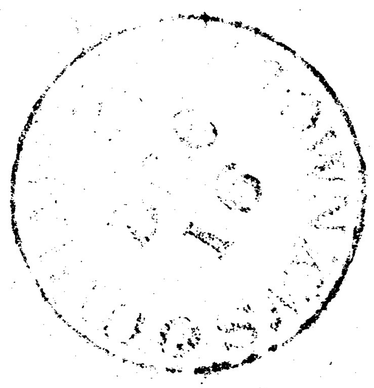

Mr E. Cornell   Ithaca Oct. 14. '48

Dear Sir

Yours from "Tremont House" of 10th is at hand. Your plans and routes look feasible and right, I have no doubt they can be carried out and when accomplished I think you & Col Speed will have no occasion to go to California and take a "squatters right" — Get (as you say you will in a short time) O'Rielly out of the way on the western border and all will come out right. You do not say any thing about his line from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, that should be under the control of the E&M. Co. or in some way made to connect ~~in some way~~ on the right kind of terms with our great thoroughfare — There is considerable business from Pittsburgh that should center at Cleveland among the rest of the lines — Dow may possibly get his through from Fredonia to Pittsburgh, but that is not the thing, it should connect at Cleveland — and if in the compromise you can get that at $50. pr mile I should say get the control of it — I have a little different plan from yours for connecting Sandusky City & Cincinnatti, but don't know that it will meet your views — it is to run a line from Sandusky City to Mansfield, another from Cleveland to Mansfield, where they would unite, and then one line to Cincinnatti via Columbus &c &c these routes will take in their course most of the important towns — The route from Toledo to St. Louis via Fort Wayne, Lafayette &c will doubtless be

a fair line for business, but it will be rather
difficult to get much Stock subscribed or enough to
construct it — Smith does not do the clean thing
by you in not relinquishing a part at least of the $30.
per Mile — his views about the 10 extra poles is doubtless
correct so far as he is concerned but hard on you and
the other Stockholders and agreeable to the articles and
the contract between Speed and the Trustees you would
have a right to take the amount out of the $30.000
for needful investments and not issue him Stock
for equal amount — I have this day written Col Speed
I should leave next week — I want to see you before
I go however — he has opened an Office at Monroe —
What has caused so much ~~interruption~~ on our Western
line I can't understand — Morgan & Allen wrote me
~~Sunday~~ Monday saying they had not had Ch or Au
for 9 days, till that day when they had got to work
again through — it almost made me sick to read
the letter — Speed keeps mum & does not write — They
say business at Bu is rather dull, no wonder if they
can't work through in 9 days —

Wilson says he will have his
line done to Madison by 1st Jany. Flan sends his
instruments next Monday —

I have talked with Wm Thomas, Grants
Halsey & others all looks right, whether Halsey will
do any thing I can't determine, but he talks right
and I have set it up as well as I could write

ally, and most of them believe what I tell them -
I see House sent through the Presidents message
as also did O'Reilly - I fear our folks did very
little about those days and made nothing out
of it - Shall expect to see you home next
week -

Very truly &c.
C. T. Tillotson

I Know you are "confidential" Rcvd Dec 20
ans 24th Clvd

Erie Dec 14th 1848

Dr Alonzo

My gratitude is unlimited when I think what you have done for me & are trying to do when I read your letter it did make my heart feel glad you better believe & when I was reading it you called me & asked me if I had red & just that moment I was reading about assistants &c. Oh! you better believe I felt well — & I found rcts all so nice & good & all in full which I did not expect at all to see — a person dont know what a friend is if they never had one they cant begin to think — you done perfectly right in paying Mrs E $15 as I should done the same myself — I was thinking it was $14c but I guess I was mistaken — I wrote to Monroe & made use of your name I told him to ~~[illegible]~~ bear with me a little longer & it would be paid soon. I told him the mony would be sent to you & you would take up my due bill was that

right? I have also written to "Mr D"
giving her my sentiments &cc I spoke
about "Theatres" & their tendencys I
guess she will wish she never seen a
theatre but it is too late in the day,
I shall never call her mine again
but Alonzo I did once love that girl
& I know she loved me but
now it is lost, it cant be helped,
& now for something else — you have
given me your plan & it is a good one
if we can only make it go off which I
pray you will succeed in — you spoke
about annother assistant & one that we
would want that is for you to say
any one that you want will suit me
but I should want one like your self
if it were possible but that would be
impossible becaus I think there was never
such a good boy as Alonzo Cornell. &
never will be & if we can only get together I shall be contented — I presume
my attachment is stronger than yours & I
have good reason for it & as long as
my name is Horace I shall recognise you
as my best & dearest friend ——

My choice in offices would be the N. York off for several reasons & one is this I should get away from some acquaintances that I dont like (you know what I mean) you know a young man cant do always as he would like to do (if he has any soul about him) —

I am striving to lay up something for a rainy day & as long as I am amongst my old acquaintances I cant do it unless I cut them short & you know some of them would say I was close & had no soul &c &c but I am dwelling on this too long — you sent me a statement of my indebtedness to you which I acknowledge to be right & I am glad you done so — C B I do admire your frankness it is something I like to see I know what to depend on, & at any time when you see my faults I want you to speak out just what you think because I know they are numerous — dont fail to write me imm on rct of this wretched scribling Oh! I have lots to write but I shall wait till next time I am going to rite you every week if I can get time

I dont write enough to keep
my hand in & letter writing
I cant get it out no how
I shall write often to you
& try to do better next time —
if you could just see my pen
you would not wonder at
all but you must study it
out the best you can &
I will remain your Dear brother

To my adopted brother
Horace Palmer

Alonzo B. Cornell

I am ashamed to send this but
let it go - I will do it
up brown next time —
here is my love to your dear sisters
& brothers & all your friends & my love unbounded to you Alonzo H. P.

H. Palmer = Erie Penn
Dec 14/1848 - answered

Middletown December 15 1848

Dear Ezra your favor of 13inst I recd this evening and happy I was to hear from you once more and glad to hear there is A Prospect of Seeing you Soon I am getting along with Setting Poles tolerably well I have the Poles Set nearly to Goshen this evening and Shall Soon close up in this Part I Suppose and be ready to go back and fill up that Space on the Barrens I have been Bothered for funds Some what, and have Put my hands of off there Pay untill I get Back nearer Honesdale for it Cost to much in traveling fees to go so far for Money if I Could get along without but I did Suppose I Should have Some from Honesdale before this as Mr Seely Said he would Send me A draft or Certifficate of deposit that I Could use till I Could get Back in reach but I hear nothing from him and Montrose was so far of I did not Call on them but Shall hope to on my return Back if I Cant get what I want at Honesdale E B Thinks I had better go Back and fill up that Space the first of the week and I Suppose those men will want there Pay for the Poles and there are Some men that got Poles this Side the Edy that I have Set that are Poor and want there Money you will Please make Such arrangements in relation to this Matter as you may think best and Please wright me at Narrows burg if any thing Happens that I dont See you at Goshen on Monday

Yours Truly

E Cornell. Esqr

J. S. Bristol

4

DEC 16

16

5

E. Cornell Esqr
~~Care of [illegible]~~
Boston ~~N York~~
Mass

J. S. Bristol
15 Decr 45

Pittsfield. 15th Decr 1848.

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir

Yours of the 11th from Boston came duly to hand. & yesterday I shew the same to Mr Russell. & he is quite pleased with what you have accomplished.

I yesterday furnished Mr Allen with 500 Dolls in anticipation of collections to enable him to start out this AM. (if he is so disposed.) & commence paying for Poles & so continue thro the Line. & if he does not do it. it will be for no fault of mine.

A Parcel of Wire was shipped from Bridgeport for Parker at Barrington on the 13th & if recd by him. the Barrington off-ice may be under working order on Monday

I remain

Very Respectfully

Yours

Wm. A. Power.

Wm H Baum

15 Decr 1848

Ovonel July 31st

We or Either of us hereby agree to deliver Telegraph poles between C Wrights Inn and the Seely Bridge being a distance of between 3½ miles Commencing 176 feet from Wrights Inn to be set, and at a distance of 176 feet apart between said points And of the following dimensions Said poles to be either White oak Chesnut oak Chesnut Butternutt or Hemlock and to be straight well trimmed and pealed to be 25 feet long 5 inches in diameter at the small end Said poles to be delivered on or before the 18th august next for which E Cornell the undersigned agrees to pay when so delivered the sum of 40 cents apiece

Travis Stiles Cazenovia

(x)

E Cornell Per John McKinney

Niles
2d

Entered Dec 1848

Recd Pownal Dec
11.48 of O. E. Allen
Forty four 40/100
dollars in full
for One hundred
& Eleven Tel poles

111
40

44.40

Attest J. Wright

his
Orsamus X Niles
mark

1430
4000
40
160.00
1611
320

Detroit 16 Dec 1848.

Dear Sir

I returned home from Monroe yesterday, by way of Adrian, Hinsdale, Jonesville &c. We will certainly get a line on the Southern R Road. The stock will be taken to the amt of 100 or more per Mile Cash, and fifty dollars per mile or less in Stock. I think we will get $112.50 in Cash and 37.50 in stock reserving the right to put a through wire on their poles if we choose to do so.

Our line works well again to Buffalo but is down as usual this afternoon between Ty & Clv. Monroe will pay—

My object in writing you now is to ask you to stop at each Office on the line from Bu here and settle up with each operator, fix the amount of his Salary if not fixed, and know exactly how his accounts stand.

Virtue writes me that he wants money and has not recd much on his own account. From his reports he is more than paid. I suppose we ought not to allow him over $250 per year and I have so written him, giving

him a statement of his a/c as appears from his reports. Tell him to show you my letter of this date.
Allen at Bu is expecting 300 pr year as I understand it - I do not remember what I did say to Morgan. Find out what he is expecting and agree upon some price. Cobb is to have $300. Palmer $300. Painsville) Baird $300 A.B. Cornell will expect the same as Durham had $500 - Lee is more capable than any of them; but if he is allowed $400 for the first year he will be satisfied. Wade is to have four hundred for self and boy - Stebbins $350, Vantine I have estimated as above at $250. I do not know as I said any thing to him about salary but he is a poor stick and is not worth even that - Rowley $400 but must not charge the Company with washing bed clothes - At Monroe I made a bargain with the P. Master and have our office in the P Office. Clark is to have two hundred dolls pr year including Rent & fuel. after he gets so as to take charge of Off. and Lusky is to have three hundred pr year for the time he remains to learn Clark

and then go elsewhere if we want him.
Smith says he will soon have the fight ended and send me an order to take charge of the O R line. I hope he may not be disappointed; but fear that it will be some time before his gun will go off. He wants me to send him an account of our rents and expenses but I cannot do it. The accounts are not up so that I can tell what our expenses have been. Salaries are not credited at all, and Rent in many instances not paid in full. When you get back I think you and Father will be able to dig it out. Our business has fallen off since the close of the navigation; but I think it will improve again in the winter. I am anxious to go on Toledo & St Louis line and want you here before I go away. I will send this to Buffalo, hoping it may meet you there

Yours truly
J J Speed

Mr D S Littleton

Rob. H. Hyde —

$350 — E. G. Morgan —

$500 — J. Harland —

Say 1st Mar — M. B. Hood, time —

6 Round clock Brushes
with Wooden Backs
cost $3. doz at
Fellows & Schell 21
Maiden Lane —

Office

W. O. Allen

$

L Speed
Oct 16. '48.

10 Mo East
20 " West
Misc on hand
& up to Danville

Cleveland 17th Decr 1848

My Dear Father,

Your kind favor of the 10th inst reached me yesterday morning. I hope your anticipations in regard to the O'Rielly controversy will be fully realized and that in a very short space of time. I do not know but I ~~hope~~ think this affair at Phila and Balt which you speak of looks much like their former figuring, that is they are trying to waste all the time they can and keep the Lines in their hands and get the benefit of it. as long as posible. for each time the time for a trial has approached if they could not put it off any other way they would offer to compromise and in that way get the suit adjourned, then back out of any compromise, but I hope they will soon be cornered and cut off. I think if a compromise could be made by which we could get this Lake Line. it would be much better than to only deprive them the use of Morses insts. as they would get Houses or Bains and shut up their small offices and take our through business away. and we could not help our selves,

You speak about a Line direct from this city to Boston via Albany. why would it not be best for it to go to Troy also. as there is a great deal of business with Troy from the west and then we

could command the whole of the Canada business
that way. with the aid of the T & C Line, which
business I learn is increasing very fast. but
I do not see why the Boston Line is not going to
injure the NY & E Line by taking the bsns away
from it- How is that? or do you intend having it
the same Line?— You speak of a Line from
here to Cincinatti via Sandusky City. why
not have it run directly to Columbus thence
to Cin. I think the distance would be less
and then Columbus is an important place be-
ing the same size of this place. and the Clvd
people want a direct Line to Col & Cin and
as there is a R Road building on this
route I should think it would be more
preferable. the Sandusky business is nowhere
like as much as the Col. the main part of
the Sandusky business is east. the rects of
our office there yesterday were between
$10 & $12, which was a very good business. That
office and Toledo are as good offices as there are
on the Line or would be if there was no oposition,
our operator at Sandusky is one of the best on the
Line both for operating & business too. His name
is Stebbins. is a cousin of the Stebbins who
was one of Burts assistant teachers in the Ithaca
Academy. the O R folks have Williams (who you
will remember was in the Rochester office) in
their Sandusky office but Stebbins gets the

business away from him. — I see there is a movement being made by the Cleveland people and some Albany & Troy people to found a "commercial depot" at Tonawanda a place on the Niagara river 12 miles below Buff. The Erie Canal is very near the River & they think of sending their vessels down there & reship in stead of being in danger of "going on the bar" at Buff instead of geting in the creek. They are all ready building Piers Warehouses &c. The whole Clevd trade will go there and a good portion of the upper Lake trade & why will there not be a good deal of Tel-g?. why would it not be an object for the E & M Line to be extended down there, I believe it would soon pay. Clevd will have considerable bus there, Buff will have some. the west will have some. there will be considerable for albany which we can send via Fredonia, If you dont look to it I fear O'R folks will. what do you think of it? — $2500, would easily do the thing. — Talking with Col S at Detroit yest I see he thinks of puting the Line which you pro pose from Toledo to Chicago — from Monroe to South Bend, which I think is a bad move, as Toledo has ten times the business West that Monroe has. Tom Jackson has returned from the Mansfield route & abandonded it, or at least says a Line can not be got up there. He is going next to Youngstown &

Warren I believe. which will I think prove a perfect failure just as every thing has which he has taken hold of. and I dont believe he will get up a line any where. and I think the money he spends in going around so is thrown away just exactly, Let alone what you pay him. for the time he throws away. and if you intend to work your lines in 640 miles circuits as you name from here to Boston, you will be disappointed in it if you put him on as general Supt of construction, because he slights the work too much. — I wrote to Col S today informing him that I could get along without the assistance of Mr Lee, and I think probably he will send him some where else, at least I hope so as we are not paying our expenses with him here, as I said before the business is very dull, we have done less business here for the past week than any week this fall —

over

I give you here the amount of business last week for this office small. very small.

No coms.	Total rcpt Com.	Cash	
38	$16.33	$8.16	
27	10.56	5.30	
14	6.53	3.38	
8.	3.36	1.10	
23	7.54	4.13	
26	$10.23	$3.83	
136	$54.55	$25.90	Total
23	$9.09	$4.32	Average

Paid other Line during the week. $4.25

This is too small potatoes to keep two persons here to do nothing until wanted next spring. I hope to be able to give a better account next week, — Please write me soon. & often. This is the fourth letter I have written today so you will excuse haste.

Your Affectionate Son

A. B. Cornell

E. Cornell
Ithaca.

Ithaca Decr. 18. 1848

Ezra Cornell Esq

Dear Sir Yours of Decr. 13. just Recd. I was somewhat surprised to learn that you had made another call on Newburg. I didnt know that you had notices nor did you say any thing about it when last here. I suppose it will be all right but I will obtain an order from the other Trustees for the third Installment of 30. per cent at Newburg & enclose you the receipts herewith. I understand you in your telegraph despatch of the 14th to desire that We shall make a like call on Dansville Nunda & Pike We shall not be able to do so by the 25. Decr as the last Installment was payable only on the 15th Ult. The earliest period for which we can call in their third Installt. will be the 15th January 49 and it shall be done by that time unless I hear from you otherwise. The second Inst. of 40 pr ct. due from the 3 last mentioned places I suppose is ready to be paid in but we have not the means of filling up our receipt for ~~Nunda~~ Pike at all & but partial subscription lists from ~~Pike~~ Nunda & Dansville. I have ~~awaited~~ delayed forwarding to those places in the hope of receiving the full subscription lists for those places. But I yesterday Recd a letter from L. C. Woodruff Dansville saying that their subscription list only reached $2250. and despairing of going higher than $2350

I shall accordingly enclose to Woodruff

the Receipts for Dansville as far as we have the names
and request the names as fast as they are obtained
I shall do the same by Pike.

If I have misapprehended your intention in the
above you will take the earliest opportunity of
correcting me.

Holmes was here the 11th ult & took
the receipt of O Hurd Jefferson & the order for
Fredonia had already been enclosed to A B Smith
Pike where he said he could easily obtain it.

Holmes reported ~~at that time~~ that 3 days before there was about 60 miles where
the poles had not been set (in 3 different places)
& there were 3 gangs at work. So there can not be
more than 25 or 30 miles left at this time. He had
not at that date commenced putting up the wire

The weather has been unusually favorable & I anticipate
that every pole will be set before the ground is frozen
up.

I do earnestly entreat of you to furnish a full
subscription list for the whole line before you
attempt to advance one cent beyond the 80 prct.
which you have reached in some cases

Inquiries are constantly made of me when
the line will be completed. I have generally
replied about the 1st of February. But from
appearances I see no reason why it may not
be completed by the middle of January.

Give me your opinion on the subject.

The line from here to Jefferson was opened when you were last here I suppose by yourself. The Trustees have taken no trouble in reference to it. The operator at Jefferson was directed by some one to teach no one the art of Telegraphic writing while at Jefferson. Believing this to be against the future interests of the Company I directed him to teach any one all he knew about it and no member of the Company would object.

I am happy at the favorable prospects that this line will be profitable to the stockholders and also that the chances of rival patents are growing "small by degrees &c.

Let me hear at your convenience of your prospects at your end of the line & your arrangements in & near New York.

Will you have subscriptions in other places than those at which they have been already obtained? If so where & to what amt.

Excuse my tediousness for once

Yours Very Truly

D Boardman

The 2d Inst. on Honesdale was but 20 pr ct & as we can not go beyond 40 pr ct. Honesdale will be 10 pr ct behind Newburg after this Inst. You suppose it will be even with Newburg.

Pittsfield Dec 19th 1848.

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir

Yours of the 18th is at hand. I would refer you to my last to you Dec 15th mailed for Newburgh. We recd a communication from you yesterday by Telegraph saying you would be here to day. Mr Allen left here to day at noon to pay off South. he has paid all north except for one Contract with the Thayers at No Adams. Mr Allen says they claim about one dollar for each pole. for say 400 poles.

As respects to Howard direct-by me & has authority from me to collect all monies he can. & as I have never called on any of the Subscribers South of Pittsfield. The Waterbury Subscription I never had the Birmingham. Mr Allen has collected some & will now collect more on his way down. Anticipating that you will yet see Pittsfield ere you see this I will subscribe myself

Yours

W. H. Power

Pittsfield. Decr 20th. 1848.

Mr Cornell.

Dr Sir

I wrote you briefly yesterday. The consultation with Mr Russell last evg. it was decided for me to go the entire length of the Line & call on every individual subscriber & collect all that could be collected & to follow it up till all paying Subscribers had paid up in full. Mr Russell has not been over the ground as I have & cannot know how very difficult it is to get money on the Line from Subscribers & I apprehend you may have been led to believe (perhaps by representations of others) that due vigilance had not been used if so I should like to know who has been neglected.

I gave Mr Allen yesterday a general power to collect from all (who had not paid) any am't they would pay him. I trust he will be so enabled to get money enough to proceed directly there. He was at Lee last night.

I expect to go to Salisbury tomorrow (Thursday) the Salisbury office will be open Thursday evg.

Yours

W. F. Power

Mrs H Power
19 & 20 Decr 1848

Fredonia Dec 20th /48

Mr E, Cornell

Dr Sir

I have just come on here to get the amt of funds on the order sent by trustees & find that not quite all has been Collected of this instalment although Cobb says it can be got in a few days.

There is a good deal of feeling by some men on this end of the line about the pay for poles so much so that I think it best to pay them although I do not like to do it with out your direction as I do not know how the funds are situated but I think it advisable under existing circumstances

Some of those not interested think it was brough about by Thomas being to impertant & not giving proper explanation, but you are aware that there is singular people in this world & will make a mountain out of a mole hill

What arrangements have you made in relation to the wire at Buffalo is it Soldered or shall I see to it & the wire to be shipt to Jefferson has it been sent, We have got about 35 miles of poles yet to put up & the wire boys were to put up all the wire from Jefferson & then come on to Dansville but by this arrangement we are not getting a station as fast as we come to them on acct of the vacancy from Bath to Jefferson

Springvill & Lodi have not yet taken the stock required. They say they depend on a Station and at the same time say you ask them to much & I was told by a man at Lodi that they ware so sure of the Station with out the stock that they do not exert themselves abt it. Bath has done nothing yet that I have heard. I wish you would write me & let me know your calculations where you intend to finish first & whether you have made any arrangements about the wire hooks for the poles at this place In short give me all the direction in relation to line & in the mean time I will go ahead to the best of my ability direct to Dansvile or Nunday or Pike as those are most central

E, Cornell

Yours Respectfully S, A, Holmes

S. A Holmes
Decr 20 1848

Goshen Dec 26 48

Dear Brother

The poles will all be up between Washingtonville and this place by tomorrow noon Bristol has gon back with his men to put up the 10 miles near Big Edy. write him at Narrowsburgh he wants to know where he must go from there I think he had better go to Binghampton and commence puting up wire, I shall go down to Newburgh to day I have got a very heavy Coald and am most down sick. Mr Nicholes has been waited upon by the President of the bord and other of the stock holders but they Can do nothing with him he still stands out, in taking with Mr Colwell (the President) he said he could not give concent for us to proceed on the pipe, well then (says I) we shall hall the poles over on the little Britton road, he said he would not do it if it was his case he should put them up where they ware for no one would give him one cent damage

By running from Washingtonville to Salsbury (about 2 miles) on the RailRoad (which is allready graded ready for the track) we Could then runn from Salsbury to Cornwell which would be much nearer than to go by little Briton, and not so far to hall the poles but we should have to get concent from the Erie R R Co

I am so much unwell I shall wait a day or two to hear from or see you before I act in the matter, from what I can gather from individuals along the road and from the President there is no one that has any objections but N and he as an individual does not own a cent in the road he is only agent for his Mother who owns the stock and Mr Colwell said that she [illegible] said she was surprised at the course that N had taken in the matter for her part she had no objections. therefore my way would be to offer N or his mother one share of the stock in the Tel Co or so then if he would not accept go ahead and put up the poles, you may think differant pleas inform me immediately by writing or coming to Newburgh

Yours in haste E. B. Cornell

If you get this write by first mail or send by the driver to N. burgh

E Cornell Esq

E. B. Cornell
20 Nov. 1848

Salem December 20. 1848.

Dear Sir,

Your under date of Decr 18. is before me & was recd this morning. I am going to Union Village this week & will ascertain who are behind & do all in my power, to urge & make them pay up –

There is some $300, which I suppose is utterly worthless, Some of the subscribers for stock who are perfectly responsible refuse to pay to the amount say of $400, they can, & ought to be compelled to pay, –

The meeting for the organization of the Co is called at this place on the 10th day of January "49 – You must be here – we cant stir a step without you – If your engagements are of such a nature as to prevent your attendance, please let me know on the recpt of this –

The New York Albany & Buffalo Line refuse to send Comn originating on our line & addressed to points on that line unless we he pay their tariff – This I understood from you, & as I understand the agreement entered into by the Directors of that line & the proprietors of the patent, (a copy of which you sent me & which is now in the hands of Mr Wood in Troy) is all wrong – The question is, How can it be made right? – I understand Faxton has directed his Operators to exact pay – What course shall we pursue in relation to this matter? – It is an item of great importance to us – Will you if convenient write me your views & what you would advise on this subject?

I should like to see you before the 10th, & talk over some matters with you, Where will you be between the 1st & 10th, ?

Yours truly –
John R McFarland

To, E. Cornell Esqr
Troy –

Auburn Dec 21, 1848

Mr Cornell — Dear Sir:

The language of your letter of the 18th is, really, astonishing & unreasonable. It appears to me that you cannot help but know the true situation of matters here. Just look at the predicament in which you place me. It is not the N.Y. & Bu line that suffers, but me, an operator who depends on his salary for his daily bread. Look at the following statement of facts;

In July 1847 I became the operator here after agreeing with Mr. Haxton that, for a certain stipulated salary, I would do the ~~[illegible]~~ Ithaca business, in addition to that of the Main Line at Auburn. About three months afterwards the business of the Binghampton line was added without a word being said to me about it. I supposed it was all right, although I did not quite see how & that it came under the head of Ithaca business as it came over that line, & especially as Ithaca was the place from which I received all my balances without any one supposing it was necessary on my place to look beyond there for Bn & Ow balances as a separate line, until ~~in~~ the first of this month, when you informed me that it was not the place of the Ia line to pay the balances of the Bn line. I looked about & made several inquiries, & found that this was so.

In the mean time, about the last of October Mr. Saxton told me that I must not receive any business from the Ithaca line after the 1st of November, without prepayment together with 2 dollars a week for reports, (he having sometime previously instructed me to collect 1/4 of office expenses there of Ia line) or if I did, it would be at my own risk.

Well you see this made it altogether a matter between me & the Ithaca & Bn lines. I continued receiving supposing it would ~~it would~~ be a great accommodation ~~tt~~ to the Ithaca people, & that you would not let me suffer by it. When I sent in my November statement to Utica I advanced what was due from Ithaca & shall have to do so for this month.

The livery Bill you must be aware was incurred wholly for the benefit of Ia line — there having been a great many breaks at this end during the last several months) during which it run up to 20 dollars. Their charges, so far as I am able to judge are not unreasonable, & the reason why this has not been in my account is because it is not yet paid.

Now you ask me why this was not put in the account of 1/4 of office expenses. Would this be right, & also would it have been right for me to have had that money remitted at my risk? It is not very likely it would have been lost, but if it had, would I not have been the loser?

Mr. Cornell I ~~[illegible]~~ do not wish to complain — I do not ~~[illegible]~~ want to say that I have any claims upon your generosity, but it seems to be necessary.

I have labored under many inconveniences here to accommodate you & the Ia Tel. Co.

I have frequently advanced the balance due at the end of a month to Main line & waited for it from Ithaca, & for November entirely at my own risk — have always done your personal business promptly as you know yourself, & have got along with an instrument here that any other operator would have declared unfit to use, months ago Yet if you now hesitate, or seem

to, to relieve me so far as the
accounts are concerned, & in
your last do not even deign
to make any reply whatever
to my application for a station
on your Ny & Erie line. Is it
because I am not a capable
operator, because I have incurred
unnecessary expenses, or neglected
your business or the business of
the Ia line?

I am sorry I have had
to say so much about myself
& shall not any thing further, only
~~to so~~ this that I hope you will
relieve me soon as you can
conveniently. I do wish I could
see you about 15 or 20 minutes.
I have ~~at~~ looked out for the interest
of the Ia line to the best of my ability,
& in return I hope you will not
forget the situation I am in. Do
not let any thing I have said
give you offence, for I have
not intended to offend

And believe that I am truly
& respectfully yours

H. C. Gilbert.

P. S. Shall I continue receiving
Ithaca business & will you see that
I am made good, until you
can make some final arrangement with the Ny & Bu Co.

G.

Gilbert Dec
20 1848

Office of the New-York, Albany, and Buffalo Telegraph Company,
16 WALL STREET, (Up Stairs.)

ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

TARIFF OF PRICES.

FROM New York TO	FOR FIRST 15	EACH ADDED 5
Carmel,..... Po'keepsie,.. Hudson,.....	0,27	0,10
Troy,....... Albany,..... Schenectady, Little Falls,.. Utica,....... Rome,......	0,37	0,15
Syracuse, ... Auburn,..... Geneva,..... Can'ndaigua, Rochester,.. Batavia,.... Buffalo,.....	0,52	0,20

This Line also connects directly with the following Places.

Ithaca, Springport, Elmira, Binghamton, Owego, Oswego, Lockport, Chippewa, Niagara Falls, Queenston, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Toronto, Dundas, Woodstock, London, Bennington, Manchester,

Rutland, Castleton, Whitehall, Sehagticoke, Union Village, Cambridge, Salem, Granville, Do, Corners Poultney, Orwell, Middlebury, Vergennes, Burlington, St. Albans, St. Johns, Montreal, Three Rivers,

Berthier, Cornwall, Quebec, Prescott, Brockville, Kingston, Belleville, Coburg, Port Hope, Oshawa, Erie, Ashtabula, Fredonia, Painsville, Cleveland, Elyria, Sandusky, Milan,

Akron, Massilon, New Lisbon, Wellsville, Toledo, Monroe, Detroit, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Niles, South Bend, Michigan City, Chicago,

Southport, Racine, Milwaukie, Chillicothe, Lafayette, Marshall, Memphis, Peora, Galena, Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Zanesville, Wheeling, Alton.

TO THE TELEGRAPHING PUBLIC.

It is for your own interest, as well as our convenience, that communications be PLAINLY WRITTEN—the cause of most all mistakes is traced to bad copy. Give FULL ADDRESS, name, street and number, to ensure prompt delivery, and your own address, under your signature, if you expect an answer. Use NO FIGURES, except date—they cost more, and are more unsafe than words. PREPAY always and if you wish to pay for your answer, say so under your address. We cannot always send your communication immediately: every office has its opportunity in regular order; your communication will be sent as soon as possible. Any complaint addressed to me at Utica, shall be promptly investigated.

SAMUEL PORTER, Supt. N. Y. Alb. & Buf. Telegraph.

New York, Dec 21st 1848

By Telegraph from Pittsfield

To E Cornell

We want some paper immediately and will you purchase some for us and send it to Pittsfield by Expreſs as soon as possible we want 3 more Instruments soon as can be got

Powers

Newburgh 21 Dec /48

Dear Brother

Your Com was recd last Evening Bristol & my self were much disappointed in not seeing you at Goshen. Bristol Started back with his men on tuesday to put up the 10 miles of poles near Big Eddy the poles are all up west of Washingtonville Nicholes still satands out in regard to the turnpike. I learn he does not own one cent of the stock in the road he is only agent for his mother who owns the stock and Mr Brooks told me she was in favour of the line going on the road. the President Mr Colwell called on Mr N but could do nothing with him I told him we should have to move the poles of them, he said if he were in our place he should go on and put them up

If we move them on the little Britton Road it is 11 miles, but if we can get Concent of the N Y & Erie R.R. Co to run 1½ miles on their Newburg branch from Washingtonville to Salsbury we can then run to Cornwell and the distance will be but 8 miles from Washingtonvin to Cornwell this will save 3 miles of poles and be much less distance to hall them, you had better see the proprietors of the Road at N.Y. before you come up and make arrangements to run on that 1½ miles of their road. I have got 3 teams Engaged to hall the poles as soon as you decide which way is best if we go by Cornwell we shall have nearly poles Enough,

N.B. the R.road is all graded ready for the track from Washingtonville to Salsbury so there will be no trouble if we can get the Cos Concent

I think you had better come from N.Y. to this place before you go to Goshen as the instalment will be due and we want to make arangments for paying for some poles immediately. Bristol wants you should write him at Narrowsburgh and let him know where he is to go after geting through there I suppose he had better go to Binghampton and commence puting up wire, Nutter will Commence puting the wire togather here

Yours Respectfully E. B. Cornell

To E Cornell Esqr

Mr E Cornell

New York City

care Wells & Co

E B Cornell
Decr 21, 1849

Salisbury Dec 21' 48.

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

Yours of the 17th is at hand & I hasten to answer it informing you that the Poles are all counted & paid for to this place & all bills as far as I know north of this — No doubt you have been advised of Mr Woods progress in putting Stations to work —

I am now on a tour of Collections & what sucess I may finally have remains yet to be seen tho I have Collected of Subscribers that Mr Power said he could not collect of & if I continue doing so I shall accomplish something in the end

I have seen some of the Scuot Subscribers & I have seen & Collected of the Lee Subscribers & all seems to be right. I see no reason to induce me to believe that this line will not close up quite satisfactory to most of all parties Concerned - Mr Power informed you of Mr Thayers position in relation to "Pole contract there is no fears to be apprehended from him"

As to your getting much money from the line this month I cannot reasonably give you much encouragement at the same time I shall do all that lies in my power to meet your wishes —

My last letter to you was written rather hastily while under partial excitement in reference to the position Wm H. Power had taken towards me in connection with some other matters of which I will speak to you in person more fully should there ever a proper time & occasion presents but I shall say nothing further of all this until this line is completed — but for the present shall rest content by referring you to O. E. Wood for an explanation of Powers treatment to me &c.

If you are in earnest "of which I have no doubt" in reference to selling out this line I think if I fully understand it I Could close some kind of bargain with you which perhaps might be advantageous to us both of this more anon —

Mean time believe me to be &c

Yours Truly
Oliver E Allen

E Cornell Esq
New Burgh
N.Y.

O E Allen Decr 21 1848

Troy Dec 21st 1848

Dear C.

Yours of 18th from Boston recd — very glad to hear of prospect of getting located where Cara will be more at home though I must say she has been really a philosopher and rarely appeared, as tho she were not contented — If there is strong probability that we can calculate on I will write Mother to not rent the house as Whitmore is quite anxious to occupy it another year & wants Mother to say she will rent it to him

Also as I have opportunity by friends going to Ithaca we could send such things as we could do without & save some little expense in moving — As early as convenient I should like to know about the time the change may take place.

The Troy & Montreal line I believe are not yet free from debt — They have been doing well till within 10 or 12 days past but is now decidedly dry, tho not so bad as before "the yankee line" was born

Troy & Whitehall — bad — bad I sent you Mowrys Com by telegraph stating that no money in his hands & that none could be collected till the Organization

meeting had taken place — Here is the
notice of said meeting.

Viz: A meeting of the stockholders
of Troy & Whitehall line will be held at
Salem on the 10th of Jany 1849 at One
Oclock P.M.

Signed L. Mowry

Says you must be present without fail

The line has been in operation 3 mos & of
the ~~business~~ earnings belonging to the line of the
business done with Troy office the
average per day is 3 or 4 cts short
of $1.50 though the first few days
diminish ~~this~~ the average considerably —
the past two months would probably
average about $1.75 or nearly —

Now I must close — Cara says
you have ~~her~~ uncontrolable thanks
for that letter from Boston & says if
you will continue to write such for
a few weeks she will serve you
to a big turkey a year from monday
if you will call on us —

W. F. Rice is here wants to see you bad
No more time

Truly Your Bro W. L.

Care Wells & Co No 10 Wall St

New York City

~~2~~

TROY N.Y. 22 DEC

20

ITHACA JAN 13 N.Y.

E. Cornell Esq

~~Ithaca~~ ~~Newburgh~~

N. Y.

M. L. Moore
Decr 21. 1849

Detroit 22d Decr. 1848

Dear Sir

Yours of the 10th from Boston was recd. yesterday. I knock under, heave to, give it up. you are ahead most decided, for big schemes, and nothing slower than a streak of lightning can keep up with you. I have read your plan over a good many times, and looked at it from every position I have been able to take, so as to see, if possible, all its features, and I have not yet been able to discover any ~~its~~ defects or deformities. On the contrary, I think I can see in it many advantages, and no serious difficulty in availing ourselves of them, and making it result in one of, or rather in the grandest Telegraph project yet devised, unleſs it be a scheme which I amused the people with at Monroe, of building a line to the mouth of the Columbia river, thence up the N.W. coast to Behrings Straights, thence through Siberia to St. Petersburg in Ruſsia, thence to Berlin in Pruſsia, thence through Belgium to Paris, and thence by Calais and Dover to London. The difference in the two plans is, that yours is practical, and can be executed, and mine is a century in advance of the time to accomplish it — If you can ~~accomplish~~ effect a sale

of Smiths Stock to the Bostonians & N. Yorkers,
it will effectually spike the artillery which has
so long been playing on him, and make
it exceeding difficult, if not impossible, for any
one else to raise the wind for an opposition line,
even after Morse's Patent expires. Your first
proposition is, for one wire, working in one circuit,
from Cleveland to N.Y. That is right, better,
much better, than from Fredonia. 2d a wire
from Cleveland via Ithaca & Albany to Boston.
How would you get to Albany from Ithaca? The
local business from Ithaca to Albany via
Cooperstown would be small, and I doubt
your right to go by way of Utica and thence
to Albany, but the through business would
be great, if all your plans should be perfected.
3d From Bu to Chicago, and from Cleveland
via Fort Wayne & Chicago to Milwaukee. This
I think subject to amendment. I would
have one wire, as we now have, working
in two circuits from Bu, to ~~Chi~~ Milwaukee, and one through
wire & one circuit from Bu to Chicago, connecting only
with Cleveland and Detroit. The distance
would be considerably more from Bu.
to Ch. by this city, & Central R Road, than
by the route you mention via Fort Wayne.
But the repairs would be much less on
this route than on that. When our poles

require replacing, our line should be moved from Kalamazoo on the RRoad to New-Buffalo, and thence on the shore of the Lake to Chicago, where they ought to have been put in the first place. A line from Fort Wayne to Mich City, where O'Riely's poles are set (100 miles & over) could not be kept up, it is nearly the whole distance through the Woods. When the Country is first settled, the trees are girdled, and in a few years the limbs are falling off, and the trees blowing down, so that it is almost impossible to keep a line up. We have quite enough of those troubles on this line: but from Fort Wayne to Cy. or South Bend, it would be vastly worse. but your bill is subject to amendment, I suppose, before its final passage. One line from Cleveland via Fort Wayne to St Louis is undoubtedly correct, and a most important line it will be, securing, beyond all contingencies the St Louis business with N.Y. & Boston. "I thank you for that idea Hal". I can get the St. Louis folks into that boat easy, Whether it will be advisable to go from Cleveland to Cincinati via Sandusky, or by the route of the new rail Road, now building, from Cleveland to Cincinati, is doubtful — The line from Cleveland to Cincinati will be a very important one, in connection with the line from Cin. to N. Orleans. If the N.O. business can be diverted over the line to Cin. & thence by the route you name to N.Y. & Boston, it will make the line from Cleveland to Cin. a good one, and it may be to our advantage to include as much of the E & Mich line in that circuit as possible. – On the Whole, the scheme is a noble one, and can be put into practical operation next year. Cleveland is a better place for a Western centre than any where else, as from that point you can reach the Atlantic, and the far West with only one rewriting. I had intended making the Capital Stock on the Toledo & St Louis route only $200 per mile; but I think it should be $250 per mile, the same as the Lake Line & N.Y. & E.

I reserved the right to put one wire on the Monroe & South Bend poles; but we will never want to use it, for the reasons stated above, that the Central R.R. Route, altho longer, is by far the easiest to keep up, & always will be.

Yours truly J. J. Speed Jr

Mr. E. Cornell Ithaca

I am told by Bu. Offs. that Tillotson has gone to Boston. I wanted him here so that I could get away but if you can see him to better advantage than I can, I can make it go alone.

J. J. Speed Jr
23 Dec. 1848

Humphreysville Dec 26 1848.

Mr Cornell.

I have not as yet received anything from you and I am remaining idle until you write I wish if possible and convenient you would let me know concerning the Birmingham Office. If you do not think that station will pay the salary I ask I will take any other one if you wish me. I presume there will be needed an assistant operator in the Bridgeport Office and if agreeble to you I should be willing to go there But if you have engaged anyone I shall be perfectly willing to go to any Office you may see fit to put me in. I wish at least that you would let me know wheather you want to engage so that I may get prepared for leaving home or if you do not wish me I should like to engage myself some where else. Please direct to me at this place. which is ten miles fm N. Haven & four fm Birmingham..

In haste &c

Edgar. M. Tomlinson.

E. Cornell. Esqr.

Milwaukee, Dec. 26, 1848.

E. Cornell, Esq:

Dr Sir: You have been, perhaps, astonished that you have not recd a letter from me advising you of my progress, &c. and may have come to the conclusion that I can make promises easier than keep them. The fact is, Wisconsin and all this section of country, since its settlement, has never experienced such prostration in business as during the last three or four months and is now suffering under. Had I supposed even one half of the difficulties would be experienced in collections, my operations in Telegraphing would have been much more limited. As the articles of Association, as amended by me, will permit of the organization of the Company when 100 miles are completed, I felt anxious to get that amount done, so that it might induce those who had paid a majority of their stock, to pay in full, and exercise their privileges. In extending it to Madison & Janesville, we will have done 115 miles about, and it will be finished then on or about the 10th of January, probably sooner. To extend it thus I have been compelled to purchase 5,500 lbs of Wire in this and the Chicago Market – the amt recd from you up to the 7th of ~~Nov~~ Decr the last wire ~~coming~~ being in the Ledge of the Lake, The last boat of the season, was 18,200 lbs. In order to use some 24 miles of this, I had to add the amt above stated, so as to get the Line in readiness by the opening of the session of the Legislature on the 10th hence the necessity of straining a point. In extending the line, hereafter, I shall not go a foot without the money in hand to pay - and as I go farther west, thro' the mining regions, this will be more easy as money is more plenty. Notwithstanding, how-ever, all these difficulties, the month of January will, I almost feel confident, enable me to meet home and foreign liabilities on account of the line.

I have the satisfaction of informing you that our line will stand, ~~with~~ for construction, equal to any line in the Country - and a review of it in the Spring, to repack posts, &c. will make it as perfect as can be expected.

I shall be most happy to hear from you, giving me such instructions as is necessary in organizing a Telegraph Line - giving me at the same time, a list of the lines in operation in the U. S. particularly those in your connection, with their rates of charges, &c.

With respect I remain
Truly yours obt. Svt.
Wm. Duane Wilson.

WAUKE
DEC
27

10

E. Cornell, Esq
Ithaca,
New York.

Wm D Wilson
26. Dec. 1848

Salisbury, Conn.,
December 28th 1848.

Mr E Cornell,

Dr Sir,

We are getting on quite as well as we anticipated in the way of *Starting the Line* as you have probably been informed by Mr O E Allen & we are now working as far South as this place & Saturday I intend going on to Cornwall where I should now have been but for the delay in the shipment of Wire from Bridgeport, Two weeks more with usual success I think will close us up to B, then I am at your bidding, Meantime I shall be obliged to call for a remittance from some one which Mr Allen said he would furnish me but I do not wish to take from him without an order from you. By reference to my a/c I finds my bill of Expenditures upon T & Whitehall Line amounts to just $20,10 my instructions were to remain from one to two days at each Station as I thot necessary, My other bill for Exp. upon this Line is a little more both bills I will send you however when you wish,

Hope to hear from you soon, Yours &c

Otis E. Wood

Mr E Cornell,

O. E. Wood

28. Decr 1848

Mr Ezra Cornell

Bridgeport Dec~ 31 '48

E Cornell Esqr

Dear Sir

I arrived here yesterday & find that there is still wanting some 7 or 8 1100 lbs Wire to finish up this line — As yet the wire has not come to hand much faster than Parker has wanted it for use which has wholely prevented putting on another set of hands to work north to meet him.

The line would have been done long ere this had the materials for building come to hand as I had good reason to expect — These delays have had a tendency to interfere with collections as well as to add extra cost to the amount required to complete the line. yet such delay I sincerely hope may not be attributeable to any lack of energy on my part as I endeavored early last fall to impress upon your mind the necessity of Contracting Wire &c early thereby avoiding all such unnecessary delays

There will be 3 more Instruments wanted as soon as they can be forwarded to this place — "One for Litchfield one for Waterbury & one for Birmingham

over