish all claim to the entire line from Philadelphia to Louisville, if they would use only the House instrument -

watch the Louisville papers for Lewis, Gholson, and Shufner's, renunciation of all Ritter's Schemes, and publish at Milwaukee. I do not learn that O R & Ely are doing any thing here, they may be on the route to Buffalo, or on the line to Chicago through by Adrian but they certainly are doing nothing on our line this side of Michigan City.

Recd Oct 15/54

All Communications strictly confidential.

TARIFF OF PRICES.

From QUEBEC to	NUMBER OF WORDS.																			
	10		20		30		40		50		60		70		80		90		100	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Three Rivers,	1	3	2	6	3	9	5	0	6	3	7	6	8	9	10	0	11	3	12	6
Montreal,	1	10½	3	9	5	7½	7	6	9	4½	11	3	13	1½	15	0	16	10½	18	9
Prescott, Brockville, Kingston, ...	2	6	5	0	7	6	10	0	12	6	15	0	17	6	20	0	22	6	25	0
Belleville, Cobourg, Port Hope, Toronto, ...	3	9	7	6	11	3	15	0	18	9	22	6	26	3	30	0	33	9	37	6
Hamilton, ...	4	6	9	0	13	6	18	0	22	6	27	0	31	6	36	0	40	6	45	0
Buffalo, ...	6	3	12	6	18	9	25	0	31	3	37	6	43	9	50	0	56	3	62	6

Communications to be pre-paid.

And the Company not responsible for the inaccuracies of the Operators.

Office at the Exchange,

QUEBEC, Oct 18th 1847.

Via Telegraph from Montreal

To Mr. E. Cornell - Quebec

I Received from a communication
on Saturday night last direct
from Mr Wells New York
without being rewritten at
any Station a distance of
over 1000 miles - and had
a long talk with O. S. Wood
& what do you think of that.
Wells said you must not
leave Montreal until Young
returns as he must see you
& he is expected I believe to-
-morrow. Mr Shaw is anxious
to see you also Mr Livingstone
no better. Line down today.
O. S. Wood

18 Oct '47

I recd. two letters here from C. T. Johnson, in which he says "I have perfected my Telegraph, and shall soon I hope, be prepared to offer it to notice. I will only say of it, that I consider it, that I consider it equal to Morse's, and I know it to be no infringement upon his Patent. I am sure you know me too well to believe that I say this on light grounds, or without knowing what I am talking about. You know that in all my speculations I have been disposed to give the widest construction to Morse's claims, I do so still, and repeat that my invention is beyond question clear of any infringement upon his rights, and moreover that it is as good as his. I will not expect of you that you will put full credit to this assertion, as you know as well as any one the uncertainty of untried experiments: but attach just as much importance to it as you may think it merits."

He then asks if my interest would be effected by any invasn. on Morse's monopoly &c. and suggests the idea of his selling to O'Reilly & Co.

Speed 1848 Oct 19

He asks also if House's invention is what it is cracked up to be &c.

I have answered him, by assuring him, that the House machine is all moonshine, and no instrument but Morse's in his way, I have also told him, that O'R & Co would probably give more than any one else for his invention, as I think they feel rather uneasy in their present position. I suppose it is the same old scheme of dropping balls perfected, and I barely believe that he can make a Telegraph better than any in the world except Morse's. Still I have my doubts about making it available Morse has the start, He has the fields, and it will be an up hill business to introduce any thing else. If you are at Ithaca, would it not be well for you to go and see Johnson? I think it would. There is no man living who deserves to make something out the Telegraph more than my friend Johnson.

To the President & Directors of the British
North American Electric Telegraph Associati

Gentlemen

As you have decided that it is not for your interest to put your wire upon the poles before the next Spring, I should be glad to get as much of it as will supply the Troy & Canada Junction Telegraph between the Vermont line and Montreal

It would require about nine and a half tons. If you decide to let me have the wire, I will either pay you for it and let you supply the deficiency, or I will return the same amount and quality of wire in the Spring as may best suit your pleasure.

Very Respectfully
Quebec Oct 18. 1847 Your Obt Servt
E Cornell

Hon Geo O'Kill Stuart
Prest

Copy of letter
proposing to buy
wire
Quebec Oct 18. 1847

Copy Of Letter
proposing to buy
Wire

Detroit 18 Oct 1847

My dear Sir

I returned here Saturday morning, and found a bundle of letters from you and Smith. It took me half a day to read them: but when I got through, I felt better. You and Smith both talk like doing something, and after being in the fog for three or four weeks, when things all looked blue, it was cheering to get a few crumbs of comfort. Smith says all I could ask - approves all I have done - likes our Attorney at Columbus very much, and has given him all needful papers and instructions to enable him to push ahead, and bring the O'R tribe up to the rack - Smith seems confident that we will soon have them by the nuts, and says his Durham Bull can carry a Message from Boston to St Louis quicker than House's Telegraph can be made to do it, with the wire and lightning all ready for use. He has sent me lots of publications, Letters &c. and I will give O'R and Company an other dose before Cong. Smith is probably in New York by this time, and you will no doubt see him.

I believe I reported to you from Niles, We will get only about half the amount sub. there, some refuse to pay, some cant pay and some run away. I saw all our sub at South Bend, they will nearly all pay. I did not stop at Kalamazoo or Battle Creek. At Kalamazoo we will get $12 or 1500 out of the 2000. and as much more at Battle creek. Marshall is a hard place. I doubt whether we will collect over half. Collins came with me to Jackson. I called a meeting of sub. and talked it all over, I think most of them will pay, some who have paid $15 on a share will forfeit what they have paid, and pay no more unless compelled to do so. I saw most of our sub at Ann Arbor when I went out, and a large proportion of them will pay, some mean devils refuse, on ac of O.R. Mess. Ypsilanti has paid well, and will pay nearly the full amt subscribed. At this place I can collect some after the line is finished, cannot get a dollar until it is. The result of the whole matter is, that I can collect enough out of our subscription to build this end of the line: but I cannot collect it until the line is built. Now how

You are to get the means to buy for wire, Instruments, &c, is the question, as I much doubt whether I can collect much more than enough to buy for the poles, freight, putting up &c before we get through — Just as soon as we reach Ypsilanti they will pay the bal. due there, and so at Ann Arbor, and other places, as soon as we start their office, they promise to pay, If we can get all the material, we can soon have this line done to Milwaukee, and collect enough to pay for it — I recd about $1000. of Collins & Tillotson, and paid Wood a part, and he will want the balance in few days & I intended to send you $1000. but cannot do so at present, — Wood is now here, has several hands soldering wire, and will begin to put up tomorrow. I will make arrangements for having the poles delivered and the work going on towards Buffalo, and if you and Smith will furnish the materials, we will have it all up by the 1st Feby. I shall write to Jackson to come on, with all his hands, as soon as he is done West, which will be in a few days. Wood has 200 poles near here, which we will use on

towards Monroe, and he will go
tomorrow and have them sent on
at once, and begin setting.
Tillotson is in the neighbourhood of Milwaukee
and will keep all straight on that end;
He will begin putting up wire as soon
as he gets the caps, which were not
sent a few days ago.
I think I had better go back as far
as Marshall before long, and perhaps
to Chicago, and have the wire putting
up there. I will keep you advising
of our progress. Write me here, as
I cannot tell where else I may have
to go.

Yours truly

J J Speed

Speed 18 Oct 47

Dear Sir Mt Pleasant Oct 18/47
We Shall be able to forward
the 60 Gross Cops for Erie & Michigan
Line on Wednesday to Schenectady
Those for the Canada line were Sent to the
Bureau on the 11th inst we Sent bill
to Livingston & Wells N York
The Blocks and Sockets for the Cast
Iron Cops we will decide upon as soon
as you Send us one of the Castings
We were at Troy on Friday in
your absence to Quebec on your to
Troy please forward us one of the Cast Cops
and if your time will permit we
Should be pleas to See you up here
with your pattern Yours in haste
Wm E Cornell Granger Janes & Co

Mr E Cornell
Telegraph Office
~~Troy~~
Burlington
~~N.Y.~~
Vt

FORWARDED

TROY N.Y.
7 OCT
10cts.

Mt Pleasant N.Y.
Oct 18 [redacted]
5

Thompson Jarvis & Co
18 Oct 47

Detroit 18th At night

My dear Sir

Speed Oct 18. (47)

I had such a bundle of letters, that I did not discover the enclosed one to you, until to day. We commenced putting up our wire this afternoon, got up about one mile, shall put up several miles tomorrow. We have three Reels, 2½ feet long, and 2½ feet in diameter, made stout, with a crank, slats nailed on the heads. We solder the wire together at the office, and wind on the reels something over a mile each. put the three reels on a waggon, and roll off, one, and then set the next one on the frame, one frame is enough, the cylinders are easily shifted. ~~from one to the other~~ that is put on & off the frame. I think four hands will put up five miles a day, after the poles are on, and the wire soldered. Wood will go tomorrow and haul 200 poles, which he has on the Rail Road, floated down the river Raisin, to be used towards Monroe, we will put only 15 poles to the mile on the East end this winter, and put up the others in the Spring. I wish Jackson would hurry on and finish his poles, so as to go on towards Cleveland, Wood will get a set of hands at Jackson, to begin setting East immediately, and as soon as Jackson can come on, we will have three or four gangs on the route. E Bloom and a strong force are on the other end, and say we must meet them half way, before 1 December and have the wire all on before the 1st Jany. I think it may be done and if it can be, we can do it. I have been so busy, I have not had time to prepare, for publication, some articles for ~~th~~ the benefit of Mr V. R. I will attend to him soon. I think you and Hutchinson can see to putting up the wire to Michigan City, and let Jackson come, just as soon as he gets his poles up.

Yours truly J J Speed