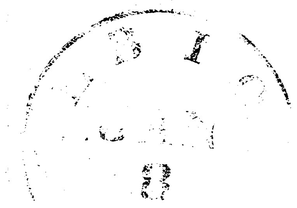

If I knew who the Wire was had of I could Telegraph & ascertain when the balance would be forwarded & perhaps I might facilitate business by knowing

What shall I allow Parker & Broman per day on settlement—

Let me hear from you immediately on rec't of this

I am in Haste

Respectfully Yours
Oliver E Allen

E Cornell Esq
Troy
N.Y.

O. E. Allen
30 Dec. 1848

Portland Dec 31st,, 1848

Dear Sir we have written to Speed and to you until we are tired of writing for the money you owe us. we perceive it does no good to make you acquainted with our wants, the money you owe us is worth more to us than dauble the Sum would be at other time, we owe for poles and Labour ~~and~~ are and liable to pay Costs. we have Telegraphed twice to Speed. all the answer we Can get is he will pay it before we Can Collect it by Law; now Sir if that is the answer we get we will try you first and See how mutch longer we are to be kept out of our hard Earnings, the amount Due with intrest now is $125.86 now if you See fit to Send us a Certificate of deposit on the Bank of Silver Creek or Westfield it will be Satisfactory otherwise we Shall Commence Suit on the 10 of January

yours with Respect
T, Tallman
William Tallman

E, Cornell Esq

we wrote to Speed on the receipt of your letter & no answer

P.S. Send a line as soon as you get this
Direct Portland
Wm and T, Tallman

D & Wm Palman
Portland My
31 Decr 1848

Cleveland O. 31st Decr 1848, 7 P.M.

My Dear Father

Your very kind favor of the 22nd inst written at Newburgh was gladly received yesterday morning. gladly because it was the first one in several weeks. I delayed writing you during the whole of last week on account of not hearing from you. Your decision about my future location &c is the same one I had hit upon, on the rct of your last letter written Boston Dec 10th which however was after I had written you about the NY office. My idea in going to New York was to be in the most important office thereby being able to be the most useful. but as you have appointed this office for the termination of so many circuits, this is of course the most important point and I am perfectly contented to remain here. This is a very pleasant place as you know, and I like the business men very much, so far as I am acquainted with them. which is by far the larger proportion of them. We have the ~~cus~~ patronage of the heaviest men here. the greatest majority of the Bank business. and if the other line survives through the next season I will warrant that we shall stand an equal chance with them, although they have a great many stockholders here. but I hope a compromise will be effected this winter which will terminate the controversy by our Company's getting both Lines, I fear if they are beaten by law they will put on House's instrument and close their intermediate offices and work only between this place & Buffalo and this & Detroit. if so when they are in order (for I fear they would be troubled by breaks) they will do the greatest part of the through business — but if we can by compromise get their Line into our hands and use it as a second wire it will put all opposition out of the way — What is your opinion on the subject? — and what is the prospect of a termination of the controversy — Business on the Line at present is very dull, and I fear for the last month we have not been paying expenses — This last week we commenced sending N York reports from Buffalo principally for Chicago and Milwaukie papers, but along the Lake we have succeeded in effecting our oponents quite materially by either taking papers away from them or obliging them to reduce their rates to a mere trifle — In Sandusky City ~~we~~ there are two daily papers — only one ever took reports of the other Line — owing to some trouble which the other one had with the Line — Now we have got both of those papers at the same price that the other Line got from the one — viz .50c each, making $1. per day from both —

In this city there are four dailies - the "Herald". "Plain Dealer" - "Democrat" & "Times" - the Herald is the most able & popular. and is the only one which has been taking reports of the O'B Line - but I have his custom now at the same terms as the other Line - the Plain Dealer & Herald have had some difficulty lately about the Presidents Message. So when the H came here after reports the P.D. went to the other Line who furnish it to them at a very small sum & I am not sure but they give it them - We have also beaten them in Detroit, Erie and Toledo - by this operation we have cut them out of at least $10. per day - We do not get enough on the Lake line to pay for sending it but Chicago & Mil gets well paid - It may be an object to send reports (if we can spare time) as long as they are in the way but after that I think we lose money by sending the markets - because we should get enough more business to double the sum we could get for reports - one firm in Buff. last summer ~~used to~~ paid us from $4 to $7 dollars each day for sending simply the Bu market, which he would have had no occasion to do if we had sent reports. and in a brisk time I believe it would make $30 if not $40. difference each day in the buss - In the summer season I think I should abolish reports altogether - (?)

over

You speak of Col Speeds promise to allow me to visit home. It is the same he voluntarily gave me two months nearly ago, but I told him I thought I should prefer to delay until spring. I shall try to go as soon as the Lake is open in the spring so as to return before business begins to be brisk. — Mr Lee is still with me and I do not know how long he will remain. He is not needed in the least and so I wrote Col Speed who said he would "give him a job soon." I do not know what he intends to set him at. Mr L is an excellent book keeper, but as he has a wife and child he would be too expensive for the assistant in this office even if he were needed — as his board alone is costing him $400. per year. and he would want at least $800. per year salary, which I understand from you is the highest salary for operators on the Line. I think it will be best for Mr Palmer who is now in the Erie office to come here in the spring if any help is needed as he would come here cheaper than any one else ~~this~~ being his home & he would be one of the most valuable persons I know of for the office —

I have said nothing to Col S about him but shall soon. or rather when there is a prospect of soon requiring assistance— I think it will be a fine thing and perhaps the best which could be done for Uncle M.S. to be Supt of N Y & E Line— Do you intend to have all of the Line this side of Fredonia on N Y & Boston lines belong to the E & M Co?— You speak of a Line to Nashville Tenn via Sandusky & Cincinatti— as I said in my last why not go direct to Columbus & Cin from here via Medina Wooster & Mansfield— which would be a more direct Line than from here via Sandusky. and would take in several important places, and I learn there are none between Sandusky & Cin without going out of the way considerable, But in the first place you will be obliged to put some body besides these Jacksons on here to do anything— ——

I see the Cholera is approaching the Lakes on every side— both east & south. it is now in Cincinatti & all the way up the Miss. river. what do you think of it? Can there be any danger where a person takes care of himself? —— Please write often— With ~~the~~ a "Happy New Year" to you I will close—

Yours Very Affectionately A. B. Cornell

E Cornell

Sunday Dec 3d. 1848
Ithaca 7. P.M =

E. Cornell Esqr D^r Sir I find in closing up my accounts here that I am unexpectedly Bankrupt = You must oblige me, by sending by the bearer the sum of Fifteen dollars, which amount will be immediately forwarded to you from "Buffalo Office" to any point you may name — Please also to inform me what time in the morning we are to start In haste

Very Respectfully Yrs
E.G. Morgan

D.J.J. says we are to go at 7 O'clock = I hope Mr C. you will accept the above draft to night for I cannot go without it
M

E. Cornell Esqr
Fall Creek

Answer by messenger =

E. G. Morgan
31 Dec 1848

Albion Dec 31st 1858

My Dear Brother

Your very kind but short letter of the 27 inst came to hand several weeks since, but I have neglected to answer it until now, for which neglect I beg you ~~to~~ will for-give me. This is the first time that I have [illegible] to address you by letter, and I feel rather diffident in subjecting my poor writing spelling and composition to your criticism, but I do so requesting you to point out all my defects, and the propper course for me to take to improve in letter writing &c. We are all enjoying good health except Mary, her health is very poor, but better than it was some time since. I am very happy to hear that Mother has got a new cellar, as I think it must be a great deal more convenient for her to do her work and also that she gets along so well in keeping things in their propper places while I am gone. Phebe says that she can sympathise with her.

We have as fine sleighing here at present as anyone could wish, but it does not do us any good as we have no way to improve it, Tomorrow is New Years and Phebe has been making great preparation for receiving New Years calls as you doubtless know she is one of the upper Ten of Albion, John and I are attending School at the

Wesleyan Seminary. You say that Elizabeth is taking lessons of her Mother in cookery, I am glad to hear it, for I think cookery is an important branch of ones Education, and that her Mother is a compitant teacher of the art, but you must not forget that you promised to let her come out here in the Spring to study Bottany. I hope Marion will have a good chance to attend School and that she will go long enough to do her some good. I dont think she will improve much if she only goes one Term, I should suppose that Betsey Ann could spare M. as well as not, as her Mother is with her.

W, B, left here two days since for Detroit, he will return tomarrow. Ezra I believe you belong to the "Sons of Temperance" and if so, I will inform you that there has been a society organized in Albion called "Daughters of Temperance" and that Phebe and I have joined and like it first rate. We hold our meetings once in two weeks at the Sons Hall. Our members are among the first Ladies of Albion.

I do not think of anything more to write that will be likely to interest you and will conclude with a request that you will answer this soon.

Please give my respects to all who may inquire.

Yours Respectfully
Jane Cornell.

E. Cornell Esq.
Ithaca

Dear Sir

Agreeable to your request I write to you at Burlington, I have been very much pressed for want of funds went to the Bank friday night and offered your order again, but was refused. Mr Black said he had no orders. I asked him to refer to P's letter he did so & read it to me. it was as he stated, he said you told him there would be a letter from P. tuesday last. I told ~~then~~ men there would doubtless be money in a day or 2. they said they should quit had been to work 3 weeks & had had no money yet & must have some immediately some had families and depend upon their labor to live. I did not know what to do was out of funds & among strangers. could get none for 2 days succeeded in getting $10 which took me to Manchester. which was friday night. the hands got together Sat morn and concluded not to work any more. I told them no doubt but that I should have money in a day or too that I had writen to you & would doubtless get answer friday night. none came; Mr Black informed me that he had received a letter from P but nothing said about cashing your orders. I told the men that if there was no letter in Sat north mail I would go to Troy and see if I could do any thing ~~to go on~~ they agreed to go to work and if I got money by Monday they would go through with me

I could do no more than go, for I had no means to go any
farther, & thought I should find you in Troy Sunday, I told
them if they would go to work I would go, I took stage & went
found you had left the same eve for Canada. Came back
I told them the result. They refused to work any longer
I then went to one of the director of Bank he took at
the order & said he would see the Cashier and probably they
would Cash one of them, which would help me till I heard
from you again I told the men so 5 went to work 5 quit
I got $100 dollars today and let the men have some, but only
5 stay with me, the Cashier got orders today 1 oclock to Cash
3rd Mr Gardner came up 26th and contracted for 11 poles
said they were all fill up we came along up and found
about 2½ miles with no poles. I had no contracts
I could find out nothing about it. since then
I received the contracts and find a mistake in
drawing on the poles. Yesterday went and contracted
for the poles, 15 pay 58 cts apiece the rest 45 as cheap
as I could get they will be on so that we can set them
friday, have labored under great inconvenience had
to go some of the time 3 miles to board have got all
the poles up to Manchester street holes dug 3 miles
beyond. Write Me at East Dorset let me know
if I have done right and what shall do next

Yours in haste

J Northrop

J Northrop

Mr Butler delivered Telegraph poles enough to fill the space of about two miles for which I agreed to pay him forty Cents apiece — This Section was North of West Cornwall

John McKinney

Mr Heart delivered Telegraph poles to fill the space from where Mr Butler left off to Mr Hitchcocks Tailor Shop at forty five Cents apiece

McK

Mr Bradford delivered enough to reach one mile at 37½ cents apiece for which I agreed to offset against one fourth of a share of Stock

McK

Watertown Oct 12th Mr Atwood agreed to deliver Chesnut Tel poles enough to fill the space from Mr Hemmenways inn in Watertown and Mr Thompsons inn in Waterbury it being a distance of about six miles for 37½ cents apiece

The aforenamed Atwood lives about two miles south of Watertown Enquire of Mr Hemmenway

McK

Memorandum of
poles delivered without
written contracts

5/2411

2241 1

I hereby agree to deliver
Telegraph poles on the turnpike commencing
176 feet from Telegraph pole left by Mr Mann
near Mr Nichols line in Naugatuck and end
at Mr Shermans house about two miles south
on said turnpike of the following dimensions
viz said poles to be either Chesnut White Oak
or Butternut and to be 25 feet in length
and 5 inches in diameter at the top or
small end and to be sound straight well
trimmed and delivered on said route at a
distance of 176 feet apart and to be delivered
on or before the 3d day of November next for
which E Connell agrees to pay the undersigned
Mr Hull the sum of forty five cents apiece
on or about the time said poles are
delivered

L S Hull
E Connell
Per J McKinney

Hull
South
Naugatuc
No. 11

1848 [?]

Stockbridge Aug 21st

I hereby agree to deliver Telegrafe poles bitwene Mr Browns Inn in Lee and the top of the Mountain about four Miles from Stockbridge Commencing 176 feet from Mr Browns Inn and End where the road turns off at the left on the aforesaid Mountain to be strewed on said rout at a distance of 176 feet apart said poles to be Either Chestnut White oak Hemlock black ash or Tamarack and to be [illegible] feet in length and five inches in diameter at the top or small end to be straight well trimed and delivered on or before the 16th day of September next for which E Cornell agrees to pay the undersigned when so delivered the sum of forty five Cents a piece

E Cornell
Per John McKinney

D. F. Goodrich

D Sir

Above you have Draft for Twenty five Dollars Which I hope will enable you to procure & forward us in time all the materials necessary for us to go into operation, provisions we can get the Wire up.

We have about 18 Inches Snow & it is now Snowing & cold — Please acknowledge Rec't of above — Respectfully yours

J. J. Hatton

E. Cornell Esq
No. 10. Wall St. New York
Care of Livingston & Wells

Faxton
1845

Whereas Geo W Patterson and others of the Village of Westfield in the County of Chautauque have advanced one thousand dollars to aid in the completion of the Erie & Michigan Telegraph. It is hereby agreed that said Geo. W Patterson and all other persons who ~~may~~ have contributed towards the payment of said thousand dollars, shall have the privilege of using said Erie & Michigan Telegraph for one year, at the usual rates of charges, or until they shall have recd the amount thus advanced by them - And if at the expiration of one year from date the said Geo W Patterson and all other persons who shall have paid any part of the thousand dollars above mentioned, shall not have recd, the amount thus advanced by them in Telegraph postage as above provided. We Ezra Cornell of the Village of Ithaca in the State of New York and J J Speed jr of the City of Detroit, do hereby bind ourselves our heirs & assigns to pay to said Geo. W Patterson and all other persons who shall have made advances as above mentioned, the amount paid by each and every one of them with the interest, which they may not have received in Telegraph postages as above provided -

Witness our hands & seals

this 1848

J J Speed jr

If the above is satisfactory notify me, by mail or Telegraph and the office shall be opened at Westfield immediately - If not satisfactory, Mr Patterson will please return this to me at Detroit by mail - J. J. S. Jr

Westfield arrangemt

Woodville "New Years" 1849

Dear ABC

Recd Clevd Jany 8 '49
answd 19

"I wish you a happy new year", Well I do
All at home seem to feel fine & are in the Enjoyment of tolerable health — I saw your father day before yesterday at home, well & he goes east again today all of which you have learned from him probably — A few days since I rcvd a letter from ML & Casa & a good one it was I assure you — Another from J. S. Bristol & in it that he requested me to send you the Note which he sent me to collect of Doct Williams in Clvd — I called upon the Doct just before I left there & he said he supposed it was paid long time ago as he left bsns with an agt in I Falls to settle ~~his bsns~~ & now before he paid it he wished to make some inquiry — He also plead poverty & wished me to hold on a while

Please call on him & give him ahr try then inform J. S. B at Binghampton NY; if you write soon — My bsns for which I came home has been delayed in

Jonathan Dunham
Dryden NY Jany 1st '49
Answered

consequence of bad weather & it is yet unfinished whereas it might have been all done up in good order in the fall if I could have come home when I wanted to

I shall now probably remain at home 1, 2 or 3 months yet & in the mean time I am doing quite a buss in the singing line at which I make $1.50 per day clear of expense

Grant Morgan I understand is at home, I wonder what for?

It is now the time when "C" expected to open conversation with NY City — I wonder if he sees a hole thro yet? Give my Yankee, good Rps for me, & Palmer too with the others all. It was never better sleighing here than now & some pretty snappish weather — I wonder if "BJ's" fingers keep limber as ever yet thro the cold weather Ask him how many dots he can put in a square acre — How does "ABu" flourish? Write me again soon & tell me all you can

Yours, certainly J. Dunham

Take good care of the "Double Gothic" & inform me when they find out "who's Gov" — Rps to my friend Coon Sub Editor

Newburg Jan 1 1849

Dear Brother

As I am about to start for home I will enclose the recds which I have not collected in order that you can have them if you should want before I get back. In the mean time let me hear from you at Ithaca

I have collected $390. which I have used for paying hands and and paying for poles &c I get along with Nichols by moving about 2 miles of poles and running from Mortons mill 3 miles West of New Winsor down to intersect the line a little south of the covered bridge between N. Winsor and Cornwell Nutter will go to puting up the poles as soon as he gets the wire up to Butter hill as there is no wire ordered on the other side of the river will you see to geting the shiped to the different landings south of Newburgh

Yours &c E. B. Cornell

Bro. E C

390—

E. Cornell Esqr

Newburgh

N.Y.

144
36
864
432
5184

13
6½
19½

144
20
3880

28
2000
56000
1
57000
6
342000

E B Cornell
Jany 1. 1849

Enfield Jan 1st /49

E. Cornell

Dear Sir

I heard last Saturday you was to be in Ithaca that day & thought I could drive home before you would leave I got home last night ~~about~~ 12 oclock & this morning got to your house about two hours to late my horse very tired or I should have overtaken you & then I was satisfied you had made all necessary provisions for the progress of the work But then there is other things that I would like to see you about For instance Bixbys work I fear he is not as particular as he should be a number of poles has fell over 5 or 6 feet in putting the wire on them & some that are braced, this shows carlessness for a man can brace a pole when he cannot dig but this is not the trouble it is good diggin. I tried to have Baily let Musters set the poles but this he would not agree to but said if he would dig he might come on The fact is no man can set 85 or 90 poles well in a day if the holes are 5 feet & then he is carless all the ends some poles 9 inches at top are not champered & 12 miles of poles with no pins & the pins 1 1/2 miles from there his excuse was you did not get poles on as you agreed & he would not run after pins these the wire boys have to bore out they are filed with ice, But I fear you will think me to particular I hope it will prove so when you see the line You Spoke of there not being wire enough for all the line & to leave a Space between Bath & Dansville for some that you would send to Jefferson on going over the line and getting the distance I think there will be enough. The wire left at Jefferson went 10 miles from there to Fredonia by way of the line is 133 miles now there is 16 tons at Dansville & Mount Morris, & Allen at Buffalo tells me there is 3 tons there & 6 at Silver Creek in all 25 tons this he says is for this line & if so there is enough & I think I will have the wire at Dansville brought on east & commense putting on wire where we left off We are now waiting for glass how much of a hindrance it will be you can best judge Bailys quitting for the snow has put us back with the poles I did not know as he was coming back and had got a gang of men all ready to go to work when he came back Chas has turned this side of Lodi Seting towards Springville. The wire last Saturday was up from Dansville to Nunda. What Shall I do about reg when we get to Dansville or rather operator Shall I put up reg & let it remain or leave them out, until you come on, Also who makes selection of offices & operators They have asked me at different Stations, & appear to be waiting for some information but as I did not know your calculations I advised them to wait for your

I have got the 16 tons of wire Solderd & contracted to be deliverd on line that at Buffalo I have waited to hear from you to know what situation it was in but I think now I will see to it and get it out, while the snow is on

Where is your batterys, Zinc Porus cups &c & where do you have the next main Battery from Ithaca will you give me directions abt this & also send platinum I will get on as fast as possible with the line & if you can send me the battery & fix it so we can open offices as fast as we come to them they will be better satisfied I believe I have got the right side of all & I would like to keep it. In relation to offices at Bath Springville & Leoli I do not know what to say but I think that any person going there & make it a business could get stock easily when I pass through I am frequently asked when we are going to send some one to attend to stock but I have given them to understand it made but little difference to us whether they took the stock or not & I think when the wire runs through that they will wake up

I go back to morrow morning & will write if any thing new takes place if you will say where I can hit you write me at Dansville with all information in relation the line

Yours Respectfully S L Holmes

E, Cornell Esqr

Holmes
Jany 1. 1849

White Plains Jan'y 1st 1849

E Cornell Esq

Sir I received yours of the 5th Dec last that you would call in a few days and pay me for the Telegraph poles on the first Section between White Plains and Tarrytown but I have received no money from you I wish you therefore to take the earliest convenience to call and settle for them

You will reccollect that these poles where to be paid for on the 10th Sept last and you failed to make your word good when at my house you then said you would return from Capt Smiths and pay me for them if not settled for by the middle of this month I shall Endeavor to take my pay out of the Poles on that Section

Yours Alex C Tompkins

WHITE PLAINS
JAN
2
N.Y.

5

E Cornell Esq

Ithica

Tompkins Co
N Y

Alex C Tompkins
Jany 1. 1849

Erie and Michigan Telegraph Line,

FROM BUFFALO TO MILWAUKEE.

Office in Merchants' Exchange, up Stairs.

☞ ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. ☜

All Communications must be written out in full plain writing, and no figures used except, for date. The address and number of the street to be given fully.

No Communication will be received unless *pre-paid*, except where the parties sending desire to pay the answer.

Ithaca

~~Buffalo~~, Jany 2 1849 o'clock, M.

By Telegraph from

To E. Cornell Esqr Dr Sir

I have made a draft on you as specified - Your letter was a queer one at least. - If what you say is serious, then I most Earnestly plead "not guilty" to the charges prefered = I have always felt my dear Sir the want of a "guardian", & hope I have found one in the persons of my present Employers

Very respectfully in haste Yours

E Morgan

Mr E. Cornell

Buffalo Jany 2d 49.

Dear Sir

The line between T. and N. is down today consequently have not yet heard from the Co. — Morgan has not returned ~~yet~~, Allen says ~~you~~ he is to have $600. per ann. — that he wrote you so, while he was engaged on the Canada line and that you said nothing to contrary. he therefore expects it, and will insist on it, for the past year — I like him very well, but unless he can remain for $500. at most, I should say we will supply his place with another. Shall do nothing in the premises till I see Co. S. or hear from you. The business of this office is very little more than Milwaukee, and the whole expenses of Operators other help and Messengers, should not exceed 8 to 900$ —

Business on the whole line is dull and has been so for 3 weeks — hope it will increase —

The exp. of the N.Y. A&Bu. office here for help is 16 to $2000. — we cannot well afford any thing like that, unless the Stockholders steal for a living —

Very truly &c

L. G. Tillotson

D T Tillotson
2d Jan. 1809

Detroit 3 Jany 1849

Dear Sir

I returned home last evening - I find that there has been a mistake about drafts - Buffalo notified Haviland of your draft on me at Patchin Bank, and Haviland supposing that I might not know of it, Telegraphed me that you had drawn on me for $500 payl the 23d, but did not say where the draft was payable - I supposed it was a second draft payable here, and sent Haviland $400 to make out the amt. Place also drew on me for $135.29 and also for $423.95 Haviland was sick, and unable to sit up - The boys supposed I sent the money to pay Places drafts, and by mistake (all round), Places drafts were paid, - altho I had Telegraphed Haviland not to accept Places drafts - I thought it strange that you should draw two drafts of $500 each on me, the one payl at Bu & the other at Detroit when I was in the South part of Ohio: but I supposed you had got into a tight place and to save your credit, as I supposed, I made extra efforts to obtain the money & sent it to Haviland - The result is, that Place has got the money intended for you, and is over paid near $300 - The account with Place is as follows.

Paid his draft - for	$135.29	
do —— do	423.95	
Cash sent by D Sexton	200.	
	$759.24	
By Sundry traps bought by Tillotson for E & M line which were worthless	135.29	
8 Registers & Relays @ 40	320.	455.29
over paid		$303.95

Place ought to pay damages on the Insts which I kept, for I paid Wall (at Cleveland) three dollars for work on one Register before we could use it, and the whole of them were rough, ill made things - Hotchkiss owes Place for Insts, and I will get the money & send it to you, and you must settle the account with Place - I have also told Rev

to send you money for the last he had instead of sending it to Place -
I notified Place that I wanted no more of his traps & he ought not to have taken the $200 sent by Saxton as he knew he had all his pay & more too without it - It was a sad blunder made here, & I can only say that Haviland's sickness was the cause of it. The amount is not so great but I think it may all be got back. I would not however ride night & day & pay half per cent at Massillon for funds on a check on Zanesville Bank, had I known it was to pay Place what I did not owe him -

Smith and Kendall both blow me up & say I have exceeded my powers &c. I have worked like a slave to get money to send to Smith - Have got less than I expected, but will get the balance due him in a few weeks. The Printers have dogged me for four years, and I have fought all the time in hot water, but after doing all I could to get money for Patentees, & protect their rights, I do not get as much reward as "watch" does for chasing the hogs out of the corn, He gets patted on the head and called "good fellow", I get cursed by my friends for not doing more — I will still do every thing in my power to collect the balance due for Patent on all lines which you or I have sold: but I will at the same time most cheerfully comply with your commands from Smith, & Sell no more, or engage in any more lines under Morses Patent. If you can fight off payment for Ky. & E line for two years, I will guarantee its successful working, after that, without the slightest violation of Morses rights — I will have the instruments I want to complete Zanesville line in a few days which will cost no more than Haceys, and I would not give one for ten of his —

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

No line on earth ever worked more beautifully than E&M line does now —

J J Speed Jr
5 Jany 50

New York Jany. 4 1849 —

Mr E. Cornell

Dear Sir —

Your favor of Dec 30. I have just recd — I will furnish the Am Line the 12000 pounds of No. 10 wire at 6¾ Cents without any discount you guaranteeing the payment — 15 pr Ct I will take in N Y & E Telegraph Stock and the balance in Cash in 90 days — I will commence upon it in a few days. — I recd a Telegraph Communication from you a day or two since — our mill has been stopped since Christmas to repair the Engine — We started today — We sent the Bridgeport 2700 lbs wire on Tuesday and will get the balance forward as soon as possible

Yours truly
Charles Ely

12000
36 6¾
72000
6000
3000
81000
10
8100
40.50
121.50

810.00
121.50
$688.50

Wire 6¾
Guarantee ¼
7.00

Auburn January 5. 1849

Mr. E Cornell

Dr Sir

Yours of 25th of Dec from Pittsburgh also of the 1st of January from Ithaca came to hand last evening –

I recd an order from Mr. Bordman some days since with direction to collect the 2d instt on the Telegraph Stock I hold it subject to the order of the Trustees – I wrote him saying that I had recd direction from you to pay to Baily $50. & to Holmes as much as he wanted – on a careless perusal of your letter from Albany I had so construed it – but on looking it over again I found that your direction did not go beyond the 10 per cent. I had already let Mr. Baily have $50 & Mr. Holmes $300. & I then saw that I had not followed your instructions but I relied upon having done it in good faith, & believing that you would receive the avails through Mr. Holmes – for the ultimate satisfactory result –

I recd information a day or two since from Mr. Bordman that the Trustees had given you a general order to draw all the money here – & on receiving yours of the 1st inst before mentioned - I shall now let Mr Holmes have all he wants without further instructions - unless you otherwise direct.

I shall not now have any other difficulty in collecting the whole amount than, perhaps a little delay arising from the scarcity of money - this with us is severe now -

We should be happy to see you here if it should be convenient & for your interest to do so - Mr Holmes has informed me that the stock holders here will be relied up to procure an office - & appoint an operator &c as we are all wholly ignorant of the operations of a company of this kind - we do not know what to do or say - Mr H also advises that the wires should be run into a printing office or something of that kind where the operator may have other matters to engage his attention. but as our printer is not the right kind of man - we have no such place to put it at present - We understood you that the Company would furnish the office & operator - & therefore we did not feel authorized to make any contract without instructions - upon this whole subject we therefore want information -

I have made up my mind

to have the wires for the present run
into a vacant room attached to my
office. I Continue it there until I see
you, & then such Change Can be made
as shall be desired. Many enquiries
are made of me. who is to be the
operator? - what salary will he have?
&c &c. All of which as you know I am
unable to answer.

Please let me hear from
you as often as you have leisure to
Communicate such information as
we ought to have on the whole subject.

Most Respectfully
Yours &c

A. J. Dagby

B Bayley
5 July 1849

West Cornwall, Conn.
January 5th, 1849.

Dear Bro' E.,

I have been requested by Mr Jas. A Allen, who has been for some weeks past, preparing himself as a Telegraph Operator, under the instruction of Mr H C Gilbert of the Auburn Office, to exert such influence as may lie within my power toward procuring for him a Station upon the N York and Erie Line or upon any other where the compensation would warrant him to take hold of it.

Mr Allen is a native of our own County and from my acquaintance with him I am led to believe he is a young man of good business qualifications and one in whom the most implicit confidence may be placed and could you make an arrangement to give him an office upon some one of the lines under your control you will confer an obligation which will be duly appreciated by him and none the less so by me.

Mr A can procure from Mr Gilbert sufficient testimonials respecting competency &c to take charge of any office & will accept such a one as you may see fit to offer him at a reasonable salary

By placing this in its order and giving it such weight as circumstances will admit you will much oblige — Yours in haste, O. E. Wood.

O. E. Wood
5 Jany 1849

Mr. E. Cornell.

Detroit 5 Jany 1849

Dear Sir

Yours of Dec 22d came ~~Saturday~~ last. but Wood had just come to our house, and as I had not seen him before since you was here last August, I had no time Sunday to reply to you. Monday I left here for Flat Rock, half way to Monroe, and put up a Register there. Have our Messenger there, for the purpose of repairing line. I have been so vexed and bothered between here and Monroe, that I determined to have the means of winding up, when down, by putting a register at the half way station. I pay but one dollar per month for Rent & fuel at the P office, and altho we will get but little business at Flat Rock, the expenses will be but little, and we can never be down more than half a day at a time. As to making a dividend, our receipts ~~this~~ last month ~~have~~ were ~~been~~ so small that I fear we will have hard digging to pay the balance due by Spring, without making a divident. but for several days past our business has revived again, and I hope for the balance of the winter it will keep up as good as it is now.

you are entirely right in saying we had better use the six tons of wire on Cin line, if we cannot get cash for it Elsewhere. I think we can get the money Early in the Spring. either on the San & Columbus route, or on the Jackson & Lansing route. If the Mich. Legislature give us an appropriation, as I hope they will, I want to use that wire on that route in March — I will soon know whether they will do so or not. —

I would like to get the Cin & S. line out of Capes hands, if the fight with the Pirates is ended: but if that millstone is to hang on our necks an other year, it will be an up hill business for any one to get the funds to build that, or any other lines, in this Country — If the public knew as much about the rascals as you do, they would do no harm: but you know that Mrs public is a fickle jade, ~~and~~ Easily frightend & as nervous as an old maid —

You are going on gloriously with the N.Y. & Erie, & if any one Else besides yourself thinks I use an extra supply of "soft solder" let them try to do the same thing and they will admit that I am right — I still say that if you can have the line in good working order by 1st of Apl, it will be glorious — and as soon as any one ought to expect it —

I doubt the policy of getting O.S. Wood to superintend this line at two thousand dolls per year — If I can have Tillotson I am confident we can manage this line _well_; and not require a great deal of _my_ _time_. Tillotson will be satisfied with one thousand dolls per year, and with my aid can get as much money out of the business as Wood can — I think we have better keep M B Wood on the West end of the line to repair, and keep things in order at the offices; and we will have to employ just such a man on the East end from here to Buffalo. The inch pins in the poles _will break off_, the caps _will get off_, and all the white lead in Mich. wont keep them on. The Express men have done our business free, and we have Tel for them free: but if we keep Wood on the West End, & some one Else on the East end, we can do all our own business ourselves, and the express would be compelled to pay us from five hundred to a thousand dolls a year for doing their business — I cannot learn much about Wilsons operations & mean to go out there when Tillotson gets back — He is now at Erie & will be here next week —

You and I do not differ in the amt to be paid for O.R. line, you say 50. per mile — and consequently $50 per mile more for Patent, which makes the $100. — and that is what you are willing to allow for it as I understand it — I wrote Smith that I had rather have $40 per mile than O.R line. but $50 is quite enough

Last night our line worked well both ways and I determined to try an experiment after we had our business all off — We connected the two lines, and worked through from Buffalo to Chicago, as well as we ever did to Buffalo or Cleveland — I am fully satisfied from our trial last night that there is not the least difficulty in working from Chicago, from St. Louis, & from Cincinnati directly to N.Y. & Boston without rewriting at Cleveland, if we can have a through wire, connected with no office except Cleveland & Ithaca from Cin. & St. Louis to N.Y. & Boston; and with Detroit, Cleveland, & Ithaca, from Chicago to N.Y. & Boston — Such an arrangement would inevitably secure the business of Cin. & St Louis with the East, & no other line could compete with us, unless they do the same thing —

What is the matter with Gov. Seward? Is there any probability of his ever getting a hearing before Judge Nelson? I do not believe that the Pirates will surrender without another broad side, and I think they were playing possum in Smith. Every body who has had any thing to do with O R has become tainted, and so thoroughly imbued with rascality, that it is useless to try to negociate with them. Urge Seward to go ahead — they will never give up, until they are forced to do so —

Yours truly J. J. Speed Jr

Mr E Cornell

J J Speed Jr
6 Jan 1849

Albion Jany 5th 1849.

Dear Brother

Your kind favor of the 10th of Dec, came duly to hand some days since, for which, allow me, to present to you, my sincere thanks, assuring you that we were glad to receive a statement of affairs in old Tompkins Co and to hear that so good a degree of health is existing with you, but sorrow to hear that Deborah is so poorly, I trust however that before the recpt of this she will be fully recovered and restored to her usual health, We are all liable to ill health and therefore should be thankful that we are blessed with as good health which we are, My health was never better than it is this Winter and I am happy to inform you that the health of our friends here have greatly improved within the past few days and indeed we feel quite like getting along,

I was glad to hear that you are going to School this Winter, and, I hope you will use your time to the best possible advantage, and remember that we cannot put to high an estimate on the value of time, I was also glad to hear that Norman is spending an other Winter in Ithaca, as he probably spends his time as pleasantly at the "Far famed Ithaca Academy" as he would any where, pleas present to him my best respects and say to him I should be *very* glad to hear from him by the way of a letter, I am attending

School this Winter at the Wesleyan Seminary an institution under the mannagement of the Methodist. I like the place very well, and I should not be surprised if I stay here some time. I suppose you would like to see a statement of affairs around Homer where you used to live, and, to give you the true idea of them would be by saying they there as well as here assume the same or a similar tenor as they did when you left here with the exceptions of course of some few changes which must necessarily take place in that length of time. Hotchkiss is west at work on a line of telegraph which is being built between Milwaukee & Galena and his Son as a School mate of mine, or rather I should say attends the same School.

Hiram is busy this winter clearing of land for breaking up in the Spring and is getting along finely with it. he has a hired man which with him self makes a full team. Phebe has gone to Homer to day and has left Jane and my self here to take care of the Children, and you can better imagine how we get along with it than I can describe it. Mart has gone west to repair the line &c and will be gone three or four weeks as he expects to have to go to Milwaukee before he returns. George Robertson is teaching the Albion School this winter and Orris is at home to work on the farm. I was some what surprised to hear that you had no sleighing in Ithaca when you wrote me, as we have had fine Sleighing the most part of the time since the 1st of December, something quite rare for this country. We have now as beautiful sleighing as I ever saw, and I think, as snug winter weather for two weeks past as I ever saw. The snow is about sixteen inches deep on the level and a fair prospect for more. Where is E.B.? please inform me, and also inform me how they are progressing with the New-York & Erie line. I suppose however they are getting pretty well towards the close by this time, as I rec'd a letter a few days since from S. A. Holmes saying he thought they should finish it by this time or a little after. Please give my best regards to all who may enquire and present my love to Father & Mother.

Yours Respectfully

Jno. H. Cornell

Ezra Cornell
Ithaca N.Y.

Mr Ezra Cornell,
Ithaca,
Tompkins Co,
New York,

Jno H. Cornell
Jan 5th 1849

Collins Center Jan. 5th 1849.

Friend Cornell

Sir I received yours of the 22d Dec. and I must say that it was a source of great pleasure for us to here from you at that time. When I received it we was within a mild of the Posts on the other line. It invigourated us with fresh courage to press on with the work.

We are now on our way back towards Home we have got 6½ Miles East of Gowanda and are rushing things as fast as possible under the present circumstances. the snow here has drifted very bad along the fences. and makes a great hinderance. We are however bound to go through if nothing presents itself than snow or rain. I should like to here from as soon as we get to Springville if not before. I saw Holmes a day or two before I received your last. He was on his way to Fredonia and Silver Creek to make some arrangements in refferance to wire. I heard that the boys had got the wire all up to Munda on Saturday last and was still coming on west with it. Please Remember me to my Friends if any you see.

Yours &c.

E. Cornell.

Ja. S. Thomas

Mr Jo. L. Thomas
Jany 5. 1819

Albion Jan 6th 1849

Dear Liz

I rec'd your very kind letter of the 24th inst last night, and as this is saturday evening and I have nothing paticular to busy myself about I am going to answer it. We are all enjoying midling good health with the excepttion of bad colds. Marys health is improveing although she is far from bing well, I have not been up there in some time as I am attending School and have my time prety much occupied. We are all very sorry to hear that you are having such a time of sickness around Fall Creek as your letter states, you must all be kind and help one another and get well as fast as posible.

I suppose you are getting to be quite expert in house-keeping, I hope I shall have the pleasure of eating some of your good victuals before meny years rolls around on the swift wheels of time, by the by that puts me in mind of New-Years and I will tell you how we spent the day, before I answer anymore of your letter.

Well to begin, we got up New-Years morning at half past 5 and had breakfast at 6 the same day, aftre breakfast we flew around like everything to get the work done for we were going to receive calls from the Gentleman Well we got our work all done and the table spread by half past 9, now allow me to tell you what we had on the table. we had a new fine linnen table cloath on

and china dishes pound cake fruit cake jelly cake
and cookes besides crackers and chees tarts and caffee &c
well aftre setting the table we combed our hair and
dressed, took our work sat down in the parlor to wait
patiently, well about half past 2 in the afternoon we
heard a rap at the door, I went to the door and lo and
behold there was 8 or 10 Gentleman of the very uper
crust, we invited them into the Parlour and chatted with
them a few moments and then into the dining-room
to take some refreshments. we gave them some coffee
and passed the rest of the good things, and they ate all
they wanted. saluted us with I shall not say what
and departed for the next ~~nabour~~ neighbors there to go through the
same opperation serimony, We arranged the table and in about
15 minutes another company called, well we gave them
all they wanted to eat and drink and they departed likewise
shortly aftre they left Hiram Robertson and Robert & Charles
Mccoy arrived. in about half an hour aftre that the eastern
cars came in and brought Mart, so you see we had lots
of company. We were not troubled with any more calls intill
about candle light when ~~two~~ four Gents called and I got
a sleigh ride by the means and that wound up the day with
us. how did you spend the day and what did you do pleas
inform me in your next. I got a silver thimble and
pin quishion of an improved kind as christmas presents
what did you get. We have most beautiful sleighing
here. and oh such delightful moonlight evenings. if you
were here we would have a sleighride to night.
You say that Mary Emily has got two double teath on

Phebe has got a new solar Lamp and a looking glass for her Parlor. She has gone
to Homer to Church & left John and my selfat home to keep house and tend baby.
Your fam

babys can go ahead of that. Phebe's baby has got a whole mouth full of teeth and runs all over the house & Marys can walk as well as you can and can talk in the bargain. The Doctor says they will not raise her, he says that her head is to large for the rest of her body in fact she is to smart for her age. Kit Wood can say aunt Jane see there. Arlina sends her respects to you and would like to see you and the rest of the folks. I am glad to learn that Edward & Marion are attending School and I hope they will like it and improve. Give my love to Marion and tell her that I shall write her soon.

I am sorry that Mother wants me to come home so bad as I had about given it up. I suppose if I come home I shall have to go to work in the old Factory or some other place as bad and I am determined that I will not do that no how. Give my very best love to Mama and tell her that I shall write her soon. I got the wedding cake safe enough but you better believe it was as fine as powder. and come to think about it I dont believe you put ~~in~~ any thing but crumbs. did you!

I want to see Alonzo the worst way. pleas give my love to him when you write him. I think of doing so soon. I suppose Mary Gifford has left your house before this. if not give her my respects and tell her that I will answer her letter. you must have had great times while she was out, did you not! I judged that your

P. S. Please give my respects to all who may inquire and give my love to all who dont inquire. As I am getting sleepy and it is late I will bid you good bye

Yours Affectionately J. Cornell.

To Miss Elizabeth Percival Cornell

letter was written in a regular treme, have you found out what Cutter is barking at yet? when you do pleas let me know Elizabeth pleas to tell Deborah that I am going to write to her soon and send her a trifle to rember me by. I am very sory to hear that her health is so poor and wish that I was there to take care of her, she must keep up good courage and give up all kinds of work untill she regains her health, I rec'd a first rate letter from your Mother a short time since and must beg her forgiveness for answering yours first she will hear from us by this and perhaps hers will be all the better when she does get it. I wrote to Eze a short time ago. I have not answered fathathers letter but will do so soon, Give my love to Rhoda and ask her to forgive me for not writing to her before this I am ashamed to have neglected it so but I will try to write to her soon. ask Benjamin if he remembers Aunt Jane, Phebe and I went over to Mr Loomis, ie night before last to a party of the Sons & Daughters of Temperance and you better believe we had a good time Mer will know where I mean, Elizabeth dont you think John took two letters of out of the Office for me the other day. well one of them was very heavy and I could not think what was in it so I hurried and opened it and come to it was from Daniel and had 5 or 6 great homely cards in it he had written about one page of a sheat and not a bit of news and they charged 20 cents postage, well I thought prehaps the other was good enough to make it up so I opened it and found that it was from him too and ever word there was in it was "I should be very happy to get answer to that letter I wrote to you about a month ago" I was so provoked about it I did not know what to do after I had to pay 30 cents for those two letters

Well I guess that I have written about long enough they have all gone to bed and left me alone I want you to be a good girl and help your Ma wash dishes and write me a good long letter and write about every body and any body as I am not particular only write often, tell your Mother that I would give more to see her and hear her laugh than I would to go to California

Albion Jan

My Dear Brother

I address you at this time under rather peculiar circumstances but not disagreeable ones I trust. You are no doubt aware that I am attending School at the Seminary Well the Preceptress has seen fit in her wisdom to appoint me as one of the exibition writers, Now I suppose you will not see anything very dreadful in this, nor is there, if anyone is only prepaired to go into it with a determination to preform the duties imposed, upon them with honor to themselves and thier Teachers, but you know that it will require a considerable degrie of confidence to get up before a congregation of two or three hundred and read a peice of your own composition I think I should get excused from it if there was anysuch thing but Miss Hunt says she shall not excuse any of the young Ladies but if the insist upon not writeing She shall have "Expelled" written after thier names in the Scheme, So you see she has got us fast, for I presume there is no young Lady in School but what would rather write, than have the people think She was expelled from School, But I have not come to the Sticking point yet (to use a vulger phrase), I think I can get along with my composition. but I have nothing to dress in on that occasion, that is I have no dress that will answer to appear on the stage in,

All the young Ladies will appear in Silk or merino and as I have nothing but a de laine that I have had above a year, I thought that I would write you the circumstances and trust to your generosity in helping yome procure one, I Should have written to

Father instead of you, but I am well aware that if his will was every so good (and I presume it would be for he has ever been indulgent when it was in his power) he has not the means to spare to assist me, and I cant in consience ask the girls to do so for they have paid my Schooling, which has amounted to about $12,00

So I have no one to make the request to but you. You will please consider upon it, and whether you send me any money or not, please write to me as soon as you recieve this, so that I may know what to depend upon, I wrote you some time ago but have not recieved an answer yet, Our exibition will take place in 7 weeks so you see we have not much time to spare, I wish you could be here to attend for I presume the exercises will be highly interesting but I suppose you will not be able to do so.

Phebe has gone to Jackson as a ~~reppesen~~ representative from the Albion Union No 6 Daughters of Temperance to the Grand Union. She will probably return to day. Mary health is improving She rode down here yesterday, Please give my respects to all who may inquire,

Yours Respectfully Jane Cornell,

T. E. Cornell Esqr

Jane Correll
Jany 1849

Cleveland O. Sunday Mr. Jany. 7th 1849

My Dear Father

Thursday evening last was rendered a memoriable one for the E & M Tel. You will be much gratified to learn (if you have not already) that about eight oclock of the evening spoken of above that our boys at Detroit office connected the east & western wires direct through and told Chicago to call Buffalo which he did and was answered the first time, thus uniting as it were the "Queen city of the Empire State" with the "Queen City of the West" and connecting the foot of Lake Erie with the head of Lake Michigan — after compliments &c Chicago called Fredonia & other offices on this section this one among the rest, all of whom answered promptly — and I must say I think I never saw a Line work more beautiful than did this one. My magnet stood during the space of two hours without the least alteration — getting Buffalo & Chicago writing perfectly with the same adjustment — and Painesville writing (only 30 miles distant) spoke out boldly at the same time — This of course was owing to the very favorable state of the weather — which was and had been for several days previous dry and most severely cold — and you might have strecked a wire along on the ground and it would have worked nearly as far I guess — and yesterday afternoon at Report time we again connected, this time having Milwaukie in the circuit. Buffalo & Chicago worked with ease, but on ing to the large batery at Chicago & quite a small one at Mil. Milwaukie & Buff did not work so well. (and I suppose the true reason was that Mil. was not able to adjust, as he has most always been on a short circuit between Ch & Mil) Buff could get Mil calls but could not break. but Buff commenced sending report, all east of Ch got it without breaking. Ch broke three times during the report. which was a quite a lengthy one and after a little Mil became adjusted so he got the most of it, again in the eve we connected and Ch sent several coms to Buff. and I have no doubt if Ch & NY were connected over the NY & E Line. that they would work just as well. or at least work through with very little difficulty. but we could not work from Ch to Bu in one circuit all the time even if it were possible. as there is so much local business ~~this~~ each side of Detroit that there would be no chance to do it. and just so at Ch. there are 20 coms to go each way from Ch where there are 10 which would pass through from east to west & west to east. the greater portion of Mil bsns being with Ch. and doing but a very little east.

Business on the Line since the first of Dec. as you are aware has been very dull, and I doubt if the Line has supported itself during that time. I am in hopes however that business will begin to improve now very soon. How is the NY & Erie Line getting along. and what is the prospect of its completion? Who will you put in the N Y office? How & when will it probably be connected with this place? If we do not get the OK Line will you put up a new wire from here to Fredonia soon? & how long first probably? — Morris & Tom Jackson left here on Tuesday or Wednesday of last week for Cincinnati via Sandusky City — If there is no body but them put on that line I have no fears of seeing it completed very soon if ever — Col Speed is at Detroit and I guess he is obliged to remain there till he can get funds to go some where else — You have probably heard from him. Tillotson is on the Line — I suppose at Painsville today. he left Erie yesterday morning and is to be here tomorrow — I am expecting some letters from you by him & if I get them will write you again when he arrives —

Please write me soon and as often as you can get an opportunity — giving particulars &c about busns —

My best respects to all while I remain as ever

Your affectionate Son

A. B. Cornell

E. Cornell Esq.
Ithaca
NY

Janesville 7 Jany 1849

Dear Sir

When I again take the Meeting House, or Oddfellows Hall, or both together, as a sufficient guarantee for honesty and capacity, I will not complain, if I am sucked in. But this time I have caught it bad. I found that Wilson had 118 miles of line built, as our agent – owes twenty five dollars per mile for the Patent, owes Cornell $1200 for wire Place $550 for instruments. Hotchkiss $1400 for construction, besides several hundred dollars for various items. The balance due on subscriptions is about $3000 – not one half of which can be collected, and the other half can only be had in driblets – Wilson has used nearly all the funds he could collect for his own use, and cannot raise a dollar, and no one who knows him will trust him for a single cent – The long and short of the story is that we are in for three or four thousand dollars, and it is indispensable for me to remain here long enough to save all that is left of the odds and ends. I will try to make such arrangements as I think best under existing circumstances –

the stock can be raised to build ~~a~~
not far from three hundred miles
more in this state, and the money lost
could be made up by proper and
judicious management. I mean
to get things in shape before I leave
and either dissove partnership, or sell the Patent to Genl Wilson
for the contemplated line, if he can, as
he thinks, get some bigger fool than I
am (after knowing him) to go into the
business with him, who is able to make
good his promises — What I shall
do is yet undetermined; but something
must be done, and I must remain
here long enough to close up the
business on the line built, and make
arrangements for future operations.
We elected Directors here yesterday —
made Wilson Prest. The connection
between this line and ours as a side
line is done away with: both lines
go on their own hook, and pay rent
fuel and lights at Milwaukee
in proportion to receipts —
I will write you again when I make
some further arrangements & find out what I
can do. I have not heard from Littlefort
but have no doubt I can get an office there

Yours truly
J J Speed

10

Mr. D. T. Tillotson
Exm. Pt Office
Detroit
Mich—

JANESVILLE WIS. FEB 8

J. J. Speed Jr
Feby 7. '49
Janesville

Dansville Jan 7th /49

Dear Sir

I arrive here last evening & found your favor of the 29. & as I have written you fully at Troy I do not know as there is any thing of importance in relation to the work on the line

There is something of an excitement got up here by some individuals running the Dansville Bank by which I understand they have drawn some 13000 Thousand dollars in Specie from the Bank in three days, I understand by those acquainted with the affairs that all they expect to accomplish is to injure the circulation abroad. The wire boys have started this morning below Bath with 3 tons of wire to come this way as soon as cups come on, they got ~~within~~ abt a mile of Pike when their cups run out, I have made a contract to have the wire drawn beyond Bath to fill the space not up taking 7 tons 3 hundred for $13,50 & that at Mt Morris to be drawn to Pike for $10, I am sorry abt the cups if they were on hand we might get the line all complete in four weeks. In relation to funds I am unable to say how much is paid in A B, Smith told me when I was there. that there was none paid in that I have got $477,50 from Cobb & 300 from Bagley which is all I have receiv'd here & poles are paid for to this place east & from Lodi abt 20 miles west. what progress in setting poles I am unable to say since I last wrote

In relation to Thomas by inquiry I am led to believe that those persons that accuse him of being important are the ones that caused all the disturbance by going to those that got poles & reporting that the boys bought & set the poles by contract & would never pay for them.

We intersect the Erie & Mich line three & a half miles from Fredonia & you can send hooks for that distance & probably a few for leeway get them on immediately for if they were on now I would send the second load of caps on there during this good going & put on a gang of wire men to come this way. In relation to paper Batery &c write me where you will send them where the next main Battery & send them soon as they are looking anxiously for the time when they can communicate & the moment the wires are on them the fidgiting will commense if the registers are not up

I go on west to where the pole men are to work & I think from there to Buffalo to get that wire up write me at Buffalo care Allen & also at Springville

If this instalment is paid in I can send you funds as I shall not want to use a great amt intill the next instalment will be called in although Bagley told me the pole men were very impatient from here to Portage & were most of them really needy.

I do not think of any thing more of importance in fact I can not think of any thing for I am over 2/3 sick & the other third not well the storms for a week has been to much for me I am sorry you could not come this way & see how you like the operations. Write me in full & I will get along as fast & well as the weather will permit — E. Cornell

Yours &c S. A. Holmes

S. A. Holmes
7 Jan Exps $477.80

Pittsfield. Monday 8th Jany 1849.

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir

Mr Allen & my self reached Salisbury 6 oclock Friday evg & during the day Saturday I collected 215 $.
Mr Graham 140
& Mr Allen 106 $ 461
& at West Cornwall 45
$ 506

I reached here Saturday evg. late & found that owing to the very severe weather. Mr Russell had deemed it best to wait & he with me start this am for the Whole Line & trust to be able to make a good report of our doings. I learn that the Litchfield Papers have publicly recanted what was reported in relation to your failure & publish-ed the subst of my Letter to Mr Woodruff.

The Citizens of Falls Village want a Station & now say they will take 1000 $. Stock if they will. we propose to let them have it. I write you again tomorrow.

Yours

W. H. [illegible]

Wm H Power
8 Jany 1849