Chicago 19 May 1849

Dear Sir

I got home from Bu the 17th — recd, notice by Tel — that our operators here had been supposed to give evidence in relation to private business sent over the line. I sent back word to refuse all information, and fight it off until I could get here — I arrived this morning, had a hearing this afternoon, and have fairly scart them off — Refused in point blank terms to give information any in relation to any business sent by Telegraph, and invited his honor to enforce obedience by attachment, if he thought best. He concluded he did not want to burn his fingers, and discharged the witnesses — Thus ends the first effort to destroy the Telegraph by Law: but we were not quite so green as the Counsel for plaintiffs supposed, and I think they will not be likely again to make a similar effort —

I recd. a letter from Lee — He is doing quite as well as I anticipated — He will most certainly get enough money to pay for poles & labor: I hope enough to build & pay for wire & Patent: but the Pirates are making desperate efforts to defeat us, and will probably prevent our getting enough to pay

the whole cost of line, including the wire -
The recent fire at St Louis will operate
much against us there. They will feel
too poor to pay for an opposition line -
Hope you will if possible make some
arrangement for the wire, even at a sacrifice
of a large share of the Stock - The business is
worth fighting for at St Louis & Cincinnati
and the Pirates understand it as well as
we do, and will do all in their power
to defeat us - The line to St Louis & Cincinnati
will do more to advance our interests than
all other lines put together - those two cities
are the great West, and every other place
is of small account when compared
with those great Towns -
There has been great complaints of not
getting answers to communications to My own
your line - You doubtless are doing all
that can be done to correct the working
of the line: but you should bear in mind
the fact, that altho you can make a whistle
of a pigs tail, it costs more to do it, than
it is worth, and when you try to make
a good business man out of a thing
which the Almighty made to follow a
plough, you are doing an ill advised
business - Whenever I have tried to save
money by having inconsistent men &

invariably missed my object — He have never had so much complaint about errors in coms. and delays in getting answers from Ny. since our line was built as we have lately and I cannot help believing that you have some long animals on your line whose places should be filled by better men — I sent a list of four coms to Ny to day, for which answers have been repeatedly requested, and none given or reasons why they they are not answered — If answers cannot be got, and the operator will say so, that will satisfy the customer but when no sort of reply can be had, the customer doubts whether his com has ever been delivered — I know very well that it is easier to find fault than to do better ourselves; but I do think we come much nearer the right thing than your line does at present — I go to Milwaukee in the morning, will have to stop at Southe Port & Racine

Yours truly
J J Speed Jr

A man just came in swearing about an answer from Ny — We most certainly get them to it, and the answers do not come back — But you know as much about as I do & will I know correct it as soon as it can be done

To E Cornell

I have just returned from Pittsburgh — Got ~~[illegible]~~ 6700 Subscribed & a good promise for ~~[illegible]~~ 8700 — Shall I go to work at that — When can I have the cakes at Cleveland & the wire they are anxious for it to be done

Fowler Jackson

Covington 23d May 1849.

Col. Speed Sir

Amidst hurry I write & apprise you of a meeting of the citizens to be held on the evening of the 24th but it stormed so hard that but few would have come out & as it is often difficult to get an audience out the 2d time I went around & postponed it until last night. In the mean time I dammed them all up to go in for the enterprise but they held back there was this in the way & that in the way. & I could only say to them — come to the meeting. I finally succeeded in getting together quite a respectable audience and as they had got my gist up considerably I fell about right for the undertaking & I talked telegraphs & telegraphing into them for about an hour & a half in a different shape from any thing they had any idea of. To day they sing a different tune We have already raised the thousand dollars that I asked them & I am in hopes to add another 100 before I leave tomorrow. I met with Judge Bell to day. of Perryville a little town of 600 or 700 inhabitants about 27 miles below by here on the river. I told him that we wanted $1000 from the citizens of his town but if they could not do any better we would go it at $800. I will go there tomorrow & have a meeting tomorrow night & see what I can do — I shall put so for the 1000 & if cant get that take what I can get — But you may figure that town down in your "log book" at $800 sure if I live to get there. & am not much mistaken in the men I can kick up among them

with the idea that their neighbors have business advantages & facilities which they will not profit unless they take the stock. I shall work along as fast as I can & do justice to the route. If that damned Riley had not got up his poles from Lafayette to to Fort Wayne I could have got more than enough on the line to pay for the construction but as it is we shall have to put up with what we can get & be thankful for small favors at that. I think if you will go with me from Toledo to Lafayette after we get through to St Louis we can still raise something out of them on the ground of Speculation. but not a great deal as they are pretty well skinned already. I write you from Attica. & will keep you posted up as to my whereabouts & prospects from time to time. Write me at Terre Haute & send me $25 as I requested you in my letter from Attica — Remember me to Mrs S. & family —

Yours Respectfully

John J. S. Lee

Gen'l Supt
Chicago & Ft Wayne

Cleveland O. May 24/69

Dear Sir

As I start these words in pittsburg stock on the Pittsburgh Line — I succeeded in Obtaining the Stock, I get Last Winter & Summer in Pittsburg $1000 — Now Subscription The People at Ravenna who agree to take one Hundred Dollars Ha Ben in communication with O'Riley & Jaques & Rack given up Doing any thing Jaques but are my friends & thinks Please the agreed to go to Work & get up the Hundred Dollars for us again & I think they will succeede — O'Rileys Friends down wants us to get the Line Cross from Ohio Road to Pittsburgh for it will interfear with their Business more than any other Line For Mr Morse & Co Have a Line From Pittsburgh to Rochester Alternating the Eastern Lines & due to Connect with Buffalo connecting with Buffalo Line — & this Line from here to Pittsburgh will cause the whole to give us control Eastern Lines as they Have got & when our Line is down East & connected to Pittsburgh from Cleveland as well as to Buffalo over O'Rileys Line & the Pittsburgh Business can come this way When this Line is down East — & you see this will give us great advantage South & other Lines as soon as we can connect there were Parties — Bob. Speer Andrews was to go to work & get up the Line as quick as I can & if I could not get Enough Stock to pay for Property up the Line Will Cap. L Patterson — go to work & put up the Line with cost Paying for the Iron up & Patent — Which I believe not wish to do with

Transcription
24 May 99

without cancelling you can the Sea get I think I can put up the Line for one Hundred & thirty five Miles $25- per Mile $3375

To 11 Wire 200 lbs per Mile at 9cts — 2430

195 Mile Cap — 3/6 to the Mile 4750 @ 20¢ — 950

8 Instruments & fitting up $75 — 600

Contingencies Express — — 200

$7755

I think the work can be done for the above quoted we can get wire on Reel 9cc on the Line for Fifteen dollars per Mile if you could get any thing — we have on hand about forty Miles of Wire which would leave paying out Seven Hundred & Twenty dollars — which will leave the cost to be collected about $1680.00 you will understand we have all the Tools to work with a Team & Expressman to do the work & if we can land the Wire & Caps where we want them & not have to move over the ground so often I see in hopes of astonishing you in the Expense of Putting up this Line the Line from Pittsburgh Penn to Harrisburg then Bucks the River & Penna to Marietta & down to Cincinnati I think this Line looks well a good paying Line when done Letters from your Line — I Expect to have from other Points when they Proceed to take Stock in our Line — & I will inform you by Telegraph

Yours Truly

Thos Lee Bates

Thos Lee Bates
24 May 99

7555

Milwaukee 25 May 1849

Dear Sir

Enclosed I send you draft for 69 14/100 dolls. on Strachan & Scott N.Y. — draft drawn by Alex Mitchell — this is small pototos; but is all I can get now. Wilson has given up his contract — resigned his presidency — and steps out — I will make the best arrangement I can before I leave, and write you fully. I can only say I think we will get back all the money advanced in time, and the work will go on hereafter under more favorable auspices — I made a devil of a mistake when I got the first entries and will look out better in future

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

E Cornell
Nyork

Hotchkiss wants to find out when he can get two tons No 11 Wire - He says he will send drafts to pay for it the middle of July - wants you to let him know how much it will cost, and to whom he shall send the money - Answer him at Milwaukee -

(Copy)

May 25, 1849

Articles of agreement between F. O. J. Smith of Portland in Maine of the first part and David J. Powers of Palmyra and Sylvester W. Hatchkiss of Homer in Michigan of the second part witnesseth

The said F. O. J. Smith having the sole and exclusive right to sell and convey the Patent in Wisconsin and Illinois secured by Letter Patent under the laws of the United States to Samuel F. B. Morse and his assigns for the Electro Magnetic Telegraph invented by said Morse, does hereby sell to the parties of the second part their heirs and assigns an exclusive right to all the Patents pertaining to said Electro Magnetic Telegraph, and all the improvements thereto pertaining which hereafter may be made and patented by said Morse, on the route from Milwaukee in Wisconsin to Galena in Illinois via Mineral Point and such other towns on said route as the parties of the second part may elect and also on the route from Chicago to Galena via Rockford and Elgin and such other towns and villages on said route as the parties of the second part may elect - with the right to run a double wire to any town within ten miles of the main line so as to connect such town with the main line in one circuit - The whole distance being estimated at three hundred miles and to be determined accurately when said lines or any part thereof shall be completed -

The said David J Powers and S. W. Hatchkiss hereby bind themselves their heirs and assigns to pay to said Smith his heirs or assigns the sum of Ten Dollars per mile of the extent of the line payable as the same may be collected of subscribers for construction purposes, Twenty per cent of the amount collected to be paid when collected to said Smith until the full amount of ten Dollars per mile shall have been paid, and the said Powers and

Hatchkiss agree to use their best exertions at their own expense to obtain subscriptions on said routes; but said Powers & Hatchkiss are not to be responsible for the payment of the Patents if they fail to obtain a sufficient amount of subscriptions to build said lines.

It is also mutually agreed that the lines above mentioned are to form and be a part of the Milwaukee Galena and Chicago Telegraph Company, and that the Capital Stock shall not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars per mile including the Patents

It is also agreed that if at the expiration Eighteen Months from date any portion of said Lines shall not be constructed this agreement shall be null and void and of no effect thereafter - And no claim for damages shall in any event be collected by the party of the first part on account of any failure by the parties of the Second part to construct any portion of said lines -

Witness our Signatures
at Milwaukee 25 May 1849

F. O. J. Smith
by his attorney
J J Sheed Jr
S. W. Hotchkiss
D. J. Powers

F. O. J. Smith
To
D. J. Powers & S. W. Hotchkiss

F. O. J. Smith for
J. J. Sherrd.
To
Powers & Hotchkiss

Boston May 26th 49

Wm H Power Esqr

Dr Sir

Yours of 20th has just come to hand via Portland

I am unexpectedly detained here as different arrangements are being made from what was talked of when I left D.

I hardly know what would be right for my services at D I would rather you had given some intimation of what would be satisfactory. I think you will not consider $25.00 pr Month too high & will make out a bill accordingly.

I paid Brunton $12.50 the amt of his board bill while he was assisting me which I presume is all he expects for his services I also borrowed $5.00 of Dal. before I left which if you remit me you can retain to pay him otherwise I will send it to him

I leave Bridgeport with many regrets though it may be to my advantage. Please present my Kps. to Bro. Olds & "H. Bro" with a wish for their success & happiness.

I am sorry to learn you are about to resign your charge as from your experience & knowledge of the minute details of the bns con. with that Line I think they will find it difficult to ~~fill~~ make your place good.

I have made out bill for 3 mons. 2 days & Credited balance Feby. the odd cts of which I do not recollect & have not my act. here You can fill up the blank with the propper amt as pr Report & deduct accordingly I did not make out my Monthly to the 20th as the business was nearly all Credit between the 2 Lines. If necessary please direct Sames to do so for me & I will ~~abide~~ sanction his act. The balance due M.S. & B. line for May 1st to 20th is $7,67.

Please write me when the matter can be settled & oblige

Very Respectly
Your Obt. Servt
J. D. Hayden

P.S. Ass. will know where I may be found at any time.

J. D. H.

Milwaukie 26th May 1849

Dear Sir

I found soon after my arrival here that my former estimate of Gut Wilson, as a business man, was exceedingly erroneous.— and that I gave him Credit for a out more than the facts would warrant— In short, I found that it would be impossible to do any thing, with him connected in any way, shape, or manner, with the Telegraph— He effectually cursed the whole thing, and every body was cussing the Telegraph. I found that many business men in this City would not entrust their cows, in our Office, because Wilson was connected with the Western line, and both instruments in the same office. That the people on the Western line refused to pay, and that what little was collected, Wilson contrived to get hold of, and spent for his own use— I determined to get rid of him entirely, and have done so— He has relinquished all his contracts & resigned his Office as President & Director of the Western line— Powers who was to

and Wilson in making collections, and in the prosecution of new lines, had got so sick of the whole business, in consequence of Wilsons foolish and absurd management, that he had done nothing, & refused to do any thing, as long as Wilson had any thing to do with it — I therefore had to take all the odds and ends which were left into possession, and for our own protection take the Western line in charge — I have finally rolled the Patent for the extension of the line from Madison to Galena and from Chicago to Galena to Davis & Powers, and S W Hotchkiss, for ten dollars per mile — The line now built Powers refused to have any thing to do with, and Hotchkiss is to make the collections and pay you the money you advanced before he gets the balance of $1000 due him — but in order to get any thing we will have to make an alteration in the line, which will cost $600, or more than, The line as it is now built, is of little value to Janesville, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson or Madison, and nothing more can be collected until the alteration is made — Hotchkiss has agreed with me to be at one half

the whole expense to put the line in proper shape, as he certainly cannot get his pay until it is done - Hotchkiss and I are to also pay $359 - which Wilson had collected on the Chicago route & spent. Making near $1000 to be paid to effect the whole arrangement, and get Wilson out of the way - for the $1000 (each paying half) Hotchkiss & I are to have Stock as may be agreed on by the directors for making the attenuation West, and Cash (when we can get it out of the line) for making an attenation in line here, and moving office (say $75) (that is Hotchkiss [redacted] $28) We are also to have fifty dollars per mile in Stock on each and every mile which shall be built by Powers and Hotchkiss, if Hotchkiss cannot sell the Stock for Cash - or trade it off for property -

I have but little doubt now, about the new lines being built, and I have now about the balance due upon being collected & paid - Then is rejoicing here, and will be all along the line when they find that the incubus is off of us - I will have to send here about 17 miles of wire to make

the attention in the Western line, and
enable us to move our office on the
East side of the river, and go 2½ miles
round above the shipping - I have
rented a beautiful office at the
Merchants Exchange for 5 years, at
75 per year, which will accommodate
all the lines, E & M. Western, and
Green Bay line, which Hotchkiss
will get up: but he says he cant and
wont, try to raise 25 cash for the
Patent, & will probably abandon his
contract unless the price is reduced
to ten - shall I do it -
If we furnish the wire, as we must,
that will pay the half which I have
agreed to pay with Hotchkiss to get
things all right, and get a fair start,
and you will get all the money
you have advanced - We will
also get 5 to 10,000 in Stock, besides
about $8000 in Stock, if we choose
to pay $1000 for the Patent on the line now
built - The 8000 in Stock is all the
security I have for the Patent on the line
now in operation

and if it can be made available in any way we had better pay Patentees ten dollars per Mile for Patent. but it will be time enough to pay the $1000 when we see how we can raise it out of the stock — Powers & Hotchkiss are to build the new lines in their names, and pay all expenses, and have all they can get in stock or money up to 100 per mile — the Capital being $150 per Mile, we have the fifty. that is Hotchkiss is to have $25. ~~afor~~ paying half the expenses to be incurred to put the line now built in order, and pay the Cost $359 dollars, spent by Wilson — and we have $25 per mile —

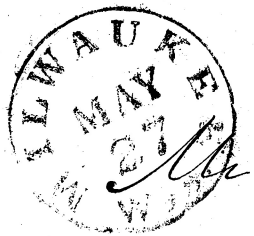
The result of the whole matter is, that the Stock is of little or no value: but Hotch can sell it, or swap it for bitch pups, and make something out of it — The business which is thrown on our E&M line is of importance to us, & I have made the best bargains I could with a crooked, complicated, embarrassed, unpopular, sinking, concern — think there will now be a resurrection —

Yours truly

J. J. Speed Jr

J. J. Speed Jr
26 May 1847

10





MILWAUKEE
MAY
27
W.D.

Mr. E. Cornell
N.Y. & E. Tel. Office
New York City

Terre Haute 27 May 1849

Col. John J Speed Jr

Dr Sir

I wrote you last from Covington saying that I should go to Perryville & see what was to be done there - I have to say with the Roman General - I Veni Vidi Vici I called a meeting of the citizens and after talking to them for about ~~half~~ an hour & half succeeded in getting all I had the conscience to ask of them $1000. The place is about as big as your hat, Population about 500 but there are three warehouses that ship some 200,000 bushels of grain a year and consequently they felt quite an interest in the matter - I was there two days to raise the amount & arrived here last night. In point of beauty Terre Haute is the next place to Cleveland in the western country & is soon destined to be a very important town - I shall try hard here for $5000 & get as near that amount as possible - I think I shall be here a week or more. Recvd your letter of the 17th directed to me at Lafayette on my arrival here last night - That is the only one yet recvd. There is a little town of Clinton of some 300 inhabitants 15 miles above this - On the way down from Perryville I stopped there yesterday a few minutes & told one of the citizens if they wanted an office to raise a thousand dollars - he thought it rather steep & so do

I but they have only three capitalists in the place & it is doubtful whether the place will pay the expense of keeping up an office. & if we have to run the risk of its paying they must pay the fiddler - If they will take $500 & pay the expense of the office I shall take it - The principal reason that I did not make an effort there at this time was this that I dont want the inhabitants of this town to think that we will be obliged to put up an office here - I shall say to them if they will not take stock enough to secure the office here we will run from Perryville to Springfield & from there to St Louis - I think I shall be able to make a raise in some way or other. I shall write to you again from here as soon as I ~~can~~ find out what I can do - When I leave here I will notify you & hope you will start immediately so as to meet me at St Louis -

I am fearful the fire they have had will work against us but perhaps not so much as I anticipate You say in your letter take the money to pay in Telegraphing if we cant do any better. I dont think there is any necessity for that on this part of the route where there is no opposition for I do not think we shall get one dollar more than we should in stock therefore I dont propose any such thing. but where there is opposition I think it will be well to leave it optional with the citizens to make their own election - I think we can raise something in that way from Lafayette to Maumee - whereas the stock

will be difficult to be obtained The amount stands thus as far as I have been. We shall get in stock Covington $1000 Perrysville $1000 Attica $1000. Manner in telegraphing $600 & Toledo some $700 at any rate & perhaps more — At Delphos we can raise $600 in stocks when we can satisfy them that their investment will be safe — On the whole I think I have done as well as could be expected under the circumstances. At any rate I have worked for it hard enough — I skipped from Delphos to Attica because I was fearful they would soon be on the line as they talked of extending their line from Vincennes through this place to Lafayette & by being on the line first I would have same advantage over them here that they have over us on the rest of the route — And the matter is not growing a great deal worse than as the devils have got so far along that we can't stop them & the only grounds that we can get a dollar out of them is opposition & cheap telegraphing — I say 6 it from Lafayette to Toledo at 10 cents. Yours Respectfully

John J. C. Lee

No 3

The case at Ch. was this. a Vessel was insured at Bu. Sometime last fall for several thousand dollars after she had been out of port some two weeks - The parties obtaining the insurance lived at V. The insurance offs wanted the private coms. of one of the brothers who lives at Chicago to an other brother at V. to show that when the V man effected the insurance he had reason to suppose the Vessel was lost, and that the Ch man had so informed him, and advised him to get the Vessel insured, knowing her to be lost. The parties were some of our best Customers, & if we had delivered their coms, to the insurance offs, they would not have given us any more business - But no matter what the merits of the case may be, we should never give up private dispatches to be used against the party sending them - Smith says we must, and he talks learnedly about it Lawyer fashion; but common sense, and fair dealing and our own interest, are so decidedly against his Law, that I prefer to take gospel, and swear that the Law was not made for a civilized people - The Law, in most states is silent on the subject: but in Ill. the Legislature have not only exhonorated operators from disclosing private business but make it a misdemeanor to do so, & a fine of $1000 to tell any mans com. to any one but his counsel - In the absence of statute law the practice has been for courts to excuse a witness from answering, when the public good would be subverted by his doing so - A Priest is not bound to ans. & disclose things stated to him at the confessional - The Police are not bound to tell how or when they derive certain information which may enable them to detect crime - No one is bound to disclose the contents of private confidential letters from his family or partner in business - If we were bound to ans, & disclose private business every Jackass in community might get up a dog trial before

a one horse justice in a bar room for the purpose of learning the private transactions of his neighbors - That Cock wont fight, some of Smith does say so -

Irving House New York
28th May 1849.

Dear Sir

Your letter from this City, was rec^d in due course of Mails, though it lay over in the Office at Palisbury a day or two, instead of going directly on to Lake Ville. By the way, please direct to me hereafter at "Lake Ville Ct."—

The day before yours came to hand, Mess Scoville Stiles & myself went to Falls Village to meet the Trustees to settle their accounts, agreeable to a Notice given to Mr Powers to meet us, a week before — but none of them were present —

Mr Powers afterwards explain^d, that he was in New York, when my letter reach^d Pittsfield. He said he would write up his books & notify us, when he was ready — I am afraid this will not be very soon —

When the time does arrive however, I will notify you, & I hope you will be able to be present — Mr Graham said he had not rec^d any Notice from you to turn the line from his office — & presumed, it was on account of his machine not working well, & of the need there was, that the line should be turn^d. I gave him your Instructions — I remain very respectfully

Your friend &c A. H. Holley

Ezra Cornell Esqr

A. H. Holley
E 8. May 1844

Ithaca May 28. 1844

My Dear Alonzo

I have intended to write to you long since but have always had something to divert my attention from it, but seeing your Mothers letter lying on my Desk with a blank page or two. I now bring myself to the sticking point, and will fill it up, I have been quite unwell for the week past which explains my being at home since last friday Week.

Tillotson is getting stock for the Ithaca & Palmyra line via Auburn Senaca Falls Waterloo Clyde. Lyons, & Newark, and O. E. Allen is at the Newburgh & Albany line, and I think both will not only succeed in getting funds enough to enable me to build the lines, but will burst the O'Reilly troops up on their Bain line from N.Y. to Bu, it now appears as though such would be the result, Dansville & Rochester & Binghamton & Attica, will be moving soon,

Before leaving N.Y. I opened negotiations for wire for the Cleveland & cincinatti line to pay for it in the stock of the Co. I have not yet got an answer but have hopes of getting it on such terms,

I rec'd a letter from Tower Jackson to day, saying he had got good subscriptions for $7000, and promises for $2000 - more, and wanted me to sanction his commencing to build with such show for funds, I wrote him that if

he had so much confidence in the payment of the subscriptions as to let me have the first money collected to pay for Wm. Cops instruments & Patent and for him to take balance to pay for labour & Rails, then to go ahead. That I did not wish to increase my perplexities by incurring new liabilities for the building of that line -

I have just made a bargain to purchase Munn undivided half (that was Babb's) of the Fall Creek Property. I agree to pay $8000 - in 10 equal annual payments first payment to be made 1 Sept 1 - 1850 - with interest annually from 1 Sept 1, 1849 - I think We have movements in progress that will secure the rebuilding of the Ithaca & Owego Rail mainly by a company largely interested in a large coal field in Pa - and who wish to make Ithaca the Depot for supplying the west with Anthracite Coal. Their Estimate is that they will sell 100,000 tons Coal the first year, and increase from 20,000 to 25000 tons per year thereafter.

If any such dreams are realized Ithaca will yet go ahead, and as I have got Fall Creek - I shall have to stay at home and attend to it, and you will have to become Captain General of the lightning, let me hear from you soon, & excuse me this time

Yours Respectfully
E Cornell

A. B. C.

Buffalo May 29 1849.

E. Cornell Esq

In ap with Curtis Mann & Co Dr

To Trus on 44 Rds wire 4334# @ 6/. 32.50.

Less Dis, Cornell claims contract at 45c 13.00 $ 19.50

int 6 months .68

$ 20.18

Rc. payment

Curtis Mann & Co

Er Cornell Esq

Dr. Sir

Above you have Curtiss Mann & Co's bill charges on wire shipped to their care by Hookers line last fall = The wire is yet in Hookers ware house subject to your order, when storage is paid on it = Mr Mann says the deduction he has made is a total loss to him, he says Hooker positively refuses to throw off a cent from the amt of the original bill of freight == Messrs Mann & Co seem disposed to act very fairly in this matter, yet they express some dissatisfaction at the result =

Very Respectfully Yrs

E. G. Morgan

Curtis Mannico
bill May 29. 1844

16 000
50
48,000.00

Buffalo May 29 1849

D. Conner Esqr

= Yesterday the Canada junction line was sold to Kissock & Porter = By the terms of the contract they are to have possession on and after June 1st = There is no mistake but that Mr Paxton is at the bottom of the whole thing notwithstanding Mssrs K & P. or even Mr McKay or Paxton may deny it = It was Mr Paxtons design to keep you and the Col. out of it from the start, & he has maintained his calculations most admirably = Mr Kissocks sympathies hereafter will of course be with Mr Paxtons, and of the depth of Mr Paxtons love for the "M.S. & Erie" & for the "E & M." line I presume you have on this had abundant proof = We hear many complaints of delays on M.S. & Erie line. Now of course are able to know the cause of such detentions = We are importuned daily to transmit Comt. to M.S. but are compelled to refuse them not having yet received a license from the "powers that be" so to do = If you have any idea of sending messages from Buf to M.S. I would advise you by all means not to do so until your line is in better order = When your line is made reliable & you conclude to let us send to M.S. you can depend on doing from this point a very large business = The sympathies of the community are very decidedly against Mr Paxton = I have written Col S. in regard to Canada &c = Business good = Very Respectfully Yours D. P. Morgan

Greenwich May 30th 1849

Mr E. Cornell

Dear Sir—

I rec'd. your favor of the 25 Ultimo, in relation to bal due you for Constructing Telegraph Line from Troy to Whitehall. I am satisfied that a large amt. of the bal. now due you will not be paid until the calls are prosecuted and collected by due course of Law—

I think the first few days leisure you can find you had better pay us a visit if for no more than one or two days—and for more nearly than one—

First, the bal. due you should be arranged—

Second, more reliable machines should be used at some of the Stations—

Third, Some man should be appointed

and paid something for looking after the interests of the Line - I do not know as a dollar has ever been collected from the Appropriation since the Line went into operation - all things seem to be at loose ends for the want of some person to look after the details of the business -
Again an effort should be made to extend the line - from present appearances I do not believe it is paying current expenses - but of this fact I am not positively certain - Mr Bird would be able to give you more correct information on this point than I possess -
The people of Wash. Co. are now much engaged in getting the stock taken for a Rail Road from Troy to Rutland & should that project succeed, I think it would

~~help to our telegraph~~ increase the revenue of our telegraph lines. And it looks now as if the roads would be built within the next two years.

Yours Respectfully
L E Rayhorn

GREENPORT
MAY 31
N.Y.

Mr E. Cornell
Care of Wells & Co
No 10 Wall St
New York
city

Savanna May 30. 1849

Dear Sir

In compliance with your order I have Shipt on Schoonr Sailor Capt W. H. Plumm 2 Cords. Red Cedar Posts

The Posts are a Superior Article, such as we sell to our Neighbors at 2/. a pier but I charge you but 20 lts. which is $16 - a Cord - Should you want any more Should be pleased to supply you at 2/. delivered at Steam Boat Landing which would be 1 lt a post Less than our Usual pier for such Posts -

We can sell you a poorer Article for much Less - but in the end would be much dearer - 2. Cords. at $16 - $32.00

Yours. Sincerely

E. Manchester

E. Cornell Esq
Ithaca
NY

P.S. Capt Plumm. earns. the 2 Cord for $1.50. & agrees to leave them at Steam - Boat Landing E. M

E. Manchester
30 May 1849

Detroit 31 May 1849

Dear Sir

I expected to have ~~gone~~ Started for Sandusky, Milan, Cleveland, Painsville, &c today: but the boats were on a spree, that is having a race, and I got left — perhaps fortunately, — as they were blowing off steam as far as I could see them, and I thought their chance for bust was very fair — I go in the morning — I send you Lees letters that you may judge of our chance to reach St Louis — I think he will do all that any man could, unless it was yourself — I want to be with him: but we must make this Lake line go, or the pay stops — Can you be here in July at the annual Meeting? — We must declare a dividend of 7 pr. ct. money or no money — you had better make your arrangements to come if possible — Will you have caps cast at Sthaw for all we will require? Can you get enough there? I can get them at Erie if need be; Write Lee at St Louis, — Make a desperate effort to obtain the wire — Hypothecate all the Stock necessary, to get it — We must reach Cin & St Louis — I will keep you advised of our progress

Yours truly

J. J. Speed Jr

Sent Lee $25 at Terre Haute

J J Speed Jr
31. May 49

Tillotson says we were to give him some Stock
How much shall we issue to him? I think
he has never been fully satisfied with any
thing I have or could do for him. Hope
you will be able to come up to his expectations
Wish you would have a talk with him and
write me how much Stock to send him
and that will close my obligations to him

Cleveland June 1st 1849

To E Cornell

Your letter received I cant proceed to put up that line as you proposed - I have no doubt of one thousand being raised on the line For what can you furnish the wire delivered at Cleveland No 11 - How much for glass caps old fashioned - How much for new caps - Cash on delivery at Cleveland And I put up the line on my contract and pay for the patent as proposed I am willing to go ahead and put up the line with the present subscription if I can have the stock when done - I have no more since I wrote you Please answer - I will pay all expenses as I go along

Tower Jackson

T. Jackson E Cornell
1 June 1849

Birmingham, June 1, 1849.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 14th has been receivd, and the request you ask, granted. The trees on the Bridgeport road have all been attended to, and I have a man at present on the road between here and Waterbury. He will complete the work by Monday or Sunday.

I am glad to hear from you, particularly at this time, as I wish to give you a correct statement of the affairs of the Station in this village and which should receive immediate attention. When the office was opened a young man, by the name of Soulsbury took charge of it until I should become sufficiently acquainted to operate. Perhaps he did as well as he knew how, but he was not fit to have the control of it, and under his managment the machine got out of order, and much fault was found on the line. Under these circumstances and before I felt competent to take the whole charge Mr. Bowers with Mr. Harrington called at the office and informed me that they should dispose with Soulsbury and that I must assume the entire control. I told them I did not feel capable, but would do as well as I could. They said that they would send me a boy (since that time Mr. Bowers writes that it is impossible) and a new magnet. I have received a magnet through Mr. Hayden at Bridgeport, but as yet

no boy has made his appearance. The machine, as I have stated, is out of order, I cannot, as yet write as well as I wish, the zinc has been eaten up and is good for nothing and I know not where to get another, and the office has not received one penny since Mr. Tomlinson left. I have had 8 calls. So you see the affair is a perfect farce and ought to be attended to without foil, or the delay and perplexity will eventually kill the office. I make the above statement just as it is, so that you may know how things are, and your immediate attention to what I have stated would greatly oblige

Yours Truly and Respectfully

T. M. Newson

To E. Cornell, Esq
Ithaca, N. Y.

West Cornwall June 1st 1849

E Cornell Esq

To Martin Porter Dr

To 2½ days Labor Trimming Telegraph line between Falls village & Goshen — 2.50

Above you have Bill of labour in Trimming the line of Telegraph for 15 miles — I could find no man of the right kind to send alone to fix it up as it should be & I took my horse & Waggon a ladder and such other tools as I might want and a man with me & Trimed as far as Goshen 9 miles east through the worst of it which took us all day and one man could not cut some of the limbs alone they were so bad to get at

This forenoon I have been as far as the falls or Falls Village 6 miles put on caps and I found several caps with the wedges gone and four of them had lost the bit of Glass next the wedge I fixed two of them the others I had no Glass to do it with — by the way there was a little item of incidental expence I pd 12½ cts Gatefee and use of Horse & waggon but I am not particular about anything for it shall make no charge of it

Remember me to O E Wood if you see him

Respectfully Yours Martin Porter

To E Cornell Esq
Ithaca N Y

Terre Haute 1st June 1849.

Col. John J Speed Jr

Dr Sir

I have been here since a week ago tomorrow I have held one meeting and talked at them for four days in succession and yesterday opened my subscriptions for this city and have had to work devilish hard to effect anything; but in two days have succeeded in raising $2350 which I shall be enabled to raise in a few days to 2500 and perhaps 3000 - very doubtful matter if we can get beyond that unless we can raise enough from some other source to run the wires through the town without calling on them for anything and then refuse to give them an office until they make up the amount and they will soon come to terms. They are abundantly able but their having to subscribe some $50,000 to the rail road from here to Indianapolis in addition to the same amount which they have already subscribed furnishes them an excuse for not taking more of our stock, and that is not all they think we will have to occupy this route or O'Riley will soon do so as I understand he has proposed to run a line from Vincennes through this place to Indianapolis if they would take $3000 at this point

but after I have got them stuck for 2500 or 3000 I think Mr O'Riley will find it hard scratching to make a raise here - it will be like squeezing blood out of a turnip. I have received nothing from you except one letter directed to me at Lafayette and forwarded ~~to me~~ here. I have written you twice for some funds and shall soon be out. If you have not sent any please send some immediately ~~as~~ I shall have to remain here until I receive it as I have no means to get away with. and if I stay much longer shall not have enough to pay my bill - In the mean time I will keep stirring them up with sharp sticks and if they wont take stock for any other reason they will for the same one that the girl did who married the man to get rid of him - It is confounded hard fighting but I mean to blow it through and if I cant make a big strike will make as big a one as I can. I know it is a bad plan to ask a sum and then fall from it but if I had have asked them 3000 I should have raised about 1500 so I concluded to put them up among the pictures and get as good an impression struck off as I was able - I have got the promise of three more shares ~~now~~ so you may consider the matter as good as made up to 2500 now - I shall work hard for another 500 and then if we can manage so as to carry the wires through without

an office we can compel them to raise the remaining $2000. I think I shall go back to Clinton from here and when I get ready to leave here for the west I will notify you and hope you will then start immediately for St Louis so as to meet me there. I tell you it is a confounded hard row to hoe — that St Louis fire and all — The Devil seems to be in it — some damned thing or other is blocking up the wheels in almost every place. The fact is I have had to electioneer as hard here for that railroad which is right in the way of our stock as I have for the Telegraph to get them to take any interest in our matter and after I got them all waked up and interested in it they then plead poverty or at the least want of means to keep up their business and improvements they are already interested in. Dont neglect to send me some money immediately. Remember me to Mrs Speed & family.

Yours Respectfully

John J. S. Lee

I have succeeded in one thing and that is they are perfectly satisfied that this route possesses decided advantages over any thing they could establish from this place — That is a good point gained.

J. J. S. Lee

No 1

Detroit 16 June 1849

Dear Sir

I got home last night - We will get $12000 between Cleveland & Columbus, & unless Kendall should flare up and make a muss about our going South of O R line we can get 3 to $5000 South of Columbus - I think I can raise something at Cleveland and the first time I am there, and can spare a day I will try - Jackson cannot fail, I think to collect more than enough to pay for Pittsburg line - I send you Lee's letters that you may form your own opinions about our prospects on the St Louis route, and of his capacity to drive the thing through - I have this day sent him fifty dollars, and told him to put in his best jumps - That you doubted his ability to carry the line through, and I wanted him to disappoint you - If any man (save yourself) can do it, he can; but I will be with him as soon as it is possible for me to get away - I must go to Toledo & Maumee & Lower Sandusky - our annual meeting takes place 1st Wednesday in July - no money: but must make a dividend if possible - It will take $1700 to pay our stockholders 7 p.c. and if our debts were all paid off. I would not make making out the dividend. but I have had to use some funds to get Jackson, Made & Lee started - Jackson & Made will go on their own resources hereafter, & I think we can soon get back the money I have advanced - Lee will not want over $50 more before he will begin to collect - our debts

Tel. Ofs Springfield June 2-49

Mr H. Power Esq

Dr Sir

I am to be Stationed here for the present & before being settled permanently would lear whether you have made any permanent arrangement for P. Ofs. & what Salery you could pay me to attend to your business there exclusively including care of battery & paying my own messenger if one is required.

Mr Smith is not willing his operator should have the care of that instrument also which is one reason of my leaving P. as he offered me more than he could afford to pay there, to go to Portland. That engagement is broken now however, by his changing his mind to accommodate the old operator at Portland who will remain until Sept nex. when I can probably have it if not otherwise engaged. I would go to P. in preference to Portland with a less

salary. so as I am pretty well acquainted with the business of your line might serve you better than some others. When these matters are brough before the Board, plese present my application & if you have determined in your own mind what will be right or what you think will be paid then you will oblige me by dropping me a line stating as above.

There was some little cash receipts at P. Offs for May which in the hurry of departure I omitted to charge myself with. I have asked James to balance the accts to 20th & will give the proper credit.

Plase have my bill attended to as soon as convenient & if you can advance me something upon it, it will very much oblige.

Your Humble Servt
D Hayden
Opr

Mr Dewey.

As Mr Power said send these to the Treasurer of the Company & suppose it is you, if not plase forward them to him.

Yours &c.

New York June 4 1849

Dear Sir

I was at the office of Abijah Mann Jr (an Eminent Lawyer of this city) yesterday an in the course of conversation learned from him that He was the legal adviser Marshall Lefferts of the firm of Geo. B. Morewood & Co who furnish the wire for the Rain Telegraph. They are the Treasurers of the various Rain lines this arrangement is made so that they shall not fail in getting pay for the wire they furnish, and the sale of their Galvanised Wire is their only object an Mr Mann said that they would look out for the pay.

He said that Mr Lynds who was an old acquaintance of his come to him to induce him to aid them in getting stock taken in N.Y. to further their operations, that Lynds explained their operations and held out to him the idea of enormous profits which he could participate in if he would aid in getting others in who had the rocks. Mann said the prospect for profits was so large as to create suspicion in his mind of the legitimacy of the operations and was induced to question Lynds rather closely on several points, which induced Lynds to bring O'Reilly to see him Mann and after talking with O'R a short time

Mann said he became convinced that they wished him to engage in a swindling operation to fleece his neighbours & friends and he told Capt Lynds that he could not be used for such purposes - that he should expect to be arrested for obtaining money under false pretences if he did what they wish &c. This ended their entreaties with him, and they have since no doubt found more pliant tools - It appears to me that if their subscribers only knew the facts of their operations that they would be slow to pay - You may depend that those parties, who subscribe large amounts have an understanding that they are to pay their subscriptions by getting their neighbours in to the loop. The ballance of the wire for the Ithaca & Palmyra line will be ready & shiped this week. In your contracts for poles &c &c put off the payments as far as possible as I shall want to borrow a little of your funds to meet drafts soon to be due. I must have $1000 to pay a dft July 16th in this city, $1000 Aug 15 & $1000 Sept 17th. - get as much subscribed as possible -

Yours Respectfully

E Cornell

D T Tillotson Esq

D. T. Tillotson Esq
Ithaca
N.Y.

If Tis not at Ithaca, please
forward this to him — E.C.

Cornell
Jun. 4. '49

from Port Hope
To Wood