Office of the Cleveland, Wheeling & Zanesville
TELEGRAPH CO.
PEASE'S BLOCK, NO. 1, UP STAIRS.

Massillon, Dec 15th Hour Min.

By Telegraph, from

To A. B. Cornell Esq

Many thanks for piece of platina. I had my Key fixed as you described by col speed before I got your letter.

I talked with N. Philada to day. expect we shall have a circuit through by Monday.

I opened col speeds letter containg plateras & distributed as he left orders Yours &c

Wm. M. Merwin

New-York, Dec 15 1849.

By Telegraph from Cleveland

To E. Cornell

Have you sent platinas, and when, Wheeling line open to New Philadelphia works well - detected fault in Wades line mostly in the Cincinnati pins - Will find the connections very bad - Jackson & Wades line works beautiful. Wade doing good business. Jacksons nothing

How are folks N.B.C.

New-York, Dec 15 1849.

By Telegraph from Massillon

To E C

O'Reilly line reduced price from akron & Massillon to New York to fifty cents - Shall we take corn at same price which will give this line ten cents + E & M ten + N. Y. & E thirty. South of this we shall get the regular rates

J. J. Speed

Dear Sir Mt Pleasant Dec 15/49

we have not received any remittance from Miss Powers & Hatchkiss (of Milwaukee) for Telegraph caps. in all of them letter they have said that money would be forth coming, in some of them letter they stated that they had sent funds to you to pay us with we have lately wrote to them in relation Money

We thought best to inform you in relation to the matter as you wrote to us to furnish them with caps on your security but presume that all will be might in the end

Should you or your Telegraph Line builder want caps here after we will furnish for $3.50 per Gross as we have made some improvement in our facilities for making Telegraph caps

Respectfully

Mr E Cornell

Granger & Co

Binghamton Dec 15. 49

Dear Sir,

Your of the 12th came to hand last evening. Your advice is good, and for which I am obliged — but my motive in going to New York is far from which I should judge, is your thoughts on the subject. If I should go, I should endeavor to do what was right in every respect — and to attend strictly to my business. I do not think I could go for less than at ~~three~~ hundred and fifty dollars a year ($354). What say you? Is that too much or not enough!!

Yours respy
Geo H Cooke

E. Cornell

P.S. — I have shown your letter to my Father, but he can give me no answer till the price is settled. And moreover I should have never made any proposition to you, without first consulting him.

Buffalo Dec 15th 1869 - 9 A M

Dear Sir

I just received your tel asking for a copy of three mspages from N Y going west.

New York Nov 27th

To Strong & Co - Milwaukee

Please retain Goods from us marked L G Brand & Rogers - Particulars by mail

12 W 76 paid

Compton & Turner

New York Nov 27th

To Henry Stone Care Bloomer & Holmes Galena

If the Goods for L G Brand & Rogers come to Galena - Stop them

12 W 1.00 paid

C & T

N Y Nov 27th

To J. A. Noonan Milwaukee

See Strong & Co & hold the Goods marked L G Brand R.× Rogers. Particulars by mail

15 W 85 pd

C & T -

× think I sent it & Rogers - What is the mistake & where - Let me Know - Those I received with several others from your Line via Dayton. I will give you the addresses of the others. I would like to know if I got all you gave

over. J Beeson Niles = J Childs & Bros Cincinnati - .
E C. Litchfield Det = John J. Palmer Circleville - Rush - R -
Sloane Sandusky = C J. Hutchinson Southport - & the 3
enclosed.
This Office does much better than was expected. I am
doing more business (as much) as any Office except
NY. my receipts some days reach $25.00 = business he
fallen off rapidly in the last 10 days =
You dont collect enough on messages for Canada
line. Enclosed I send you tariff. Please send
me tariff south & east for NY by mail.
Suppose you have heard of Faxtons Express between
here & NY = in retaliation to Wells & los interest
in O'Rilleys proposed Line between here & NY. Still
Faxton gives all his NY business to places between here
& Det to ~~Attel~~ O'Rilleys line - also all their answers
E & W works finely =

Yours Truly
Wm J. Speed

To E Cornell NY

PS. If Speaker is not chosen before you
get this & you can send it by NY & E
so I will get it 1 or 2 hours sooner
than Faxtons regular report Please
do so -

Wm J. Speed
15 Dec 1884

Painesville Dec. 16th/49

Mr Cornell

I wish to know what is to be done with this Instrument? I have done all I can do with it. I have not received any writing since Thursday. I suppose you know how it is. Mr Buell has told you. ~~[illegible]~~ unless there can be another one here I should think it was better to close the office. the people in town find fault about it & they have reason to do so. If there cannot be any thing done it is my wish to leave the office for I have been blamed very much when I have done the best I could do. you can ask Mr Wakefield and Mr Higley how it has been ~~[illegible]~~ also Mr Russell He has told me throw the damd thing into the street. told me yesterday never try to do anything more with it. I do not wish to find fault when I can avoid it but I think

I have had some reason to complain as well as others. I hope you will do something

Yours Truly
J. W. Gaines

J W Gaines
Dec 16, 1830

17 Dec '49

E Cornell I have written you fully about funds, I can pay you two drafts of $500 each, pay place $250, pay Winslow on freight $950 - have paid off all our hands, owe you on 3 wire only 750 which I cannot pay untill I can get offices all opened and cannot open them untill I get 4 insts Wade owns $1500 - which I have urged him to collect and send immediately he has promised to do so It will be two or 3 weeks - before I can pay the ballance due for 3 wire - You know I cannot pay for Lees wire or Lake line wire at present some of Lees Wire has just arrived and will have to be carted or remain here till Spring, wire for 3 line has not been recd over 30 days & $2000 has pd on it - Jackson bot his wire at Pittsburgh and had pd for He has also pd $500 for inst which is all he owes - It will

not be possible for me to sew 75 a till I
get it of Kent will dun Wade every day —
J. J. Speed

did you ever here anything more
about that note of mine

J. J. Speed Jr
17th Dec 1869

Office of the Erie & Mich. Telegraph Co.
Corner of Cass Street & Jefferson Avenue,
DETROIT, MICH.

Dec 17th 1848

Dear Cornell

Your favor of the 7th inst is received & I am your debtor for that as also yours of the 6th July last from Utica - but my time has been so much occupied lately that I have not been able to devote so much of it to corresponding with my friends as I could wish.

I am truly obliged to you for your last as also for the communication from Byron. I have written to him to come on & I hope he is now on his way here. He will be in a good situation here & will have the charge of this office for a short time. I am going to Jackson soon from there to Chicago & then to Milwaukie & remain there some time - so that "Nubbin" will have it all his own way in Michigan.

I am sorry if the Side line has fallen into bad hands - for it is only by a strict attention & accommodation that they can expect to be supported. I should think enough business would be done in all those places through which they pass to pay the expenses. The N.Y. A. & Bu. line seems to be going on from bad to worse - Mr A. appears to be determined to gain if possible the ill will of his operators - a very unwise course I think. I suppose however that he has not interdicted the Rail Road business - that would be folly indeed. I hope this line may never fall into such management & disrepute.

I am glad that E. Cornell is on the gain & would like very much to see him about 10 minutes as we could then settle some matters about which there is doubt - but perhaps you may be able to answer one or two of them. Has Mr Barrett sent on any instruments since the 2 sent & Received? If so how many & how were they sent & when. He need them 6 or 8 in a few weeks. I understand he has sent 6 some time since but we have heard nothing of them

Detroit Dec 17 1848

It is possible that Byron may not have left Ithaca yet. If not tell him to bring on two if they are done or can be in a few days + if none have been sent but the two spoken of let him remain till 2 are done - bring them with him + have the rest sent by Express - say 6 more. Another thing he must not fail to bring some 6 or 8 rolls of paper - the narrow kind if he can get it.

By doing the above business you will much oblige the Hon The Erie + Mich. Tel Co.

I am quite sure there is nothing here that I can tell you of which would interest you. Save that we have fine pleasant weather for the season in this city of mud - It is the muddiest place I ever saw - There are but few ~~lions here or Elephants either. The~~ Mich. Central R.R. Co are doing an extensive business in the way of building however. They have finished a station house some 380 feet in length + a ware house 800 feet long by 100 wide + the foundations are laid for several other buildings such as a circular brick building for Locomotives 120 ft in diameter + machine shops

There are about as many Catholic churches here as Protestant owing I suppose to the great number of foreigners who reside here. I think I am safe in averaging every other person you meet as one

There is a little life infused into this usually dull season by the presence of the regiment of volunteers who are about leaving for Mexico + then we shall be dull enough + I had as soon be in Chicago or Milwaukie as here - But I must hold up + close trusting to hear from you when convenient by way of letter or newspapers - the latter from N.Y. are scarce. I dont care how often you stick one in if its twice a week. Holman is well + at Ypsilanti will go on soon - Please say to Doct Webster or Graves that I am here - send regards &c - Give my K/ps to all on the line Bush Johnson Gilbert &c Yours truly J. Haviland

Please r.r. the enclosed coms. (if the Prest. whoever he is does not say no + drop this letter in the P.O. + obey me JHC

Cleveland 17 Dec 1849

Dear Sir

I got back here in the night by walking six miles through the mud & paying five dolls to a Livery stable to take me 36 miles in the night - I here recd a package of letters and three from you, all of which I will attend to, as promptly as possible - your draft payl at Patchen Bank will be met, and also the one for $500 sent to Detroit - I will send Place $250 dollars from Ben, and have to pay $450 for fright & charges on wire = The funds of the E & M line have been used to pay for the set building 100 miles of line between Kalamazoo and Chicago; so that I have had to send $400 to Detroit to make up the $500 on your draft - The Zanesville line is now done; except opening of offices, and as the platinas have arrived, and nine instruments, they will be put up immediately - I want four more registers & Relays to complete the complement on Zanesville line - Kent & Co have paid me $4000, and will pay the balance due of $2000 as soon as I can get the

offices all opened - They are now on the line making collections; but the people will not pay up until their offices are opened, when there will be no difficulty in Kent's collecting enough to pay the $2000 - all our poles and all our hands, boards, bills, freight &c are paid - I have used on Zanesville line 21½ tons = 43000 lbs wire at 6½¢ is $2795.

I sent you $1000 & 500 - $1500

dft at Buffalo ——— 500 2000

bal due on Zanesville wire say — $795

(I have not the exact number of pounds used, and cannot get it without going to Winstones wire house, but the above is near the mark)

The above balance of $795 I can pay as soon as I can collect it of Kent, & he will pay as soon as I get the offices all opened, and I cannot the offices opened as soon as I can get the Registers from Ithaca - The balance of the $2000, after deducting amount due you I will send to Smith which will about pay him for Patent - I wrote you about Wades line from Mansfield

and urged him to get the balance due you at the earliest possible moment. He says he owes you about $1500 and can collect it & send it in a few days - I am confident that he has resources enough to pay up for wine & Paint as soon he can collect it & have 17 tons wine left which can be used on Cin & St Louis line or sold if not wanted - or if thought best put on as a second wine on Cin line - You say I have not maintained my estimate & do not get money as I promised; but if you will recollect what you said at Buffalo when we were there you will take that back - You first said that if I could raise money enough to build three ohio lines you could put the wine & pay in stock - you said at Buffalo that you could buy the wine on a years credit and pay a part in stock - you then Telegraphed me that you had made a better arrangement than we contemplated: You said at Buffalo that if you could get $2000 of us you could get along - Now you seem to blame me for not

sending the pay for the wire as soon as it arrives - The Zanesville wire has not been received here more than 30 days, and I have paid $2000 on $2795, which I think is quite as good pay as you had any reason to anticipate - Wade has not paid as fast as I expected he would, but his poles & hands are all paid, and I believe he will soon pay you and Smith all that he owes - The Patent on Jackson's line is not paid for, and he expects $1000 from Ravenna next week - If he gets it, he will send it to Smith or $860 of it, being the Patent money for the distance from here to New Castle, where he unites with Pew - Jackson owes you nothing - He had no wire, & has paid for his instruments - He has also paid about $1000 borrowed of his wife & due him for work on E & M line - The Pittsburg line has paid all it cost, & if we get the money from Ravenna we will be that much ahead with one half the stock left, and the control of the business - you certainly cannot complain of that bargain -

When I get the balance due from Rud & Co the Jamesville line will have. paid every dollar it has cost, and leave us $9000 in Stock; and the advantages of this business from 17 towns - you surely ought not to be dissatisfied with that line - Rudd will pay all he owes and make 17 towns wins besides - His line will give us more business than our Lake line West of this place - and in a few weeks you will have no cause to scold about that line - Less line I have been unable to attend to, and cannot promise as to its final ending - I may have a hard fight to get the money to pay for all, including Palmyra line, but I am now ready through in Ohio, and as soon as I can I will go to St Louis and do what can be done to make that line pay up - The wire for the Lake line you know we had not the means to pay for now - our other liabilities are worth paying & long before the Gran offices we can pay for that wire. If you bought the wire on a years time, as you contemplate, I think we will have the means of paying up for it in full long before it is due; but if you bought

on 30, 60, or 90 days drafts, you did not do right, as you must have known that it was impossible for us to get the money in time to meet them — I think you may rely on balance due you from Janesville (say $700) in 30 days — and from Wade (say $1300) in 30 days — (I hope Wade can send you a part of it sooner) you cannot depend on pay for wire for Lake line before May or June, & you may not get pay for Lees wire before that time: but Lees may be able to send you a part of the money sooner, if his wire has got through, which is not certain, as it did not get here until a few days before the Cold weather, & may have been stoped on the Maumee Canal — you may rest assured that I will (as I have), do all I can to help you pay up, as your credit has been & will, if unimpaired, continue to be of vast importance to our future operations — our lines from here are now all working as beautifully as our lines worked on Earth, & if we could only reach N.Y. promptly we would do up the business just right —

In reply to yours of Dec 4th —

yours of the 4th Dec escaped my notice until I had finished this letter — your suggestions are all very proper & shall receive due consideration — I do not believe in ORiely extravigance, but as in most other matters there is two sides to the question — extravagance & useless expenditures should be carefully avoided — so should such narrow illiberal views as to loose a dollar and save a sixpence — our line was badly built — we had no experience — the caps were poor things — the wire has got down & we have been at unusual expense for repairs — We also made a bad location, Nest, and have had to alter our line in sundry places — The OR opposition has also forced us to open two offices at Bu — but give us one year more & if you do not say we have the best line, & the best worked & which pays the biggest interest of any line in the Country — I am willing to step out & set M S Wood or some competent man work it —

I have had a little too much to do for several months to pay as much attention to Lake line as I will when we get other lines done —

If I should offer to go myself, or let A.B. Cornell go and put your instruments on order on N.Y. & E. line, so you could write from F to N.Y. without the least difficulty, in one circuit; I conclude you would consider it as a specimen of egotism & self conceit not worthy of the least attention: but we could either of do it, as the difficulty you have had all summer is in those, mean contemptable instruments made at Ithaca. If you had paid Rogers, or Chubbuck, or Ware or Cin, or any other half decent instrument maker $100 a piece for Registers, and fifty a piece for Relays, you would have been thousands of dollars better off. Wade has spent several hundred dols, & lost a considerable business by Placis cursed cast iron trash. Jackson has also had trouble enough with his instruments, & now would have been able to work through to Pittsburg if I had not gone all over the line, & half made the instruments. I spent two days at Massillon filing & fixing one

Register & your brother has had to spend several days at each office he has opened, before he could make the instruments work — I now send back one Register to Place, and want him or you, or any other live man to put it up and use it if you can without boring new holes in the side plates, & resetting all the wheels but one — I want four more Registers for Zanesville line, & I will have to get them of Place, as I cannot get elsewhere in time: but then I am done with Ithaca instruments. I will pay for what we have had, and find some better workman than Place hereafter —

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

Pittsburgh Dec 17 1849

Friend C V

Yours enclosing $5 City scrip this morning received. In return I send you $5 current money in Cleveland.

If you take any more look out for counterfeits they are plenty.

I shall be happy to hear from you on the universal subject of "matters and things in general." I have a great interest in it, so much so that you may please tell Supt Jackson to hurry up those books, blanks zincs &c. I am nearly destitute.

I dont think my office will pay expenses this winter unless Pews line helps me a great deal. The expenses on line between here and Br have been very great, some where in the neighborhood of $30. If I get enough to pay board bill washing &c during winter I shall be satisfied till spring. The other line takes off about all I receive here and they pay me comparitively nothing - for instance so far this month I have paid them over $20. and received from them less than $3.

Write soon and give me your opinion of things. Kps to yourself and all in office. As the French gentleman says adieu (Ah-gu)

Yours truly
Ed F Benedict

A B Cornell Esq
Cleveland

Humphreysville Decmbr 17. 1849.

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir.

I received a letter from you some time since stating that you would lay my case before the Trustees for settlement which I presume may have been done, but if it has I have not had the pleasure of hearing from them or any one else that is connected with the line or that has been for if I understand right the Line has passed into other hands from what it was in when I was in its employ, however, I do not know as that has anything to do with my case at present. If it is in your power I should like to have you settle with me, that is if you think it is right and that I ought to have it, you can see very well what a predicament I am placed in. I am keeping my creditors out of their just dues, which I would not do if it was in my power to settle therewith them. I dont know what sort of an opinion they have formed of me in Birmingham but I care mightily for I would not have them think that I meant to cheat them, and be so mean & rascally about it as to leave and not say a word to them, for such is

the case, as I have been expecting this long long time to hear from some one concerning the settlement, but I have finally given up in despair, and I am obliged to appeal to your honor and generosity as the last point.

And I can only ask you if you will see me and my character placed in its former position.

Respectfully Yours
Edgar M. Tomlinson.

P.S. If not the whole amt you may see fit will be very acceptible.

E. Cornell Esq.
Utica
N.Y.

E. M. Tomlinson
17 Dec 1849

Steam Sulphur Akron 1849

Dear Sir

Please read the enclosed letter to Place, and give it to him - I wish you would also examine the Register returned - Turn the driving wheel one round - see if you can make the grooves in the India rollers match, so as not to have the writing erased out - try the magnets - look at the finish of the whole thing, & then say whether you blame us for not being able to use them, without any thing to fix them with, but a jackknife, and a handsaw file - Your Brother has spent two days trying to get one register to work, and left it at last, in such condition, that the Operator could not use it at Akron; & I have sent him an old one to substitute for it - I ask you to examine the connections, through which the current must pass, (when writing) & see if that has not been one difficulty on your M & E line - Baily has started a shop at Detroit - Ware is making good work at Cincinnati, and if you want Ithaca traps used hereafter, you must get some one else to use them; for I will not be censured

with them any more. The only decent work made at Ithaca is Moore, Castings, and they are first rate.

I ascertained last evening that Lee, Wm, shipped to Terre Haute, arrived too late to get through. He cannot get it until the opening of navigation. It was delayed a long time on the Erie Canal & a long time on the Lake. The wire for Lake line & I tried to get delivered at the different ports along shore; but the lot for Dunkirk & Silver creek is at Cleveland, & if used before April, will have to be carried. Late in the fall it is almost impossible to get goods delivered at the small places on the Lake. I stand at Cleveland watching the boats, & thought the wire for Lee was shipped in time to get through; but it seems not. All we can do will be to put up the poles, & put the wire on as soon as it can be delivered in the spring.

I learn from your dispatch last evening that Perry has not paid for the wire he had last. I will never trust any one but myself again. Perry made an exhibit of his assets to me at Erie, & told me that he certainly

would send you all the pay for the 18 tons wire in ten days (4 weeks ago) - I told him that you ordered me to let him have it for cash - He pledged me his word that you should have the cash in ten days & he made me believe that he had the means of making good his promise - I will be after him at once; and it is the last time, that I will assume any responsibility for Pero, or any one else - Hereafter we will pay for our wire before we take it from the Ware House, or not get it at all - I am sorry that you bought the wire for less Lime, I can buy wire at Wheeling, or Columbus, on better terms; and save the freight & charges: but I will do my best to pay for all you have bought, and do it at the earliest moment possible - I have intended to go to Wisconsin & see what could be got there; but I could not leave Ohio without loosing more than I would gain - I hope to get fine Registers & Relays next week, which will enable us to complete contracts, and then I can get money to pay you the balance due on Jamesville wire

and for the small lot Jackson got from Buffalo — I think we had better use the 17 tons wire Wade has at Wheeling on Lees line, & when needed get more for 2d wire on Cin, line —
The difficulty in working Cin line, has made trouble for Wade, & prevented his getting some money which he would have got had the line worked well — That difficulty is now removed, and I think he will be able to send you the balance very soon — The money from Pew, from Wade, balance due you from Jackson, & bal due on Zanesville wire you will get, I hope in two or three weeks — I will stick to it until that is all paid — you cannot get any more than the above mentioned from us this winter
Tell Smith I expect Kent & Co to pay him in full for Patent within three weeks — They are now collecting, and will pay over as fast as they can —
I need, a long dispatch from Kendall, complaining of me for invading his territory — I answered, & I think it will

J. Shaw Jr
18th Dec 1847

Satisfy him that I have done nothing to deserve his censure - I have asked Kendall for permission to build from St Louis to Fort Independence. If he grants the right, I will see, when I go to St Louis, what chance there is of getting a line up the Missouri - If I build it, I will not ask you to advance one dollar, I will get one vine at Columbus, or Wheeling, and one instrument at Detroit or Cincinnati, & pay for them when I get them - If we could secure the control of a line four or five hundred miles up the Missouri, it would also secure the control of the business from the Pacific, if the great R Road should ever be built. We now have the control of nearly all the business in Ohio, except the competition at Cin, & Columbus - There is no line to be built in Ohio of any importance - I shall therefore direct my attention to Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri: but I am done building lines on credit, I will have the cash on all new lines, & they at $80. If we

raise the wind & get you out of the boat for the wire you have sent us, we will not ask you to get in again — We will hereafter row our own boat, & if we owe for wire, it will be nearer home, and when we can pay for it, without paying 1½ or 2 pct for drafts —

The result of my Ohio operations have been as follows

Pittsburg line with 10 offices will pay up in full, and leave us one half the stock — Zanesville line 18 offices will pay in full, and leave us $9000 in stock — Wades line 13 or 14 offices will pay in full, and leave 17 tons whiting wire, and about 15 thousand in stock, which will pay at least 7 per ct. — and in addition to the above, those lines will more than double your through business on N.Y. & E line, and add very much to the business on E & M line — If you do not call this a tolerable good summer's work, (provided we pay you soon) I know not what would be satisfactory — I do not anticipate any profit in cash, on St Line, & expect a very hard fight to get means to pay for wire & Patent; but if Kendall

will be me "invade his territory", I do hope to get a line up the Missouri, and make it pay - There are also sundry side lines in Illinois, which can be got up, and made to pay, if Peoria do not get the start of us - our Lake line now works as fully as ever a line worked on earth, and another reason you will see the returning fruits from the trees we have planted -

You have not yet decided whether we shall put up 20 wire on Lake line and charge Co, at cost, or charge 50 dollars per Mile - If we have 50 per mile, Smith will claim the same out, and perhaps it will be as well to charge it to Company at Cost - but it will be better for us to charge 50 dollars per mile, as the profits we make will balance against an equal amt to Smith, and the other Stockholders would be paying us a profit 20 per cent as they are interested - Suppose the actual cost to be $30 per mile - the profits would be $4000 on 200 miles - Smith would also have $4000: but the balance of the Stockholders would pay three shares of the $4000 profits to us, & Smith would be paying his share of the $4000 profits

to us, on the $24000 which he claim, as profits of construction. Let me know which to do, as I want to get the consent of of our directors, & will have to decide on the price, or put it in at cost—

I think you will have to take some Sunday to read all I have written so I will stop

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

I have written a long letter to E S M & he has pledged me his word & honor never to touch the cursed "Critten" gain I am going to see to matters thing

Mr E Cornell
Athens

J J Speed Jr
1849

Cleveland 18 Dec 1849

Dear Sir

I wrote the long letter enclosed yesterday, which will reach you sooner by being mailed when I get to Buffalo — I expect to go on the boat now here this afternoon, & will put this in offs at Bu the moment I get there — I must have made a sad blunder about funds to pay for wire, if you understood or had the stightest reason to suppose that I could pay for all the wire you bought on its arrival at the close of navigation, and too late to ship it beyond this place — you know that the wire for Lees line could not be paid for out of any resourses which I could command, until the wire is rec'd. in that line, and the money collected out of Lees subscribers. I have repeatedly warned Lee not to engage in building more than he could secure funds to pay for; but neither you nor I expected him to pay for wire before he received it — you certainly did not expect that I could rebuild Lake line from Kalamazoo to Chicago, & pay for second wire from

here to Fredonia or Buffalo, within twenty days after we received the wire = You made a bargain with Winslow to take the Lake freight in Stock if it came on his Vessels, as he says: but unfortunately it nearly all come on Vessels not his, and as the Winslows are among our best customers, I did not want to have any words or difficulty with them, and have had to pay the freight & charges amounting about $1200 in cash - If I pay all up for wire, poles, labor, freight, Patent & all on Zanesville line in about 90 days after it was commenced, and in sixty days from the receipt of the wire here. besides paying the freight on all the Lake wire, and the freight & charges on all Lees wire to this place, it will be doing far better than we have ever done before, and as well as you had any right to expect = Wade has disappointed me in his collections, as I supposed he would have paid your wire bill in full before this time = Your $500 draft for articles furnished E & M line I have had

to pay $400 on out of funds obtained
South= you know we had a legacy
of eight or ten thousand left us
on E & M line for poles, labor &c, which
is not quite all paid yet, and had
we not been in debt when the
Lake line was done, your bill for
Books &c could have been paid
long ago- I will continue to make
every possible effort to get funds &
send you just as fast as I can;
but I judge from your numerous
dispatches that you are relying on
more money from me than I can
send you very soon- I wish you
would send me a bill of articles
furnished for E & M line, that I may
have them charged to expenses-
I do not know what our business will
be this winter on Lake line; but I think
it will be better than last winter as
the new lines will all add to our
receipts- I will economise in every
possible way & remit you all I can;
but to promise to pay faster than there
is any probability of my doing so, would
be only making your position worse
instead of better- As I have before
said I can pay balance due for

Zanesville wire & Wade can & must pay bal due on his wire — Pero I suppose has paid for his 18 tons — If he has not done so, I will now rely on his promises again — I have not heard from him, but he assured me he would send you the money in ten days from the time I shipped him the wire. I will hear from him before I return from Ben, & if he has not paid, I will go on his line & see to it at once, I have to pay now

Your two drafts 500 ea	1000
Place	250
Winslow bal due on freight on all the wire	954.83
	$2204

This takes all I can raise & cannot pay all of Winslows freight bill till next week — If I get money from Ransuna will send bal due you on Zanesville wire & let Smith waite for Patent money till Rent pays up —

Yours &c J. J. Speed Jr

J. J. Speed Jr
10 Dec 1882

Steamer Sultana Lake Erie
18th Dec 1849

Dear Sir

My operations for the season being nearly closed, I will give you my reckoning, that you may know something of my prospects for ultimately reaching a port of safety—

You know I was awfully in debt, when we completed the Lake line, at least ten thousand dollars— That debt is nearly paid— three or four hundred would clear it off— We have built a line from Cleveland to Pittsburg on which there are 10 offices. The whole expense of building is paid. I owe Smith 860 for Patent, and Cornell about ~~800~~ 250 for wire, I will collect enough more on that line to pay both. The line has paid Mrs F. Jackson $500 & interest which I borrowed when building Lake line, and has also paid T Jackson & M Jackson about 400 due them for work on Lake line, &

Cornell and Speed still own
more than half the Stock, leaving
the business for our other lines -
was it not a good job to build
that line? I have built a line
from Cleveland to Wheeling 160 miles
with a branch to Zanesville from
Uhrichsville 65 miles, I have paid the
whole expense of building, and
owe on wire and Patent about
$2000. which I will get in less
than 30 days = We have $9000
in Stock, and will make four
or five hundred besides. The
business will add much to our
receipts on other lines - Did I
not do right to build that line?
I have built a line from Cleveland
direct to Cincinnati through Columbus - the whole expense of building
is paid - owe Cornell for wire
about $1300 - Will collect enough
to pay in full for Patent and all
expenses and have 17 tons wire
bought at Wheeling paid for, and
$15000 in stock which will pay
7 per cent the first year, is not
that all O.K. We have added
near 200 miles to our lines this summ

which will fully double the business on N.Y. & E line (If it ever works well), and add very much to our receipts on E & M line. The 700 miles has cost us nothing, or rather I will get out of the balance due as, full enough to pay all expenses and have the stock left, besides securing the business. I call it a good summer's work; but I do not get cash to pay my private debts yet. If Telegraph stocks would pay, I would soon visit Ithaca, I think it will not be over two years before my dividends will pay debts, if the stock will not. I have offered any stock I have at 4/ on the dollar to raise money to pay Owego Bank, and sundry small debts at Ithaca; but I have not got it cashed yet. Hope to do so still, will keep trying until I accomplish it.

Next season I mean to complete our line from Cincinnati to St. Louis, and build 500 miles of side lines in Indiana & Illinois, besides a line up the Missouri to Fort Independence

and ultimately to California — That you will say is a Jack-O'Lantern Shame again — May be so: but I mean to be on hand when the proper time comes & have a chance in — My attachment for working two circuits works beautifully, and we are just as certain to write from St Louis to Ny, without rewriting as we live long enough to get a through wire —

You wrote me in the summer to send you a certificate for some stock I entirely forgot it: but will attend to it when I go home — I have not been at home 3 weeks in 3 months and do not expect to be at home much of the time for a year to come, Please remember me to my friend Mack & tell him I am alive and kicking, and as long as there is life there is hope —

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

Buffalo 19 Jan 1849

Dear Sir

I got in this city this morning by steamer, and had as pleasant a trip from Cleveland, as I ever had on the Lake in June - The Lake was as smooth and quiet as a pond - I took up your draft at Bolton's Bank for $500, which I see was drawn on me as Pres. of Erie Co, and is, I suppose, for articles furnished by you - The draft sent to Detroit is also paid, and I have sent Plane $200 all I have left & must pay Winslow on freight of wire - If I get Register, as I expect, this week, I can have them put up right away, and then collect the balance due me on Jamesville line, & pay you the rest due from that line for wire &c - Our expenses have been getting poles in the main street, and in fitting up new offices, have been large; but our up Town office will get enough more business before Spring to more than pay all the expenses we have incurred - We now have two of the best offices in this city there is in the Union, & have leases for several years, so that we are not going to open any more expense for a long time - The up Town office is now doing as much as the office at the exchange, nearly, all of which comes from being given to Pirates if we had no up Town office - Our Lake line works as fine as possible - The Ohio lines all work well, and if we could only make N.Y. & Erie work as it should, we could be getting back some of your rocks - yesterday and today upon our line has been down, and we have to pay Customs duties - Williams has just gone to N.Y. & has with $15 worth of Coin - and Cleveland says

he has a large lot more to send—
So there not unnecessary delay in
getting line up between F & Sa ?: I know
it is often impossible to repair line as soon
we think it ought to be done; but two
days at a time is too long to have line
down under ordinary circumstances—
We have suffered badly by breaking of
line between Kalamazoo & Chicago: but
our new line will seldom break, and
the saving in expense of repairs & increase
of business, will pay for new line in one
year— I expect our receipts on E & M
line for a year to come will be near
or quite fifty Thousand dollars— our
expenses, aside from 2d wire, will be
much less than for the year last,
and Notwithstanding the Pirates will have
their line done to Chicago in a few days
& will get some of our business from
that city, we will do it so much better
than they can, that I do not expect
them to hurt us much—
I see a Statement in the papers that
Judge McLean has decided in
favour of O R & pronounced Morse's
Patent void— I suppose it is an O R
trick without the shadow of a foundation to rest upon: but I have Telegraphed
J W Andrews to let me know what
it all means— I go up the Lake
by Steamer on Friday—

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

Wm E Coombs
Esq
Ottawa

New York 22 Dec 1849

To the Board of Directors of
Hudson River Rail Road Co

Gentlemen

I wish to make some reciprocal arrangement with your Company for right to erect our telegraph poles along your Road from New York to Poughkepsie, and further for passage of our men over that portion of your Road in any of your cars, when it may be necessary to keep the wires in order and work the line. As an equivilant to your Company for the above privilages I purpose to send by Telegraph and deliver all messages for that your company or any of its agents may wish to send over our wires pertaining to Rail Road busines - We shall have Stations from which you can telegraph at Tarrytown Peekskill, Cold Spring - Fishkill & Poughkepsie - and may possibly and quite probably have an office at Sing Sing - Or if you should prefer it we will keep an account of the Telegraphing we do for you at usual prices - and you keep an account of the riding you do for us and at

the end of Each Quarter we will pay
or rec^d the ballance may be against the
Telegraph or Rail Road,

Or If you should find it for the
interest of the Rail Rodd Company
at any time to put up a wire for their
exclusive use we will grant permission
for the wire to be put on our poles.

I should like permisson to
place our poles on the Road from
Terry Town to Croton point immediately
on other parts of the Road I would
move the poles as the line required
repairs.

In erecting the poles along the line
of your Road I should endeavour to keep
on the East side of the track so as to
avoid if possible the crossing of the track
and thus the dificulty of the wires getting
in the way of the Cars by any derangement
of them that may occur,

At Terry Town I should like to get
room in your depot for the instrument,
which would be the most convenient
for the Rail Road Co and their passengers

Yours Respectfully
E Cornell
President
My R Tel Co

Woodville Dec 24/49

Friend E. C.

Your note was rec'd in due time, but not in time for me to get to Ithaca before you had gone — I called on Boardmen for a settlement and told him I thought I ought to have $600. for year instead of $500. and gave him my reasons

He hesitated saying you informed him my acct was all made out & a balance due the Co $119. and some cents, & he had nothing to do but to rec the sum, correct the books &c — He therefore that best to defer settlement until I could see you — I told him I would immediately correspond with you — And now I appeal to your unbiased judgment, & submit to your careful consideration a few undeniable facts connected with this matter —

We will go back to 2 years ago this winter when you urged me to go west on the Erie & Mich line, saying I might go any where, at any station save Buffalo (as that was engaged) and should have as much for my salary as any one on the line — I indicated to you that I did not want to go for less than $600 per year

You desired me to go on — When I settled with Col Speed he remarked they could not

afford to pay me but $500, but would consult you and if the understanding was as I represented I should get have another $100. — That has never come — I learned from good authority that Allen of Buffalo rcvd the first year $600 — That being so where is the other $100 for me & why should I not have it—!
I had the privilege of remaining on that line at $300 but refused it & you know it — Soon after I engaged in the singing business and had a fine prospect ahead when you suddenly called me to NY & desired me to come as soon as I could get rid of my schools — Accordingly I closed them instanter much to their displeasure to accommodate you as well as myself (as I supposed) and started without another word in relation salary. Placing in you as a relative & a friend entire confidence that I should be satisfied — I managed while there to the best of my ability & for aught I know to the satisfaction of my employer. at all events with more than usual anxiety to do right — Upon my arrival in in NY I lost my trunk the value of which Mr Flower said I should have as soon as I would make out my bill — But you having property in it & depending upon you

for wise counsel. I told him I would defer doing so until you again reached there that I might learn the value of your property &c — Consequently it rested till it was with considerable difficulty that I could get even $30. about 3/7 its value — Thus by your advice it has rested till I think the chance for getting more very slim indeed — Another thing I wish you to consider — I understand you said if I had not the $119 to pay over that I must have been very Extravagant in my expenses — To show you how extravagant I was. I find upon calculation after paying my board, washing & Dr Bills only, my travelling Expenses to & from NY. not counting the first going down nor the last coming up, then paying $119 I would have just $11. left to clothe myself after losing all the clothes I had save a poor suit on my back — If that be extravance pray let me know what is economy — When I went to NY I went with a determination to live respectably, frugal, & prudently, without regard to salary or trying to compete with other citizens pomp — I desired, & do still, to act conscientiously, honestly & like a Christian. tho I come far too short, & after all my efforts to act judiciously, to find myself cut down to a salary of $500 per annum in such a costly

living city as A.P. is indeed discouraging—
I consulted a good many on this subject
and all are of the opinion that $300 is too
small a sum for me to live at—
If you wish to make comparisons I will
refer you to A.P. salaries on other lines
where you cant find one main operator's
less than $750.— All these things I desire to
submit to your unbiased consideration and
say, in place of the Co. in your own place,
or in mine, if I am wrong in claiming
what I do. or if the Co would not justify
you in allowing it—

I invite you to answer this soon as
practicable & let me what or how generous
you can be, & when & where we can
meet for settlement— I am ready to meet
you in Dryden or Ithaca on any Thursday
Friday or Saturday before 3 PM & arrange the
matter amicably at $600 per annum.
but- father than that, you will have to wait
until I can earn the balance claimed if
persisted in

Yours with respect & esteem

E Cornell

L Dunham

Pittsfield Dec 24th 1849.

E. Cornell Esq-

Dr Sir,

Your of 13th is recd and I regret more than you that we could not have had the meeting when we were so near together. Who is to blame for it I will not undertake to say. Mr Clapp agreed to return to Salsbury if you came up in the cars. I waited at D. until they returned, thinking that you and Mr Smith had gone up the line and would return with them, when we might make some arrangement to have the line worked: but there are difficulties in making arrangements with the Smiths. so far as we in Pan are concerned there is no one to act for the Co who has any power to do so. I suppose the Directors have the power as far as the stock is owned in Connecticut and we might overcome the difficulties here if it was an object worth the trouble: but I have no faith in making arrangements with Smith or any one else until we settle with you and have the line in working order through, and have certificates of stock to give the delinquent stockholders when they pay up. It might be however that we could make some arrangements

by your agreeing to do certain things, and Smith agreeing to do certain other things. But to negociate such an affair the parties must be together. I should as soon think of settling the Northeastern boundary question by corresponding with a British Minister as to make arrangements with you and Smith, you being at Athica or somewhere else, and he in Avon or somewhere else. This is why I so much regret not meeting you at Salsbury I think now I shall not move one of my tracks where it will involve me in any expense at present, and after then is nothing done soon I shall call a meeting of the Co. and make a report of the facts, and resign, which I have been desirous of doing for some time, but have been kept from it in hope that something could be done so that I might leave the office with proper respect for myself, and others. I inquired through the Telegraph what the state of Thayers suit against you was, and I enclose Mr Tuckers answer.

Yours Respectfully
S. L. Russell.

P. S. I suppose the line might be put in tolerable working order for Fifty Dollars. Your pole contracts ought to be settled soon or they will be at Athica soon with their

judgments.

5

PITTS FIELD
DEC 24
Mass.

Esra Cornell. Esq
No 5 Hanover Cor Beaver St
N. York.

J. Russell
24 December

New-York, Dec 25 1849.

By Telegraph from Nunda

To E. C.

Is it not better to negociate ~~F~~ with T. C. Thompson to have Thomas stay at least until Spring; - if not how soon can you supply his place - I do not like to have the place left vacant for several reasons

B. Bagley

Pittsfield Decr 25th 1849

Mr E. Cornell

Sir,

Can you give me employment at N.Y. Office, for a time at forty or forty two dollars per month? I understand from J. McKinny that there is help wanted in your office there. I would come to the City & confer with you if I were able to do so. I should like to hear from you immediately if my terms meet your views, or if you have an offer that you think will be for my interest to accept, that you can make to me.

Respectfully &c

Chas M. P. Ingersoll

E. Cornell
N. York

Mr E. Cornell
No 5 Hanover, Cor Beaver St
New York
Paid

Chas. McK Lagrange
25 Dec 1849

Erie Pa 25 June 1849

Dear Sir

This has been a very cold, stormy, unpleasant day, and my feelings have been in unison with the elements — I have been waiting here since Saturday afternoon for Penn — He does not come — I understand he is on his line collecting — He promised to meet me at Warren Ohio in Nov^r, but did not do so — He promised to send you the pay for the wine he had in ten days from the 14th of Nov^r — He has not, as I can find out sent one dollar — I told him that your orders were to let him have it for Cash, He made an exhibit of the sum due him at various places, and made me believe that he could get the money within ten days — He would the wine shipped immediately as there was a prospect of the canal closing before he could get the money & then have time for the wine to get through — I foolishly relied on his positive assurance that he would positively, and without the slightest doubt, send you the money in ten days — I did wrong — I will never do so again — I would not take Penn's word for any thing again, he does not pay the slightest regard to his agreements — I think he told me truth when he said he had $12100 of good subscriptions to collect — I think he will collect the money & pay it in a few days, & I presume that he is waiting to get the money & does not want to see me again until he does get it —
I will keep after him, & get out of this scrape as well as I can & I assure you

I nice not to be caught in an other like it— I ought to have told you the butter that Pew said & believed that he could pay for the wine in ten days— you could then have let him have it, or run the risque of the closing of the Canal before he could get it—

I have also made one other bull this fall— I authorised Morgan to alter our Bus. offs. sit / painted / work in the Main Street, fit up offs over Lee Bank, and have the Gas fixings in both offices— I did wrong— I ought to have waited until I could see to it myself— It is beautifully fixed— Splendidly arranged; but I could have saved some of the money better— I have put a veto on all extras hereafter— Our Town offs is doing a good business, & in Six months will get enough transient business which we would not get at the Town office to pay for all the fixings, and as we have long leases for both offices, we will be at no more expense at Bus for advertising— Vincent Simmons & Co are making us very good caps here, & I will get 2d wire on Lake line in time for Spring business—

I have been in the shops in the morning—

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

2 P.S.

Morgan has stopped drinking entirely— He gives me his word & honor that he will do no more & that his books & accounts shall be kept up— If he fails now that is the end of the fellow in the most positive

Peekskill 25th Decr 1849

My Dear Mary Ann & Children

I wish you all a Merry Christmass a Merry, Merry, Christmass, and I hope Old Santa Claus, wont be so verry busy as to pass by the retired little Glenn that shetters you from the pittiless north-ern blast, without even draping in to catch a glance of those bewitching merry eyes, of my darling Mary or the Cherub smiles of my baby Boy, for I know the Old fellow could not have a heart to pass them by if he once got his peepers on them without staping and untying his sack of notions and inviting them to help themselves, But then the Jolly old fellows most always goes about at night, (I suppose to avoid being detained by every rosy cheeked Erchin he would meet) and deals out a doll here and rattle there as he may judge will best tend to produce a merry Christmas, among the young folks. and if he has not called on Mary and buddle and Perry & Frank, it must be because he could not get down the chimney - Some times it so happens that he has so much to do that he cant get around to all on Christmas night and has to defer some calls to an other time, and it

so in your Case, so you must not scold if he has passed you by, as it wont make the matter any better to feel about it, and may make it worse as it may get to his ears, and it that wont he may pass by the second time

You must be good Children, and deserve the Jolly old fellows favour even if you should not get them,

I came up from N.Y this P.M and it is a pinching Cold day, as any one need want for christmas. I have been slightly unwell with the old complaint, I had attack, Saturday, Sunday & Monday, either quite light not so as to go to bed either day, to day I feel quite well again, and from the lightness of the attacks feel in hopes they are wearing off Tomorrow I go to Cold Spring, then return to N.Y and to Narrowsburgh to open the Office there which I have not yet done,

I shall try to be at home to Spend New Year with you and hope you will be able to treat me with a New Year dinner,

Please accept my love as a christmas present, and a kiss for the Babys,

Affectionately Yours
E. Cornell

Mary Ann

Wm E Cornell President of Connecticut & Vermont Telegraph Co

The amt due me for services as agent & operator at the office at West Cornwall I hereby assign & transfer to Messrs Finch & Kellogg of this place to whom you will please pay the same

West Cornwall Dec 26th 1849

Respectfully Yours

Marten Porter

Decr 24. 1824

Dear Sir

What do you think of the propriety of printing such a circular as the enclosed and sending to such business men in this city as would be most likely to aid in carrying out the project, — and after giving a proper time for them to reject it, send some person to solicit subscriptions from them personally.

I go up to Cold Spring the day — If you think it advisable, will you see what it would cost to print 2 or 300 hundred of them neatly on letter paper —

Yours &c

E Corrill

Thos. H Clark Esq

West Cornwall Decbr 26th 1849

Wm E Connell

Dr Sir

Herewith I Enclose a paper transfering any balance that may be due to me for services to other persons the reasons for this are found in a temporary embarrisment which when I see you I will explain

Respectfully Yours &c Porter

I ought perhaps to say to you that the line along between me & Litchfield has been broken down by an Ice Storm & have repaired it as far as Goshen it is also down below Litchfield and the Office at Litchfield as yet has not done anything about repairing it a Stockholder here wished me to say this to you and enquire to whom such repairs properly belong

Jons M Porter

Martin Parten
26. Dec 1839

E Cornell
Oliver H. P. Cornell