Derby Conn June 23d 1849

Mr E. Cornell,

Sir

I contracted with Mr John McKinney your Agent. the 23 of Oct last to deliver telegraph holes from the Bridge at Humphreys Vill to the Bridge at Birmingham in Derby to be delivered on or before the 8 of Nov., at forty five cent. each., to be paid. on or about the time s.d holes was delivered, I fulfil.d my part of the contract, o., yours is deficient. I waited till March 10th wrote to W.H Power of Westfield Mass he wrote that he was instructed to collect & pay your indebtedness on the line, heard nothing more till I wrote again about the first of June., was inform.d by Mr Olds that Mr Power had left., Now I will write one more. but my patience is almost exhausted I have suffered for the want of the money, both loss & trouble, expecting you to pay, made contracts Not being unable to meet my payments,, I want my pay. I deliver.d 160 holes. amounting to $72,

E Cornell Esqr
Utica N.Y.

Yours Josiah Bassett

45
160
27 00
45
72 00

Milan June 23. 1848

Dear Sir

your Son tells me you are anxious to hear how I am getting along with the Cleveland and Cincinnati line

I have been doing the necessary preliminary and wind work and have got stock taken in Medina, Wooster, Ashland, Mansfield, Mt Vernon & Delaware some of the Subscriptions are not full yet, but I think unless some unforseen obstacles are presented we can depend on $10.000 ~~less~~ in the above named places and with good luck we may swell it to $12.000 or $13.000. I have not been to Columbus or South of there yet. think it best to get this end at work first. I started the first of this week to collect the first instalment & do some other business on the route but had the misfortune to have my horse run away. The break down added to being slightly hurt, sets me back this week. hope to start again Monday. The prospects for getting stock taken South of Columbus is not very good but if we do not meet any breakers in the way of opposition I think I can raise on the line as much as it is necessary to pay out in building it. I think I can contract for the Cars. and perhaps the wise and pay part in stock. if I had not met with the accident I should

have seen the men before this time and probably have closed the contracts when I ascertain what amount of Wire and Caps I can get and on what terms I will write you again. I shall set a mark to contracting for the posts next week and as soon as they can be delivered I have some men ready to go to work. The part I have been doing is of the kind that is not so easy surveyed and consequently I have not got along as fast as I expected to, but am in hopes soon to give it a new impetus and shall endeavor to push it forward as fast as the circumstances and my ability will permit. Please write me and give me such directions and make such suggestions as you think proper

Very Respectfully yours &c

S. H. Wade

E. Cornell Esq
Ithaca.

J. H. Wade
25 Jan 49

Telegraph Office
Syracuse June 23d 1849.

"Sir"

You requested me to write you at Ithaca, and you wish to know on what terms I will go, &c, &c. I suppose it depends on the amount of business that will be done, and what office I have, what you can give. I should like $25 a month, if convenient. If not $20 will do. for the present. If it does not make any material difference with you, I would like to have the office in Auburn. Though wherever I do go, I will try & do right, and please my employer. I think I am competent, and understand this business. I have been in it over a year. In regard to my general character &c, I will refer you to Mr Gilbert of telegraph office Auburn, & Mr Stone of the Syracuse office, which will be (I think) satisfactory. Please answer what office you wish me to take charge of, what terms, &c, &c. I will answer you by telegraph via Buffalo.

Yours &c
Wm H Hall.

E. Cornell

Cleveland 24 June 1849

Dear Sir

I came here this morning, found all O.K. — our line is now in good order, since we have had but few interruptions lately, except from Wild lightning — we want your large magnets — I have said so much about your N.Y. & B line that you doubtless are tired hearing our long yarns on the subject; but in talking with you son today, we both come to the conclusion that much of the difficulty we have had in getting news from N.Y. (or rather in not getting them) is owing to the manner in which they are delivered in N.Y. — When you told me of the arrangement with our old friend Bube, I was pleased with it, believing it would aid him, and be equally well for us: but we now think it works bad in practice. I understood from you that the Messages are sent down a spout from the Tel Office to Bube's Office — that the Messenger boys do not go into the Tel Office; but get all their orders from Mr Bube — If that is so, is it not almost impossible to make all the Enquiries correctly? does Mr B understand all that is said to the Operators about getting answers? Are the boys employed by him to this duty? It seems to me that it is almost

impossible to make all needful explanations to Bube, and he repeat them to the boys, as well as the operators could themselves - I am certain that our messenger boy here, is made to understand what is required of him, better than it would be possible for a second person to repeat the inquiries and have the messenger boys know what is wanted. Mr Bube I presume does this part as well as it is possible for any man to do it, under similar circumstances; but can it be done by him, or any one else, as well as by the operator himself? certain it is, that we have more trouble in getting and for N.Y. than we can have before,

One day last week, we got several answers from N.Y. the same day; but that is an exception to the general rule. A.B. says that one half of our answers come back by Factors line. This certainly need not be so if the messenger boys do their duty - If the Bube plan can be made to work; I am glad of it; but if some improvement cannot be made in your N.Y. O/s - it is all folly for us to try to compete with Pirates Jones Cincinnati & St Louis - I hope you will not attribute our complaints to fancy, or prejudice, for all our prejudices, are on the other side - the contrary, we do have terrible hard luck in getting any thing to, or from N.Y. - and we have lost business & Credit both, since N.Y. & Cin was completed

Detroit 28 June 1849

I went to see Jackson yesterday, before closing this letter, and when I got back the boat for this city was at the dock, and I came home - Jackson has got on a hunt by his holes and begins filling next week. He says he has got $500 since I saw him of available subscriptions, and will be certain to collect more than enough to pay all expenses including Wire & Patent Wade is doing well on our line, and I have not the slightest doubt about being able to pay up every thing in full on that line, and I hope and believe, we can get something towards deficiency on St Louis line — I have received two more letters from Lee. I think he is doing as well as it is possible for him to do, and will get enough to pay for building and poles at least. How much more I cannot say & but I fear not much - OR line down to Lafayette and indirectly to St Louis - Jackson says OR & Co owe the Pittsburg manufacturers for all the wire they have used - If we cannot secure the vessels off this Lake line, we need not continue some way to buy them off. but that is a matter for future consideration Can you not attend our Annual meeting on Wednesday 3d day of July. I think you had better come if you can & if not what shall I do about making a

dividend without one dollar to pay one
in debt $1000— We can make money
by making a dividend, if we have
the 1700 to pay it with: but how to declare
a dividend and not pay it, and on the
same time owe money which we can't
pay, requires some '36 financiering—
Perhaps you can suggest some ideas
which will be useful on such an
occasion— Let us hear from you.

Yours truly D. D. Spaulding

W. E. Cornell
Ithaca N.Y.

D. D. Spaulding
24 January 1936

Newburgh June 25th — 49

Dear Sir Since I finish trimming line I went up River 3 days with Mr Allin Contracting poles I have been out to day mooveing one below gate. Mr Leonard wants some poles mooved near Factory where the line turns to run west 3½ Miles below Newburgh. but is not in hurry I can get a job for 2 or three weeks I wish you would Release me. Not much for me to do at present, please answer amediately

Yours With Respect J Nutter

Newburgh June 25th 49

E. Cornell

Dear Sir

Your favr. of the 23d inst came to hand this morning in which I am surprised to learn that WHP is trying to implicate me with himself in embezzleing money belonging to you tho. I shall not set it to heart much as I have the documents to shew how much money I have rec'd & how expended.

The second item you mention I find on my Book excepting the amt to Baldwin for Poles ($38.12) & $1.33 fit bill at Ridgefield. this latter amount I did not know the existence of yet it may be right & the former was an unpaid Contract to Baldwin

The Article in the Herald of the 22 to which you refer me is decidedly the best thing I have seen in a long time & I think it will have a very happy effect on our business

I am in a great hurry this morning otherwise I should write more fully Let me hear from you as soon as convenient

Yrs Truly

Yours Respectfully

Oliver

E. Cornell

Athens

Messrs Chapman & Redfield
and others,

Ithaca June 25th 1849

Gentlemen

When last I wrote you I intended to have been at your place ere this but Mr Cornells absence, and so much to do to get our line started, (about 20 Miles of which is already completed) prevented till last week when upon consulting with our Trustees, it was thought best to defer it till Mr Cornell returned, that he might refute some of the tales told by certain interested, I might almost say swindlers, who are trying to filch a fortune from the unsuspecting citizens along the canal towns, and who after endeavoring to enlist certain high minded men, in the city of New York to enter into their schemes of fleecing the public and were promised a participation in their immense profits, were told they must find more pliant tools, as they did not wish to risk their reputations and if they were to enter into such a swindling operation, they should expect to be taken up and prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretenses. Mr Cornell will ~~probably~~ return during the week, when he will probably visit you.

Very respectfully
Yours &c
D. D. Tillotson
Atty for P. Cornell

E. Connell Esqr

Dear Sir

I can now supply you with good Red Cedar Posts at 2/ a piece. Should you send an order I can forward them to the Steam Boat landing soon.

Wm. Tinley

Lawrence Jan 26/49 C. Manchester

At a Meeting of the Directors of the Ithaca & Auburn Line of Telegraph held at Springport in Cayuga Co June 28. 1849 pursuant to Notice, Present Chas. W. Hawkins Merritt, L. Wood & Ezra Cornell

Resolved That Daniel T. Tillotson of Ithaca be and hereby is appointed Director of the Ithaca & Auburn Telegraph Co. in place of Horace King deceased.

Resolved That the President is hereby directed to sell the old copper wire belonging to the Co which has recently been taken from the line, and apply the proceeds to the payment of the debts of the Co and that he also sell the instruments and such office furniture as the Co have no use for and apply the proceeds as above.

Resolved that the President is hereby authorised to grant permission to the Ithaca & Oswego Telegraph Co to put their wire between Ithaca and Auburn on the poles of this Ithaca & Auburn Telegraph Co. and to use the patent right for Morse's Telegraph between Ithaca & Auburn as fully and to the extent that the said patent may legally be used by the Ithaca & Auburn Telegraph Co on the condition

that the said Ithaca & Palmyra Telegraph company will put up an Iron wire and maintain a line of Telegraph between the villages of Ithaca & Auburn, and on the condition that the Ithaca & Palmyra Tel Co will fulfil the bargain of Ia & Au Tel Co - with the Morse Patentees, by paying one half of the net profits over & above dividing 8 cent per cent on the amt of Capital on net cost of Ia & Au line between Ithaca & Auburn, to the Morse Patentees. It shall also be conditioned that the Ithaca & Palmyra Tel Co Shall maintain the wire & Telegraph so established at the expence of the Ithaca and Palmyra Telegraph Company, and involve the Ithaca & Auburn Tel Co Ia Au to Expence what ever.

E. Cornell
Chas W Howland
M L Woods

Scotland Ville Iowa 28th 1844

Mr Cornell

Sir I was here yesterday talking with your Brother A bought coming here to work and I agreed to wright to him to day and as I understood by him that you was the one that was going to start him in Boisness I thought I would wright to you, I thought I would say to you that I have a good plaie here and since they found out that I talked of coming there to work they have set every thing they could to discourage me from coming for if there is a shop started there it will injour them here very much so it is for there Interest to say all they can to hinder me from coming to help you But still I will come and help you for I think I am capable to carry on the Stone ware boisness I have done so and think I can do so Again, If you think you can warant me a Job for at least one year I will come on to work next moon If I come to work for you I shall come my self two or three weeaks then I shall want to move my family here and before I move I want you to advance me a bought

30 dollars besides what I earn while I am there before I move, I would ~~like~~ an swer by the next Mail that I can arrainge my business so as to leave Moonday Morning. I told your brother what I want that money for ~~for~~ ~~for~~

Yours In haste

John S. Magee

L. B. Magee
St. Louis Mo

Connecticut & Vermont Telegraph Company

☞ALL COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE WRITTEN WITHOUT FIGURES.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

☞ Payment in all cases to be made in advance, and the Company not responsible for the inaccuracies of the operators.

☞ This line connects with Buffalo, Rochester, Canandaigua, Auburn, Geneva, Syracuse, Utica, Rome, Little Falls, Schenectady, Albany, Troy, Hudson, Poughkeepsie, New York, Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, Worcester, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukie, Chicago, and all the principal Towns in the Canadas.

Telegraph Office,

SALISBURY, June 24 1849.

By Telegraph, from Pittsfield Mass

To E Conwell

Salisbury

Mr Russell informs me that you do not consider the agreement made with Mr Power as binding upon you & that you are not willing to pay as much. I cannot operate for anything less. Unless you can pay that amt I shall leave the office & shall look to you for the amt I expended in fitting up the office I now occupy. Please answer immediately

Sig J Olds

Ithaca, June 29, 1849.

E. Cornell, Esq.

Dear Sir,

As I cannot come to see you personally, I must answer your note of 27th with a few.

Nathan took the place of Byron Hoyt in the office, (who was in employment at $2 a week) on the same terms. This was expressly understood between me and Mr. Reddy. Nothing was said to me, or to Nathan, about his being paid by, or being in the service of the Ia. & Bn. line. Byron, whose place he took, was in service of Ia. & Ak. line. As the office did not yield funds to pay him, besides expenses, I promised Nathan to be personally responsible that he should have his pay. It matters not to me by which line it is paid, if payment be made, but his engagement was clearly to the Ia. & Ak. line.

Except the $2 to Byron, the agents were to pay for the management of the office. Nothing was said about Bn. line when this arrangement was made. Nothing more was expected, after it was added.

The Daily was subscribed for in behalf of the Company, and so entered upon the books. It is right at least that it should be charged till I returned the office, if no longer. The whole balance due D. D. & A. A. S. is something over thirty dollars — I think over $33. I only drew on you for $19.39, to make up the $50 due the Fire Ins. Co. which would leave more than the Chr. charge unpaid.

The $15.33 overcharge on reports, was a deduction of $1 a week so far as $5 had been charged, making it unpaid at $4.— It was understood between Mr. Eddy and myself that this deduction should be made and it is right that it should be. We never agreed or consented to pay more than $4 a week.

Whatever difficulty may arise about this balance, and I cannot conceive there should be any, the balance due Nathan should be paid, and I want the balance of subs to the N. Y. and Fire Co. settled. If you will call and see me I think it can be done.

Very respectfully,
D. D. Spencer

D. D. Spencer
29 June 1864

This Agreement Witnesseth that
I Lyman Dodge Agrees to Set the Telegraph
Poles from the Junction of Ithaca & Auburn
Line to Waterloo Commencing one Mile South
of the 1/2 Acre in the Town of Aurelius running
North to the Turnpike thence West to
Waterloo on the Turnpike & Crossing the Lake
at the upper Toll Bridge & the Above Named
Lyman Dodge agrees to Set Said Poles five ft
in the ground and Tamp the earth well So that
the Poles Shal Stand firm and Perpendicular
Said Lyman Dodge further Agrees that
he will Bore the Top of the Poles and Put in
the Cap in A Proper Manner and the whole
work to be done by the 12 of July and
Ezra Cornell Agrees on his Part to Pay Said
Lyman Dodge the Sum of Twenty five cts each Pole
for Setting & Putting Cap in as Above Named the one
half of the Amount of Said Job to be Paid
while the work is Progressing and the Balance
in thirty days after the work is done
and the Above Named Job Shall be under
the Care and Supervision of J S Bristol
while the work Progresses

Seneca Falls June 29. 1849

Lyman Dodge
E Cornell
By J S Bristol

187
20
171
378
25
1875
75 6
94 50

187
206
2 2
374
486 2

131
31
171
13
501

Amount of Pay
Contract for Letting
378 Lbs Poles at
25 Th A Piece with an
addition of two
dollars added to
the Amount of
the Same Price
378 at 2/— $94.50
two dollars on 2 lot
$96.50

Total Pay
at Survey time 65.91
Price — $30.39

Amount Paid Sept 28th 1848
Received Payment in
full on the within contract
Francis Dodge

Francis Dodge
Contractor
$11.00

Re Setting of the Poles

Cayuga June 30 1849

Dear Eyre

I have Contracted with A Man Star But in the Cogs & Set the Poles for A triple and twenty five cents each But he does not allow any thing for superintending the work But Putting in the Cogs will More than over Balance that the Job to be done by the 12 of July at Bathurst and as much Same as Practicable I have to Pay 1/2 the amount of Job while the work goes on & the Balance in thirty days after it is finished Shall get nine from Montezuma & Solder Supplement to finish the line to Waterloo and how does this Sige nine run to the Mile Holmes Calculated what nine we had would reach to this Place that Being the Case we shall want enough to reach Some 8 Miles Please write Me by Monday Boat, you had better have Mary Ann write Me where you will want Me at home direct to Cayuga or Seneca Falls

Yours Truly

E Cornell Esqr

J. S. Bristol

P S I give two dollars over and above what the Job will amount to at 25 cts A Piece for each Pole

One

Have Seen Webster he says he was talking with A Clyde Man A few days ago and he said it was doubtful about O'Riley & Co getting the Stock to Build the line through Clyde

J. S. B.

I suppose the wife will return about 200 per mile perhaps a trifle less—

Mr Tillotson will write to him and Seaman can see him —

E Correll

Bristol June 30. 89

This page is missing.

"and that I was under no obligation further to
"indulge you in this"

From all I could learn from others, and
hearing nothing from you in the way of explana-
tion, I wrote to Mr. Kendall to apprize you, (if
he knew where to address you,) that I withheld
the balance due me from you, and if you were
thus using my indulgence, to pay me the payment
by using your securities.

Now, my dear Sir, I have no disposition
to be hard upon you, nor to cause you embarrass-
ment by a forced sale of your securities. All
I desire is a proper security that my indulgence
which you must acknowledge has been many
times and most cheerfully given, shall not be
abused to stir up for me new troubles with
the Companies with whom I had previously
made contracts. —

I have written Mr. Kendall to stay any
proceedings in regard to your securities to
give time for a proper explanation in regard
to the complaints made against the Erie line
and I trust you can easily do it. If so I will
cheerfully suffer the further inconvenience of
the delay in the payment of the balance due
on the Troy and Montreal line, so far as I
am concerned. Let me hear from you as soon
as possible. —

If you have suffered from the outra-
geous rascalities of the O'Reilly pirates in any
degree, I have suffered tenfold more, but

there will soon be an end of their machinations if there is any force in law or justice.

I send you the true state of the case in Kentucky, so shamefully misrepresented by the corrupted press in the interest of the pirates. —

I write in greatest haste, in the hope to relieve you from unnecessary sacrifice, "of your clothes"

With kindest wishes

Yr friend &

Sam. F. B. Morse

Ezra Cornell, Esq.

10

Ezra Cornell Esq.
at N.York & Newburgh
Telegraph Office
New York city.

POUGHKEEPSIE
JUL 2
N.Y.

Poughkeepsie
3 o'clock pm

Mr. Tillotson

Dear Sir

I have had a talk with Adams and Pierce of this place Mr Adams says if he understand your proposition it was as follows, that if he would take the Stock you would give him Security for the Same for one Year at which time if he Should think best at the close of the Year you would refund the Same back to him and Int Mr Adams will take the Stock on that proposition or Mr Pierce I think you had better Call down again

Respectfully Yours

L. Seymour

Northville - Money
Clyde -
Auburn -
Cayuga -
Elmira Line

36
201
7200
504,00
14

900
45

144 1800
12 12600
3 1800
30600

Nine 550
Cajse 140
Teams 20
Labor 160
Soldering 30
900
old Nine 300
600

L. Seymour
Elmira

Auburn, July 1st, 1849

Mr. Connell—

It is hardly necessary undoubtedly to remind you, but nevertheless I will, that I am really in very great want of the money which I advanced for the Ithaca line. I have recently had some very bad luck, among which is ~~the~~ the is a brother sick with the small pox who is now blind. I have had to pay 40 dols for him & have him now to support. Besides I have a note of $50 to pay at Cayuga Bank 15th of this month. This is not all, but I will not tell you more, only that my difficulties are not of my bringing on— they came themselves. I shall be flat on my back unless I can get in from all quarters what is due me. Do, Mr. C. do something for me immediately &

Very much obbje yours H. C. Gilbert

Milan July 2nd 1849

Dear Sir

I wrote you some days ago that I had some prospect of getting some wire and laying part in stack. I have been to see that man but found he was from home to be gone 4 weeks and from what I could learn we can make no dependence on him for wire. I should like to know very soon when and when I get my wire. I am getting the line where I can hurry it, and if I can get wire and instruments I will soon have some of it in working order. The poles are contracted for 30 or 60 miles and some of them delivered, they will all be under contract to Columbus as soon as a man can go over the line and do it. I shall set a few men to digging tomorrow and in the course of the week shall have a full gang of hands putting up the poles. I have contracted for ~~2000 to~~ 4000 caps and they will be made as fast as we shall want them. Shall I depend on you to purchase and forward the wire? or shall I look out for it myself? I think I can lend the money to pay for it, at least enough to get to Columbus. The prospect of the subscription is about as when I wrote you. I dont know whether Col. Speed has ordered the instruments or not, if we must wait to have them made. Some one should be about it

please write me to this place immediately and say what I better do about the wire? If you purchase it say when you wish me to remit and I will collect accordingly. I have made arrangements at Mansfield bank to loan $300. on two years time. and can probably do the same at one or two other banks. The particulars Col Speed

will explain to you and send you the notes for your signature. It requires a good deal of effort to get money on this line but I am in hopes to be able to raise it in some way sufficient to build the line. If I can keep all straight ~~this~~ that is now promised north of Columbus and do as well beyond we are in town
When we get to Cincinnati we tap the other Company in a tender spot and if they can do anything to hinder us they will. Please write soon

In haste yours respectfully

S. H. Wade

E. Cornell Esqr
Ithaca

J. H. Wade
2 July 1849

Mileus July 3d. 1849

Gents,

A word with you in regard to the lecture read to this office the other morning. It was nearly nine oclock and R had gone home for the night there being no circuit at the time. A communication which I was anxious to have go through that night was the one that F. attempted to send. I was not aware of the feint working of our register for we had but just got a circuit. If his writing was unintelligible to you, yours was equally so to us. You could not have read it yourself. I regretted his having made the attempt.

The day previous to that we had in the vicinity continued showers accompanied with so much electricity that we were unable to work during most of the P.M.

I have not failed in a single instances to receive well and readily every communication I have attempted to take The trouble you had in getting a reply to a communication sent here was occasioned by Mr. Nichols answering a call while we were absent to our meal. He was unable to read what he had received and did not answer your repeated calls for a response

There was some trouble in the working in this office and soon after Col. Speed left here we found the cause to be the derangment of our connexion in consequence of attaching some other apparatus in the trial of experiments by Mr. Wade & Col. S. Our connexion with the main line was wholly by the accidental crossing of wires one of which lay loose upon the other

P.R. June 23 1849

Dear Jo

Yours of May 23 was rec. while I was in New York, I rather expected to find you there, and I not thought of going to Africa but the time I was away from home would not admit of my going there I regret as much as you do that I have not been able to see you since the first time you was here as I have undergone difficulties & which I should like to have had your advice at the time. In relation to Ezra Smith it is true that his name appears in my list to the Trustees as having taken 2 shares but the fact is it was he would not put down but one unless I would agree that in case he could not pay but on the other should he take it or get some one to take it and for fear I done so and the result was I got a number more shares on by doing so also I had to give a written contract to take Mr Bascombs stock and pay the money in July if he got sick of it and he intends making me take it the truth of the business is I have had to spend more time and manage more to get what stock has been taken and paid than I would to have made

A.B. Smith
2-3-[illegible]

$500 if properly applied and now what I want is this I do not want you to task me to take any more stock my Dols come to on $80 as there is about 12 not used and as far as Otis is concerned he has not paid for 1/4 of the Dols he has got I have paid for post and the bal I must pay for as the men must not lose the pay the whole matter of Dols from Portage to Alma was in my Dols It would not be any thing out of the way as far as you are concerned but what I have done as it is entirely my influence and expense that you should not ask me to assess cent upon my stock the 3 Shares that are not taken I will pay my proportion and see that the rest do the same as I would like to have seen more come out of John Renwick as he was one who agreed the stock should all be taken and you might drive the 3 Shares out for us if you would be liberal with me personally or myown you certainly have made well out of this speculation I was in Massachusetts a short time since and was informed you built a line of R.R. while Renwick is one who sold his stock out before we got collected in and agreed to get out first
$500 was right, but, My note at Dansville is paid
Let me hear from you
Yours Truly
A.B. Smith