SPEED'S

ERIE AND MICHIGAN TELEGRAPH LINE.

OFFICES—At Rail Road Depot and on Front st., between Buffalo and Center.

Communications Confidential, and must be pre-paid.

Write plainly—give full address—use no figures.

Dunkirk, March 2nd 1853 o'clock M.

By Telegraph from Binghamton

To E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

At last I have seen Col Wells. He only took ten shares he said he thought he could get some five or seven more. The Waverly folks hold back yet — a Mr Davis has the Mother in hand at that place. The people Do not like the plan of our running fast Without staping at thers place — I think somthing should be done to stop the RR Line doing any business What ever — their doing a little is a great Bar to us — I told the Waverly people they must give us $1.000 at least to have an office. I Received your letter With Check for $25 & Wrt soon

Yours by Lightening

G W S Kinney

Indianapolis March 5th 1853

My Dear Alonzo

The Meeting is over and we have had a hard and well faught battle and feel well satisfied with the result so far, and doubt not all will be well in the End, by the Enclose remonstrance to the Ind Legislature you will learn the situation of things when we got here, I must also mention that when we got to DK on our way out here we learned that the Directors had fraudilently issued the Patentee stock some 1500 shares so as to have it to vote upon - That with their new law made heavy odgs against us, but we had the right on our side & "thrice is he armed who has his quarrel just" We first succeeded in reducing the number of Directors from 9 to 3 and then elected 2 of our men & 1 of theirs.

The Directors would appt me supt if desired, but there is to much to be done out here in building for R.R.ds which I had better devote my attention to than the supt of the line,

Speed is here, he has got another good RR contract in Ill - Let me here from you, I am quite well, will write mother soon

Respectfully

E Cornell

A.B.C

Indianapolis March 7th 1853

My Dear Mary Ann

I have written nothing since I left home till now except in relation to business I now propose to regale myself with the pleasure of writing to My Dear Wife -

After leaving I soon reached Owego where I retired early to enjoy what repose I could before the arrival of the Cars from Ny I honoured the mansion with My presence & patronage. at about 2 A.M. I was called up for the Cars. which were an hour & a half behind time. When they came I found O'Reilly & Mann onboard as I anticipated, We got on quite smoothly breakfasting at Hornellsville - and loosing time from place to place till we reached Dunkirk in time to miss the cars for the west as we did when you came out with me - At Dunkirk We stopped at the Loder house, but all agreed that it was a dirty & poor concern, and I came to the conclusion that the American was the best house of the two -

We retired early and was called at midnight for the Cars - At the depot We waited an hour after time for cars from Buffalo and then left Dunkirk

Erie cars - This braking connection so frequent at ~~Buffalo~~ Dunkirk is very annoying to passengers We arrived in Cleveland in time to go up to the Franklin & breakfast before leaving for Cincinnati From D'k to The State line I had to pay 6/- fare from there to Cleveland they passed me on my Erie RR pass -

Fr C to Cin I passed on Wades pass which I got from Dunham who I saw at office and well - We arrived at Cin about 10 PM Saturday and quartered at the Burnett House where we met several telegraphers on their way to Washington for the purpose of attending convention of Telegraphers & to inaugurate the new President of the U. S. A -

About 10½ A.M Sunday We went on board Steamer ——— for Madison, and were soon on our way gliding down the noble Ohio — We met A.B. Grant of Ia at Burnett House who was a fellow passenger down the river on his way to Louisville to purchase tobacco for his Cigar manufactory at Ia -

This was my first visit to points below Cincinnatti & first on the Ohio river Each object was new & therefore of interest -

Either border of the Ohio is hilly and some-what broken, On the Ohio side for some distance below Cin the hill sides are terraced and cultivated in grape presenting to view hundreds of acres of splendid vineyards which must furnish a lovely spectacle when in full vintage — large quantities of very fine wine is manufactured from the fruit of those vineyards —
On the Kentucky side of the river the topography of the Country is much the same, but slavery dwells in the land, and the blighting curse of human bondage ensheaths the landscape with perpetual gloom — as if to awaken the conscience of the beholder to the enormity of the crime by damning contrast between freedom and bondage as the two pictures lay spread before him on the right and on the left, In the land of the free the shore is lines with highly cultivated farms neat Cottages and flourishing towns — In the land of the Slave we are reminded of naught but Uncle Toms deserted Cabin — But enough the the scene is sickening, but Ah! My Country when shall this curse be washed

from Thy skirts — At about 6 P. M we were landed at Madison and took lodgings at the —— House the cars not leaving for Indianapolis till 7 A M Monday Morning — Monday Morning we took an early breakfast and our seat in the Cars for this City. On leaving Madison the Cars go up an inclined plain about 400 to the Mile, by locomotive power the Engine having a pinion that works in a rack laid down on the track midway between the rails — If the coupling should brake while the train is going up this plain the attached cars would be precipitated down the plain into the River — From Madison the country is hilly the first 50 miles and about as bad as your fathers neighbourhood the balance of the way, heavy timber, no prairie — country marish & rich land. This City has about 12,000 rapidly increasing, railroads building to diverge in all directions — Hon I close for this time — Speed — O'Reilly & Wade left this day for home Mamm stays with me for a few days — Love to you & Children

Affectionately Yours
E Corell

Mary Ann

For and in consideration of four hundred dollars. the receipt of one hundred & fifty of which is hereby confessed & acknowledged, I promise & agree that within sixty days from date I will either return said money or any part thereof which I may have received or cause to be assigned to Ezra Cornell, of whom I get the money, One hundred shares of the Stock of the Ohio Indiana & Illinois Telegraph Company

Rec'd Indianapolis Mar 9th 1853 from Cornell & Speed one hundred and Sixty dollars in cash, and a draft on T. S. Faxton, S. D. Childs & others at ten days for one hundred & forty dollars, in part payment for one hundred shares of Stock in the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois Telegraph Company at four dollars per share, which I hereby agree to deliver to said Cornell & Speed within Sixty days from date, and on the delivery of said Stock to said Cornell & Speed they the said C & S. shall pay to to the undersigned the balance of one hundred dollars.

Donald Mann

Binghamton Mar 9th/53

E Connell Esq

Dear Sir

Yours of the 24th ult was duly recvd, and shall be answered so far as I am able— I did not leave the office at New York. nor have I since heard of the tools or books. but think Foxton has the tools. and the boys may have taken the Directory you speak of— I believe the wires are run into Minots office. but Foxton has not kept the line up over the week between Newbury and Ny since he took possession of it. and seems to think it just about as well down as up I learn the Bain wires are neglected in the same way. He professes to be a very thorough man, but keeps the worst repairers that can be found in the country— I have not heard from Palmer, but must say he served me a mean trick. He engaged to me to commence the first of March. He also left an unpaid board bill at R.O. which was charged to me by his order without my

knowledge or consent while he worked them and which I informed you of soon after — But the worst trick of all is to ask me to wait five months for the survey on my p/c. after trusting the Co. to a greater amt. and for a longer time, (depriving myself of every thing) than any man on the line would do, I am promised a full payment before you left for Enid and then go away, paying a mere pittance. I would still forbear all without murmuring a word. if I had not made a promise myself of $150, the 25th of this month, which was made on the strength of a promise of my survey from the Co. before that time — and not withstanding the case is not stated to me at all until you are off, and the only alternative is to pocket the insult disappoint my creditor. and loose perhaps half that amount by the delay, and all without the least explanation why it is so. If you paid out the $1000 which you could safely and easily raise in anticipation of the rest of the line, to other Cr.s of the Co, the blame is no less in as

much as my a/c was not only as large or nearly so. but much older than any other. And if the money could not be raised it would be no more than fair that I should know it— I certainly hope it will be my lot in life to deal with men who place a little more value upon their word, than some I have dealt with lately, and who regard integrity as a more leading principle All I can do is to go to Mr Jackson and get him to raise some money for me if possible, unless you can write him in time to do it for me— I cannot possibly wait 5 months for the whole of my a/c and it is out of reason to ask it, I will do with as little as possible until then, but want part of it money—

Skinner is here, blowing around, worse than ever. He has all the laboring men in the place engaged to build 2d wife. I am a good acquaintance with the man & also with his work. I am greatly mistaken if he does not prove another stumbling block to the interests of this firm if he gets up 2d wife. in his bungling slipshod way of doing things—

Please let me hear from you in regard to these things as soon as convenient

I P Gordon has never recd a pass. Ike Tichenor might possibly be made to give up his if a fuss were made abt it. C L Brown has one but will not give it up - may be able to get Colemans but not certain. Consequently I have a pass for one repairer on the whole line

Yours very Resp

P. A. Hopkins

P. A. Hopkins
Mar 9 - 1853

Columbus. O. March 10 = 1853

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

I have just rec'd the enclosed message from Col Sfud =

I fully concur with him in the suggestion & supposed it was understood so before I left, I shall be perfectly satisfied with any arrangement you think best to make but get the connection away from Reid at all hazards

About the line from Janesville to Cin through Kendalls Territory — I had a message from the Post of that Road & he says if I dont make them an offer he will call on other parties — What had I better do I told Mr O. Reilly to have Cook write to Mr Kendall, & if he dont think we have anything to do with it, he may sell it low enough to warrant us in buying it but if he pursues what had better be done — Will it do to build it & call it a Second Rise to our present line, I dont like to have any one else build it nor is it object enough to want to have a law suit abt it

Yours Truly

J. H. Wade

Indpr March 11th 1853

Ezra Cornell.

Dr Sir

The terms proposed yesterday for the Mil line are not acceptable to Mr Kreisted & myself. but we will take two thousand as follows - $600,00 Cash in hand, 1 note at six months for $466.66 - 1 do at 9 months for $466.67 - & 1 do at 12 (twelve) months for $466.67 - payable in Bank at Chicago or Detroit as you may prefer - we taking a mortgage on the line as security,

I expect to leave this afternoon for Lafayette. but if the above proposition is accepted I will remain in town until tomorrow for the purpose of executing the papers - possession of the line will be given on the receipt by us of the first payment

Respy
R. E. Bryant

600, in hand
466.66 - 6 mos
466.67 - 9 -
466.67 - 12
2000.00

Detroit March 12th 53 - Ans to Dispatch yesterday

6 Cornell

yes close it
and draw on me payable
in
at Chicago ninety days for first
payment and endorse it on
Contract in the name of
Cornell & Sprid

A A Sprid Jr

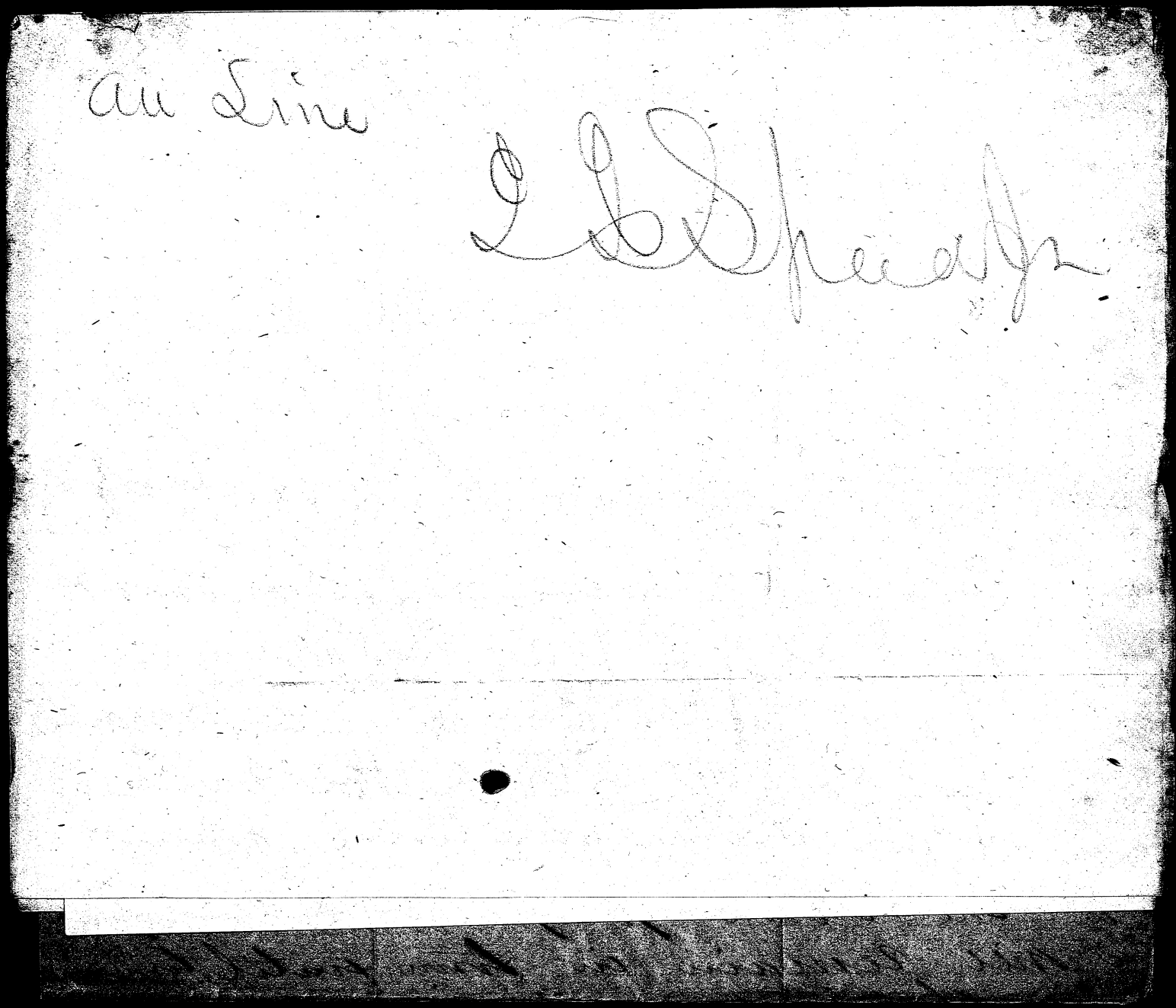
Chicago E. Cornell Mar 15-53

If we get O L & I line all right we can try the right to Milwaukie line in Court & get a Judgment. If you Need an atty. Send to J. L. Jernegan. I will give the requisite Bail if Necessary get the Northen Combination & we can do with out Lawyers. If Took is not Supt Cobb will take it for Same as Bryant Had it J. P. Speed Jr

Chicago Mar 15—1858

Ebonite

It will take some time to get possession of line by law but do as you think best if the gas ~~connection~~ Contract of D. D & 2 line which you have better do at all Hazards we can control the business & make our own terms about



Articles of agreement between Isaac M Kersted of Dayton Ohio and Robert E Bryant of Crawfordsville Indiana of the first part, and John J Speed Jr of Detroit Michigan of the second part, Witnesseth—

The parties of the first part being the owners of the Telegraph line, known as the O'Reilly line, between Chicago Ill, and Milwaukee Wisconsin, with all the instruments, furniture and fixtures thereto pertaining, have sold bargained and transferred, and by these presents do hereby sell transfer to the party of the second part, his heirs & assigns, the said Telegraph line including the instruments, batteries, furniture in the offices & fixtures thereto pertaining, and do hereby deliver to said party of the second part the said Telegraph line and fixtures, and bind themselves, their heirs and assigns to defend the said party of the second part, his heirs & assigns in the peaceable and quiet possession of the said line of Telegraph against all claims which may be brought by any one (excepting the Morse Patentees, or their

assigns for pay for the Patent right
against said line.

The party of the second part agrees to pay to the parties of the first part their heirs or assigns in full consideration for said line the sum of two thousand dollars, payable as follows: One hundred dollars on the tenth day of April next, at the office of the Erie & Michigan Telegraph Company at Chicago & One hundred dollars on the tenth day of each month thereafter until the whole amount of two thousand dollars shall have been paid, as above. Should the party of the second part fail to make any of the payments as above provided, the said line of Telegraph and all its appurtenances shall be delivered over to the parties of the first part in as good condition as the said line and fixtures now are.

Witness our hands & seals at Indianapolis this day of March 1853.

J J Speed Jr

Received from [redacted]

As it will interest you I will add that our village has been visited with several fires of late and this morning a new flouring mill just erected & owned by your old friend Jacob M McCormick was entirely destroyed by fire with its contents. About $ 2000 worth of grain. His loss is about $10,000 Insured for $6,000.

In Haste. I am Respectfully Yrs &c

N. B. Cornell

Detroit 11th Mar 1853

Dear Sir

I got home Wednesday night, all well, except my oldest daughter, who is quite sick.

I go to Chicago on Monday - Found our line working finely - We have not missed a report for thirty days - Rochester line down nearly half the time -

Enclosed I send you a statement made out by Lee - When you see Wade, you and he had better look it over, and see how much stock each party is entitled to -

I also send you copy of your contract with E RR Co recd, from A B Cornell -

I have taken a copy to keep - It may aid you in making contracts with the RR Cos -

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

Mr E Cornell
Indianapolis

Binghamton 12th March 1853
E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

I have been very Ill for the last Week. - I Went to Coming Early in the last Week But was too Ill to do much - I could not see Cal Bost-wick or Dickenson so I left till I was able to be about - He the Cal Will be home Early in next Week - I Shall see him soon as he returns - I Wrote last Weeke but have not heard a word from you. Cannot you write! Great trouble in the Cabinet of the N Y & Erie R.R. Co - Rumour are afloat that Mr Loder has resigned or about to do so - Mr Post has resigned and a number of their last Men also they are in trouble - What the will do is not known It is said that the Company are trying to get Rid of Mr Minot. Loder says he dont Want to resign if he can help it &c

Please Writ Me soon -

Yours &c

G W Skinner

Louisville Mar 14. 1853

Ebonell.

It may be best to lease the line if we cant get the connection without but if we can we better, five thousand is more than they ought to ask. do as you think best + I will

Stand my part of it

J. H. Waller

Rochester
March 14, 1853

Friend Cornell

I have just arrived here
Shall be in New York probably tomorrow
Bryant & Delano & Wilson (a previous two)
telegraphed the results of our meeting &
Election to the Rochester rascals
as a triumph to them & Reid. They claim
Wright! Bryant told Allen Sup't L. E.
Line. That Wright knew his father &
would go for him. They also telegraphed
Stayer that they had a sure thing
against us. I drop you this line

O'RIELLY'S

Atlantic, Lake and Mississippi Telegraph.

OHIO, INDIANA AND ILLINOIS LINE,

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LUSES' POWER PRESS

By Telegraph from Crawfordsville

Dated March 14 1853

Received at Indianapolis,

To L Cornell

In looking over some old packages today I found a package of original certificates which I send you by mornings mail

R E Bryant

Wright House, Mch 14/63.

E. Cornell, Esq:

Dear Sir!

An important matter calls me home to-day, but permits me to leave in your hands a statement of my case, with such documents as I have selected to throw light upon my connexion with Mr. O'Reilly. I know it is a heavy tax upon your benevolence, but I do not apprehend that you will have much difficulty in penetrating to the truth, & I for one shall feel greatly indebted to you, whatever the result. I do not ask for success in this investigation that I am not entitled to, & I hope that Mr. O'Reilly will come into it with the same spirit. I have long ago repented of my intemperate & ill-advised charges against him, but I was goaded to it by the condition in which I found myself & friends after faithfully serving him; & as I came here to meet him for the purpose of ridding myself in some way of the feelings engendered by our hostile position, I trust the opportunity will not pass away without this gratification. I hope you will have the leisure this week to look over & reflect upon what I leave with you, & that you will call upon me for such other information upon any doubtful points as you may deem necessary. I

shall be glad to have a statement of Mrs O'Reilly's exceptions to my claims & conduct, & will endeavor to answer them promptly & fairly, at any time. Please direct to Dayton, where I shall probably be for some weeks.

With much regard, yours truly

W. J. Delano

P. S. Please preserve my papers for me, in any event.

WADE TELEGRAPH:

CONNECTING EVERY

City and Village in the United States and British Provinces,

BY TWO OR MORE LINES, ON SEPARATE ROUTES,

Consequently not interrupted by breaks, or subject to delay, as every office has two outlets, and some of them more, for the immediate dispatch of business.

Write plain, and give full address of yourself and correspondent. Prepay. Make known every reasonable cause of complaint to the Superintendent, and they will be carefully investigated.

ANSWER PROMPTLY, by this line, to avoid confusion.

In dianapolis March 14th 1853

By Telegraph, from N York 12 m

To E Cornell

Tell me what you did in Louisville when will Mann return to N York. Zook will accept if Elected

H. O Reilly

Buffalo Mch 15th

A R Cornell Esq-
Dr Sir.

Yours of 10th rcd-
In answer I would say. Any
Statement calling for, or checking
Q Office more, than $17.53 is
wrong. Also any Stmt giving
amt to other Line as anything
more than $5.68 is wrong. My
Stmt as remitted is right.
I know nothing of any other,
It is not in my copies of
Reps & I do not think I ever
made out such a Stmt. Know
I never did for Oct. 52. There
is no necessity for another Rep
I wish the matter settled now
without further trouble, If it
will not be I wish to know it.
Have waited as long for my pay
as I can be asked to. An answer
will oblige. Yours Respy
C M Smith

T
E Cornell Fr
Lafayette boat leaves
here Monday & thursday
Evenings soon after the
Eastern Cars come in
73

A. Wade

Cleveland 16th March 1853

E. Comets Esq

Dr Sir In the absence of Col Speed I am under the necessity of troubling you a little on what may interest you ~~a little~~ some extent –

We probably told you of a project of putting up a line on the Toledo Norwalk & Cleve Road from here to Toledo – They are quite anxious – I think very anxious to have a line & invited a proposition from him through the Supt of the road – He replied offering to put up a line for $60 per mile – for the 113 miles – but did not name the distance – Their road however is at present but 88 miles long which is probably the length they would aid in building & no more

But their ideas do not come within gun shot of that figure I saw Phillips (the Supt) yesterday & the amount of his notions now is, that the price is altogether too high – more than any other road has been charged & that Mr Speed wanted to get enough from the RR Co to build the line – When anything reasonable was proposed he was ready to treat & C – As I only had time to get his idea of the matter I did not say anything in reply to this – I preferred to get better posted on some points & then stop over a train & "labor" with him.

Would it be advisable to use the case of the M.S. & L RR If so what are the facts –

Although I am confident the advance would be of benefit to them + do not despair of their being made to believe it yet would it not be policy to do it for even less.

A second wire from here to Toledo will be absolutely needed what very soon — If this "northern combination" goes into effect it is all important the wire should be put up before its consummation to gain the $150 per mile in additional stock. The distance by way of the line is nearly 140 miles new poles will be put up nearly the whole distance this season + a 2d wire might be put up for about $3500 ~~on the RR~~ If this amount could be got from them would it not be best to put up a line for them?

In this peculiar state of the case — the necessity of having another wire, the price to be allowed for it in the combination + the wide difference between the offer + the views of the RR Co I would like your views or instructions in the matter. + also such facts in relation to other RR Co's as may be of service.

I had hopes the affair of the Milwaukee line was settled before this but see from your messages you are dealing with a slippery set — Wish you would let me know soon as that matter is arranged as it will be necessary for me to go west to put the offices in a different shape — They are now in an unsatisfactory condition awaiting further developements

Yours Truly
J. Harland

O'REILLY'S

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LUSES' POWER PRESS

By Telegraph from Buffalo

Dated 17 March 1853

Received at Indianapolis,

To Mr Connell

Can Barbour meet me at Logansport, If so meet there doubtful as to time leaving here

Answer in haste

J W Wright

Binghamton 18th March 1853

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

Your two letters of the 7th were received on the 14th Inst - I think now you have a Clear Sky and a Clear field also - I have been out this week West of ~~Conn~~ Corning getting stock - I went to Painted Post. I got four hundred dollars taken there and a Guarantee of one or two hundred more - Addison I got $300 and of the Subscribers said he would take $200 more or get it taken - at Rath Boneville I got $300 also and General Rathbone said he would see that four more Shore were taken - I told the Little villages I must have $500 to insure an office. The Corning Matter is in the hands of Cal Bostwick. I think they now want to Backwater on their promise But I told him that they must do some - they handsome or no office - Cal Bostwick wants we should make proposals for the Buffalo Corning and N Y R R Line he say they must a Line and that owned by the R R Co. I made a proposal to the B N and Syracuse R R Co for one hundred

dollars per Mile - to put 8 instruments on said Line - The Blossburgh folks have had an offer to put them up a Line 40 Miles for $4000 - I made an offer to do it for $3,500:

The little villages along the N Y & Erie Road feel more interested as in getting up a Line than the Large places We shall have to depend upon such places as I have named for the greater part of the help We shall get. I have no fear but that I can do it the work - But it will take somtime to do it if I have to do it all along

When shall I see you my health is not yet good but I have worked the past Week let me hear after

Yours &c

G W Skinner

G. W. Skinner
18. Mar 1853

1194
4
4,776

1400
800

4773 | 11,200 00 | 3
12019

800
52
4773 | 40,000 | 9
40,957

Cleveland Mar 19-1858

E Cornell

Arrangement closed with O & P a R R Co & contract signed just as I wrote at they give about Sixty five dollars per mile as a bonus. Cannot possibly get to Lafayette. do as you think best J. H. Wade

Adison Porter 60
Craiton 160
Oconnor 50
Stone 200
Ivarney 15
Jas Craighton 40
525

Mann 374 20
10
McDugal 100
Brooks 114
11
629 #
1100
1729
1732

CAS 434
Mann 404
McDugal 100
Brooks 125
Gillett 53
S D Lam 191
DeNult 50
Eleanor 180
Seldon 40
T C Smith 10
Zook 9
J W Flower 31
1637
Horner 36
A Porter 60
A R Pierson 65
1798

Articles of agreement between I D Wade and Thos T. Eckert of the first part and the Ohio and Pennsylvania Rail Road Company of the second part witnesseth

That the party of the first part agree to construct by the first day of July next a good and substantial line of Telegraph along the Road of said Company from Pittsburgh to Crestline & maintain and operate the same. & open & keep open offices at Pittsburgh Allegany City Rochester New Brighton Enon Columbiana Salem Alliance Canton Mapillon Wooster Loudonville Mansfield and Crestline and to furnish instruments and apparatus of every kind necessary & the perfect working of the same. To furnish the right & use on said Line of Telegraph all the patents pertaining & Telegraphing granted & Samil F. B Morse and & warrant & defend the same during the life of the said Morses patents.

The party of the first part also agree & furnish in addition all instruments that may be required by said R. R. Co & communicate between offices changing the party of the second part the actual cost of the same and no more. They also agree & teach all persons the Telegraph business said R. R. Co may designate and need in doing their business. They also agree & send over said line free of charge and in preference & others all business that may be required by any of the officers or agents of said R. R. Co in doing their Rail road business or business connected with the affairs of the Company

In consideration of the above agreement the party of the second part hereby agree & pay & the

party of the first part the sum of Twelve thousand dollars in the stock of said R.R. Co. payable in estimates as the delivery of material and construction of said line progresses.

They also agree to furnish suitable offices free of rent at all places where offices are required except when the party of the first part may prefer to have the offices in some building not owned by said R.R. Co. and in such cases the party of the first part to pay the rent.

The party of the second part also agree to carry on their cars free of charge all persons and materials employed in building operating and repairing said Telegraph line. It shall be a condition of this contract that if the receipts of any office at a Railroad Station is not sufficient to pay the expenses of the Office the said Railroad Company shall connect it with some other business or pay the difference between the receipts & expenses or allow the same to be discontinued at their option.

The said R.R. Co shall have the right to carry on any of their cars suitable apparatus to operate between offices and to use the same when the business of the Road requires it. They in such cases to leave the line in as good repair as they found it.

It is further understood and agreed that in consideration of the payment of the above named twelve thousand dollars the said R.R. Co. are to have a perpetual lien upon the said line of Telegraph and all its appurtenances as their security for the fulfilment of this contract

It is also understood and agreed that the

said R.R. Co is not to incur any liability or be held responsible for anything in the building or working of said line beyond the above named twelve thousand dollars.

The clause in this contract providing for the transportation of all persons and material employed in building operating & repairing said Telegraph to be subject to the discretion & control of the superintendent of the rail road. The rent of the office in Pittsburgh to be paid by the party of the first part

Pittsburgh March 19th. 1853

D.D. Wade
Thos T. Eckert

W. Robinson Jr
Pres't

Copy of Letter Book

Indianapolis Mar. 19th, 1853.

Dear Sir

Your favour of 16th inst. is at hand refering to the proposition of Col. Sisson to the Toledo, Norwalk & Cleveland Railroad Co. for supplying them with Telegraphic facilities for their road — you observe that he asked $60 per mile for such service, and that the Supt of the road was of opinion that it was too much, & C. You also remark that the Co. would only aid in building 88 miles of telegraph, which at $60 per mile would cost the Co. only $5280 — 7 per ct. interest on this sum is $369.60 per an. The company would telegraph from Toledo to Cleveland and intermediate points, and presume, to Buffalo & Detroit — their telegraphing at his proposition would cost a trifle over $1 per day — now who knows anything about the wants of a R.R. Co. for the use of the Telegraph. That would see at a glance that the Co. will do at least 3 times this amount of telegraphing. If we had the funds, I should prefer to build the line without aid from the Co. and charge them as we do others for their telegraphing. If you reflect a moment upon the amount of telegraphing we are doing daily for the Central Mich

you will see that the Railroad Co. has the best of the bargain in Col Speed's proposition, and I remonstrated with him when he made it, that it was too low — but he thought best to put it at a price that should be below cost.

The N.Y. & Erie Bank Co. paid us $5000 for the right to use the instruments for Railroad purposes only — & paid the poles & instruments at their own cost, give our Telegraph Co. the right to put our wires on the R.R. Co's poles, and gives us free passage over the R.R. for all our men and at that cost for moving the [illegible]

Mr. Minot, the Supt of the Co. told me that the Telegraph saved to the R.R. Co. more than ten times its cost yearly.

If you talk this matter over with the Supt of that Co. you will find no difficulty in showing him that the proposition of Col. Speed is extremely favorable to the R.R. Co. quite as much so as the Tel. Co. can afford to make.

Yours Respectfully,

E. Cornell.

J. Haviland, Esq
Supt, Cleveland,
Ohio.

Copy

Article of agreement between J. N. Vade and Wm. D. Eckert of the first part and the Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad Company of the second part witnesseth

That the party of the first part agree to construct by the first day of July next a good and substantial line of Telegraph along the road of said Company from Pittsburgh to Crestline to maintain and operate the same to open and keep open offices at Pittsburgh Allegheny City Rochester New Brighton Enon Cochranton and Salem Alliance Canton Mapleton Wooster Londonville Mansfield and Crestline And to furnish instruments and apparatus of every kind necessary to the perfect working of the same To furnish the right to use on said line of Telegraph all the patents pertaining to Telegraphing granted to Saml. F. B. Morse and to warrant and defend the same during the life of said Morse patent

The party of the first part also agree to furnish in addition all the instruments that may be required by said company to communicate between offices changing the party of the second part the actual cost of the same and no more They also agree to teach all persons the Telegraph business said company may designate or need in doing their business, They also agree to send over their line free of charge and in preference to other all business that may be required

by any of the officers or agents of said Company in doing their Railroad business or business connected with the affairs of the Company.

In consideration of the above agreement the party of the second part hereby agrees to pay to the party of the first part the sum of twelve thousand dollars in the stock of said Railroad Company payable in estimates as the delivery of the material and construction of said line progresses. They also agree to furnish suitable offices rent free at all places where offices are required except when the party of the first part may prefer to have the offices in some building not owned by said Company and in such cases the party of the first part to pay the rent.

The party of the second part also agrees to carry on their cars free of charge all persons and materials employed in building operating and repairing said telegraph line. It shall be a condition of this contract that if the receipts of any office at a Railroad Station is not sufficient to pay the expenses of the office, the said Company shall connect it with some other business or pay the difference between the receipts and expenses or allow the same to be discontinued at their option. The said Company shall have the right to carry on any of their cars suitable apparatus to operate between offices and to use the same when the business of the road requires it. They in such cases to leave the line in as good working order

as they find it.

It is further understood and agreed that in consideration of the payment of the above named twelve thousand dollars the said Company are to have a perfected line on the said line of Telegraph and all its appurtenances as their security for the fulfilment of this contract

It is also understood and agreed that the said Company is not to incur any liability or be held responsible for anything in the building or working of said line beyond the above named twelve thousand dollars

The clause in this contract providing for the transportation of all persons and material employed in building operating and repairing said Telegraph to be subject to the direction and control of the Superintendant of the Railroad The rent of the Office in Pittsburgh to be paid by the party of the first part

Pittsburgh March 19th 1853

J. H. Wade
Thos. D. Eckert
A. Robinson Jr
Agts

Indianapolis March 20th 1853 -

My Dear Mary Ann

It is said, I think by some body that "distance adds to love" that such is the case I have the best reason to believe, that I always loved you from our earliest acquaintance, with a steadiness, a devotion, a fullness of heart, that none but a pure and devoted wife deserves to enjoy you will not deny, That my love increased in its intensity at each successive period in time to the obligations of husband you added those of father, I most sincerely confess, still that love which has strengthened with its growth, increasing through more than a score of years, that love which has never been chilled by the slightest breeze of discord; that love my dear is intensified by your absence, Or I should rather say by my absence, If material matter could be transmitted by Telegraph, I should certainly have consigned myself to the wires yesterday, that I might enjoy the society of yourself and home today - Immortal shall be the name of him who will invent a mode of transmitting passengers by telegraph -

As it was a settled question that I could only visit you last night & to day in spirit, in the present stage of Scyence, and that the gospel man was doomed by circumstances to remain in Hoosierdom, I transferred it from my very pleasant room this morning to an equally pleasant carriage, behind a pair of steeds that Jubiter could not have rejected, in company with Mr Foster (the Clerk of the House) who by the bye is a legitimate son of Yankeedum, "from the Green Mountain State" who plaid the part of "Jehu", and away we went for a ride,—

The morning was overcast somewhat and the landlord Mr Tuttle predicted rain, but as we suspected that the report proceeded from his gouty limbs, rather than the Almanac we heeded it not. the sequel however proved "old gouty" to be right and we had a gentle smart shower to ride home it, from which however we were amply protected by a good top carriage, and an umbrella. We laid our course Westward along the national road (that was, but now is a plank road since Uncle Sam gave it up to his Hoosier sons) and made the first stop at Bridgport (perhaps many or [illegible]

can find it on the map for you) about ten miles from this city and near the west line of this "Marion County" — here we waited, but the show for dinner was so unpropitious that we soon determined to drive to Plainfield 5 miles further which the landlord assured us was "a thriving village" — We arrived at Plainfield just before "Meeting was out" — and hailed up to the only tavern that had "rag flying" and had our horses put in the barn and fed by as handsome a young "Bonniface" as ever graced the appelation "of mine host" a perfect picture of health and happiness — with cheeks that any damsel might sye for, for I am sure that art could not imitate them, All while our young friend (the landlords son — a lad of 12) and Mr H— were doing the agreable for our trusty steeds — I poked my head through the various intervening doors in search for someone who would commit themselves for a dinner, till at length my eyes rested on the counterpart of young "Bonniface" in the person of as beautiful a sister a year or two older than himself, who satisfied my inquery by information that dinner

would be ready in about half an hour. This matter disposed of and a hill presented itself to view less than half a mile distant, about one fourth as high as that from the top of which I have heard the plaintive lays of my lovely "whip poor will". It was the first hill I had seen for 3 long years I told, H that, I must climb that hill it would be at least a "homopathy dose" for the cure of my home sickness, we went and enjoyed a run, hop, & a jump, on the hill and then returned to the Inn for our dinner.

When returned, we found "mine host" to be one of the followers of "George Fox" which had a singular effect upon my mind for the reason that I had never before seen the "straight coat" presiding over the destinies of the bar-room. The bar-room and bluenin has heretofore been so intimately associated that it seemed altogether an inappropiate place for a member of the "Fox family"— Recovered from the first impulse of surprise at what appeared a contradictory association, I cast an eye at the "straight coat", the "broad brim" and "plain cap" and then sought in vain for the "bar and bluenin"— they were not there, the false spirits had been "expelled from paradise" and the man stood forth in the image of his Maker, upright

and holy, At last dinner was announced and we were seated to a plain and substantial repast, not such an one as if the same raw material had passed through kitchen of a real Nantucket Woman, or even one of her descendants, to the third of fourth generation, but for a dame who had taken her lessons in cookery in North Carolina it did very well—

At table I introduced the subject, the "sickly milk," "the Milk Sickness," "the trembles"—&c,&c,— They all concured in the fact that there were such things as, Milk producing sickness & death, by the use of it, but they assured me that it was a dificulty, by no means geural throughout the state, That it was not only confined to certain districts, of limited denutions, but to small sections of certain farms—

One of the young men at table who was a resident of another portion of the state said, he knew of several farms that had the plague spots upon them, which were so well defined in the opinion of the owner that that they were fenced up "good & strong" as forbidden ground, I enquired as to the size of such "fenced up" grounds, He answered, sometimes an acre, and sometimes less—and sometimes more, I enquired as to the supposed cause, He assured me that that was an unsettled question

that, some supposed it to be the poisonous effect of some weed eaten by the animal, others and the larger portion were of opinion that it was caused by the issue of some poisonous gas or vapor from the earth that impregnated the vegitation in its vicinity and poisoned it, which in turn poisoned every thing that eat it. Animals did not always die from the effect of the disease, when slightly afflicted, they lived, but lived a life worse than death, for they prolonged the life of others, at the same time that they dragged along a miserable existance themselves.

A characteristic of the disease, is weakness, an inability to endure fatigue, hence the name, "the trembles' attached to the diseased animal or person—

To Test the question the suspected animal, is put under "whip & Spur" and if it can indure a good race without "trembling" from the effect of fatigue, they are regarded as sound, if not, not—

Persons do not always imbibe enough of the poison to die from its effect, but then, recovery is not perfect, they do not acquire their accustomed indurance, if they are put to the test of "whip & Spur" they "tremble" — There ~~appears to be~~ is nothing unusual in the appearance of the lands that

thus

desolate the earth, it is a kind of invisable "Upas" – more deadly because unseen. –
Its existance is only known by their effects, and when some of the fairest buds are struck from the parent stem of the family, the presence of the fell destroyer is known, and the stricken ones must hunt down the monster and chain him –

What a singular reality this seems to be, that some of the fairest portions of Gods earth, shall thus be pitfalls for the unwary pilgrims, who may be lured by their surpassing beauty to certain death –

I must drop this subject for the present & learn more of it.

I learn that some part of Ohio, are effected in the same way –

The general features of the country in this part of the state are level, as you will already suspect from what I have hinted – Such is the fact, a flat level country, heavily timbered, and rich luxuriant soil – finer forests of cabbet blackwalnut I never saw, the sugar maple and beach would do ample credit to Dr Ruyter – The country is new, notwithstanding the state has a million o quarter population – The "log cabin" has not gone out of fashion – The "coon skin" is yet an article of trafic – but "hard cider" is

fast retreating, before the solid columns of
of the "cold water army" The sons & Daugh-
ters of temperance, are marching on
to a sure and Glorious victory —
I have much to learn and yet much
to tell you about this, rich, fertile
and beautiful state — but for the present
you must be content with what I
have already written —
I expect to evacuate my comfortable quar-
ters tomorrow, and pitch my tent at La-
Fayette 63 miles N.W from this by Railroad,
The "Directors" hold a meeting there tomorrow
which I expect to attend — after which I hope
to run home —
Yesterday, I got an introduction to Mr Dunn
Comptroller of State — Mr ——— Secy of State
and should have called on the Governor
but we could not find him — My object
in these acquaintances is to learn something
about the public lands yet remaining in the
limits of the state, some owned by the
state & some by the U. States —
My health continues first rate, and with the
wishes of health & happiness to you and
our dear Children — I bid you an
Affectionate adieu — Your Husband
E. Correll
Mary Ann

March 21 1883

My Dear Brother

Your very acceptable Letter of the 19th came yesterday. a long time it was on its way. we are all well and I had been looking for you an every arrival of the cars from either way. How long do you intend to remain in the Rosin Belt and how do you like the Boys?

I spent a few days last fall in Indiana. had a pleasant time. I have had no news from Ithaca in some time Isaac Otis I am old acequantance of yours died last week at or near Kalamazoo in consequence of a tree falling on his leg and crushing it he had it amputated but lived only a few days. he left a wife and ten children. he had one son here at school a very fine young man. Mr Otis was quite wealthy I think he had 800 acres of land when he died which must be valuable. Business is very dull here, do you suppose it is the Lace Face President that causes it? We have no sickness or deaths to telegraph about and nothing else

Are you going to move your family west if so when and where. That Mr Glen lives at Niles we know him Mr B. will do him I think He would have written to you had he not have thought you would have been before a letter could reach you but I thought I would mention

I hope you will prosper in your Telegraph enterprize but am afraid you are following a shadow. Speed & Haveland will get all the money I guess — Mary & Family are well Haveland wrote to M B Saturday to see about buying up stock on the E & M Line he offers up to 24 dollars not over 25 — I hope to see you soon. and wish if you move west you would come within reach of Albion somewhere I have been trying to make M.B. think best to go somewhere where there is more business as I and my boys could do a great deal more than we now have. I am getting quite ambitious I have taxed you sufficiently and now hope you will find time to write us again.

Your Sister

Phebe

Mrs M B Wood
Mch 21 1853

Mrs. M B Wood
Mar 21, 1853

(Copy.)

1853

Washington Mch 21 -

H. Speed Esq

Sir. I have been put in possession of a printed copy of what purports to be a contract of sale of Morses patent rights for Morses Electro Magnetic Telegraph on all unsold Lines in ohio & states north & west signed by Henry O'Reilly as attorney in fact for Saml F B Morse Alfred Vail & F O J Smith - accompanying this paper is also a printed copy of what purports to be a power of attorney from F O J Smith to Henry O'Reilly authorizing him to sell his (F O J Smith's) Interest in the Lines in question -

To cut off every pretext of acquiescence in this transaction by me or by Messrs Morse & Vail ~~whol~~ whose sale attorney I am - I deem it expedient to inform you that Mr O'Reilly has no color of authority to act as the agent of Messrs Morse & Vail & that F O J Smith has no Lawful power to sell his Interest otherwise than in conjunction with that of Messrs Morse & Vail the Sale by O'Reilly to you therefore is wholly without Authority

& will not be acknowledged or
acquiesced in by me or my Principal

Very Respectfully
your Obt Servant
(Signed) Amos Kendall

Columbus o March 22. 1853

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

After a tedious correspondence & hard fight with Reid, Bishop, Lynch and the House folks. & several others I have succeeded in closing a contract with the O. & P. R. R to build them a line, & by a copy of the contract I have send you, you will see it is a very favorable arrangement notwithstanding our opposition & notwithstanding they had my written proposition made, last fall to do the same thing for $4000. less, I went to Pittsburg lost week & stayed three days & looked wise all the time till I got it arranged, they had letters from Kendall & Smith of recent date both denouncing us as having no rights &c &c and on the whole I regard it as a good contract & a great victory. the more so as it is the key to all the Railroad lines that connect with it, & if we manage right we can get the balance on similar ~~from~~ terms, I shall build that line with Tamarac posts not less than 6 inches at the top end after the bark is off. about the line from Galion to Indianapolis. I think the best way to work it is not to come in competition with Bishop or any of that breed of cats. but to let the R. R. Co

understand that we & we only have the Patent & they will burn their fingers if they have anything to do with it, & that Bishop or any other man to build the line to come in competition with our lines all round them, the R.R. Co must contribute to its support or let it go down & then employ some white man to build a line. & farther I would not make them an offer to take stock. I think they may generally be induced to give quite as much in the shape I got of the O. & P.R.R. as to give them stock for it

Nearly all the offers they had were lower than mine. Pew offered to build their line for $7000. for them, & let them own it, The House folks had been there & got them convinced that they had a cheap instrument that was just calculated for Rail Road business &c &c. but by staying with them nearly 3 days I got it in black & white & felt much better & this will help us all very much in securing other contracts

I think the less we say about galvanized wire the better - it is more Expensive & not half so good. I am very anxious to hear what you do at Lafayette. Mr Fry declines my offer for Lin & Sandusky line & I go tomorrow to see the Prest of the Co

Very truly yours J. H. Wade

J H Wade
Mch 22. 1858

Binghamton Mar 24th 1853

Dear Sir

Yours of the 15th & 19th at hand. I do not deny that my letter was severe, but as for a ~~the~~ charge, "of your using the Money for your own purposes". I have not the least recollection nor did I mean that any such inference should be drawn from what I said But I was hurt, from the manner in which my claim was treated, & for the reasons I gave in my letter. It being a large claim and one of as long standing as any the Company owed — If I had have received half of it I would have willingly consented to wait for the rest. But there is a difference between a man's being forced to do a thing and consenting to do it —

The line is working very well between Newburg and Dunkirk Paxton does our business very well over his other line but not as it might be done if we could work with New York & have moved the main battery & Connecter to Hancock & the line works the better for it — We ran behind last month $200 for operating the line, Rects were very light and Expenses much heavier than they will be this month I believe it is his intention to put the line in

good repair this spring — It has broken down across the river no less than 5 or 6 times. but I presume it is from the use of bad iron wire —

As for Mr Skinner I shall throw nothing in his way, in the least, nor do I see any way that I can help him materially — He is blowing as largely as usual and says he shall commence putting up the wire very soon

Ike Tichenor says you understood before leaving that he was to assist Skinner & was to use his pass himself — I have obtained Colemans & Shall be able to get C L Brown's, soon I think — Shall I have Tichenors pass cancelled? Mr Gordon says he never received a pass —

Our receipts this month promise very fair —

Yours Respectfully
P. A. Hopkins

E. Cornell Esq

P. A. Hopkins
26 Mar 53

Telegraph Connections.

LOUISVILLE, Friday, March 25, 1853.

At the session of the Board of the Indiana Telegraph Company at Lafayette, Ind., on the 22d inst., the attempt of Henry O'Reilly to disintegrate that line from its original connections, as formed by him, was made abortive by the formal recognition of the contract connecting it for a term of years with the Pittsburgh and Louisville Telegraph Company, one of the lines included in the series known as the "National Line."

Indianapolis Mar 27, 1853.

My Dear Mary Ann

I have got back again to my old comfortable quarters at the "Palmer House"

On Monday last I left here at 1 P.M. by RR for La Fayett, and arrived at 5 P.M. we passed through a level, heavy timbered rich soil, until we got within 8 miles of La Fayette, when we struck the Prairie, which with occasional, Swamp & timber continued the balance of the way.

La Fayett is situated on the South East side of the Wabash river extending from the river back to the summit of a respectable ridge of hills in the rear, a very pleasant village of some 6000 population and busy for its size — Across the river opposite the village is a belt of timber land 3 or 4 miles wide, back of which to the N.W. lies grand prairie, said to be one of the finest prairies in the State, on the river is a belt 1/4 of mile wide of rich bottom land in cultivation, which occasionally overflows —

I remained at La Fayett until Thursday morning, when I went onboard the Steamer "Mrs Phelps" for a trip down the river to

to Terra Haute. We got underway about 9 A.M and I spent most of the day in the Pilot house so as to survey as much of the country as possible on way down the river—
The prospect from the most elevated portion attainable on this river is limited, being confined most of the way to a narrow strip of rich bottom land, and a large portion of that covered with the primitive forests.
On the East bank of the river the bridges and bank of the Wabash & Erie Canal can occasionally be seen,
At La Fayett, Covington & Terra Haute there are bridges across the river with draws for the passage of Steamers,
The water of this river as on many other of the Western rivers gets to shallow for navigation in the dry part of the season — the Steamers are fashioned to accomodate this state of things and in stead of side wheels as our lake Steamers have they have but one wheel directly astern and wider than the width of the boat,
A boat thus equiped can worm along in a quite crooked & narrow channel
We arrived at Terra Haute about 11 P.M and I lugged my valice up to the Prairie House a full half mile from the landing
I soon found a comfortable room, went to bed, as I shall do to night & finish this letter tomorrow

Monday morning. I am happy to greet you with an affectionate heart. O! that I could with a kiss -

I am just up My love, much refreshed with a good nights sleep, and a good cold bath, the gong will sound for breakfast in a moment, after which I will finish my letter. -

Terra Haute is situated on the east bank of the wabash river, on the edge of a magnificent prarie, which extends from the river about 2 miles East and 2 or 3 miles north & South of the village, beyond those boundaries the timber commences and is of the heaviest growth Terra Haute has about 6 or 7000 inhabitants and is a pleasant village, during the pork season in the fall & early winter, it is the center of hogdom, and but little is thought, or talked of except of a swinish cast, it is one of the greatest pork markets of the west, The level of the prairie is about 30 or 40 feet above the river at ordinary water. I remained in T. H over friday and at 7 A.M Saturday morning I took my seat in the Cars for Indianapolis where I arrived about 11. A.M hoping through a heavy timbered

country, rich soil part the way rolling with miniature hills, the balance say about one half the distance quite level. The country that is under improvement in sight of the "track" is comparatively new, and new villages are springing up at various convenient points on the line of the R.R. —

This is undoubtedly one of the richest states in its agricultural resources in the union and capable of sustaining a verry dens population —

On my return to this place I rec^d a Dispatch from O'Reilly saying there was to be an important meeting in N.Y on the 30th inst that they wanted me to attend, What it is I cant imagine, but I now expect to start this P.M for N.Y direct, and will leave this letter at owego as I pass — Shall expect to be at home about saturday night as near as I can calculate —

If I cant get away from N.Y before saturday morning, so I cannot get home I will telegraph you and you must meet me at Binghamton, and say then over Sunday & I will go home with you

Yours Affectionably

E Cornell

Mary Ann —

Dayton, Mar. 29/53.

Mr. Cornell:

Dear Sir: I was too sick to meet you at the cars, but hoped Mr. Kiester would be with you & get the papers. I telegraphed you to-day to send them by express.

I rec'd yesterday a letter from Mr. O'Reilly more offensive & insulting to me than ever before, but as I cannot any longer patiently reply to such language from him, I will leave the matter where I placed it, (in your hands) for the present. Mr. O'Reilly has also made a publication in the N.Y. Tribune affecting me & seems disposed to use the report of our committee as a handle to work against me & to

bolster up himself, as if he were not conscious that I had already suffered enough at his hands. He charges that it was his sole object in Indiana to expose fraudulent issues of stock, & claims that he fully succeeded in his purpose— that I was compelled to procure the $50000 certificate "in view of the consequences." I did hope that he would have the fairness to forbear till he saw you; but if you cannot dispose him to think & act justly, Mr. Cornell, I shall give up all expectation of it in this world, at least, & defend myself as I may be able from his vindictiveness.

I shall reply to no insulting letters from him, because I see no use in it; but I hold myself ready to give every information that may be asked courteously.

I feel that I have no right to press you to any trouble & interference between us, but I will simply leave it, so far as I am concerned, to your own judgment & feelings— though I can imagine no more difficult task than that of turning Mr. O'Reilly's animosity into an opposite disposition. Hoping to hear from you, I am Very respy yrs

W. J. Delano

Supreme Court

Stephen B. Munn, Plaintiff

against

Ezra Cornell (Mortgagor) Philo Parkis, Thomas Con Griggs Young, Henry Mills, Johnston Livingston, The New England Mut Company, Sybilla F. Rice, Lyman Wilson, Benjamin Wood, Elijah Cornell, John Holmes, Samuel Lattimer Tenders Union, Augustus Shevill, Charles S. Spencer, Silas Wentworth, Defendants.

Gentlemen,

Please to take notice that this cause will be brought to a hearing upon the Complaint, (whether of the Defendants having answered thereto) and upon Referee's report of the Amount due upon the Bond and Mortgage set forth in the Complaint, at a Special Term of the Supreme Court to be held at the Court House in the Village of Ithaca in the County of Tompkins on the first Tuesday of May next, at the opening of the Court on that day and that I shall thereupon move the said Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, or for such other relief or judgment as the said Court shall think proper to grant. — And I shall also move for an order to be inserted in the decree or otherwise, for an extra allowance of five per cent upon the Amount reported to be due, according to the provisions of the 308th Section of the Code. — Dated Binghamton March 29, 1853

Yours &c.

John A. Collier

Att'y for Pl'ff.

To the Defendants above named and their respective Attornies. —

Confidential

Office of the New York, Albany & Buffalo Telegraph Company,

Utica, March 29th 1853

Mr. E. Cornell

My Dear Sir

Thinking that my letter to Indianapolis, must have failed in reaching you, there, will direct you another at New York, respecting the Indiana Line, the Superintendency of which, Alonzo informed me, would soon be vacant — With the present feeling in our Board of Directors, the entire management of the Line, will undoubtedly be changed, with its Presidency, on or about first of April — Are you willing, and at liberty to exert an influence in Indiana, in my behalf? Could you conscientiously favor me, in obtaining the Station upon the Indiana Line, above named? Having commenced the business again, under rather favorable circumstances, I dislike abandoning it, thus early. But as my health demands other than constant office confinement for me, I may be compelled to do so, immediately — As to compensation, I should desire no more, in commencement, than would warrant them in making an experiment, as to my abilities —

Will you please favor me, with a line, at your earliest convenience, stating what may be prospects, and greatly oblige Yours Otis E. Wood

Copy

Wm Robinson Jr Esq
Asst Gen Pa RR Co

Washington March 30/53.

Dear Sir

Having just been informed that your company have made a contract to build a line of Morse Telegraph along the road

I deem it due in courtesy to you and them to inform you that Mr Wade has no authority to make such a contract and protect your company from against blame for damages for the infringement of Morses patent if used on such line. This is not the first time Mr Wades first Operation of the sort and he and those whom he has imposed upon have escaped with impunity thus far only because we were waiting a favorable decision of the supreme court upon our patent which we expected the commencement of their next term. I have but to add that as the agents of the Patentees I have the exclusive right to dispose of Morse patents within the State of Pennsylvania

Very respectfully
Amos Kendall

Signed

Pittsburgh Pa.

Chicago 30th Mar 1853

Dear Sir

I am so situated that it is wholly out of the question for me to go to NY at present. Mr. Mann, my partner in Rail Road matters, is engaged finishing up a job on the Ill C RR, and cannot leave it until the 20th or 25th of this month, We have commenced work on the Military tract RR, and have several hundred men, and six or Eight Sub. Contractors to see to, and it would be ruinous for me to leave here and go to NY until Mann can take my place — After 1st of May I will be at liberty — I have recd a letter from Kendall and send you a copy — It amounts to nothing — I hope you will return as soon as you can & see the Norwalk & Toledo RR Co. I have told Haviland not to offer to build for less than my figures —

I suppose O'Reilly wants to make some compromise with

the Hazel Tube, and get them out of our way, which would all be very well, if they were prepared to do so on fair terms; but I doubt whether they are. They will be in a better position to treat with next year than they are. Still if we could consolidate the whole Tel interest West of the Ohio, and do away with all rivalry & competition, we could pay a good dividend on a very large capital.

I have fought the battle out West for six years, & you must do the engineering for a month or two - I will say yes to whatever you suggest -

Yours truly

O J Sprout Jr

Mr E Connell
Ithaca

P.S.

I will aid you in making an estimate on any RR you choose to engage on: but to do the work to advantage will require a pretty large advance for an out-fit, which might not be so easily obtained without the aid of other parties -

We used on the Ill C RR job, over twenty thousand dollars before we need any of the Company - On the work where I am now interested we will use ten to fifteen thousand before we get back any - To get such large sums we have to give good endorsers, and my partners are supposed to be good for a large amount - If you can get the Telegraph in proper shape, and settle the ten thousand quarrels and take charge of the ship - I do not believe that you can make half of your estimate out of it, but I do believe you can make it a good business - I will

go on board or not as you may think best but would have no objection to being left on shore —

J. J. Speed Jr.
30 Mar 1853 —

MORSE'S AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, ALBANY & BUFFALO LINE,

To Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukie, and other Cities and Towns, North, West, and South West,

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Hudson	25	2	Little Falls	37	3	Geneva	50	4
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Albany	37	3	Rome	37	3	Rochester	50	4
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New York, March 31st 1853

By Telegraph from Utica

To E Cornell

Yours received thank you reason of neglect is our want of proper repairer on that section which will be remied directly

O. E. W

G 1/10, 1/4

Princeton 31st May 1853

Dear Sir

I was so hurried at Chicago that I did not have time to write you as fully as I wished - I wrote Litchfield, and gave the letter to my son Charles, to deliver to him; and demand an explicit answer, and also to show Litchfield a copy of a Circular which I propose sending to all the operators - I directed Charles to send you a copy of my Letter to Litchfield, & a copy of the Circular - I had so little time to write that the circular to the operators may want some amendments or additions - You or O'Reilly make it what it should be, and sign it, & get Taylor to sign it if you can, and also Wade & have Wade take it to Chapman & get him to sign it, & then send it back to me and I will have it printed & a copy sent to each Office - We must make ourselves secure by

making our power felt, the effect will be good on other RR Companies, and they will treat us with all proper respect, when they see that we have the power to seriously affect their interests - In addition to reporting all accidents on the road, and all delays, I would, whenever I could effect it, have those reports published in the news papers, as well as put up on the bulletin boards - We have been poor-house paupers with our hats under our arms, long enough; and I am for taking open, decided, energetic action in the case of the Mich S RR - If they do procure the building of a Home line, and we loose by the competition, we can gain something in all our negociations with other roads by showing them that we have the power to do them harm as well as good, and when we have been grievously wronged, we are not afraid to use our power - Attend to this matter promptly, and if I do not make the S RR sick of them

bargain in less than one year, I will be greatly mistaken.

I understood at Chicago, that Mr Mason now has the sole control of the Ill Central RR, and that Neal would not henceforth be the dictator. If that is so, I can make a good bargain with Mason to build a line on this road — He is now at St Louis; but I will see him on his return.

I think you had better see the Norwalk RR folks when you return — Haviland says they are "coming to" a little, and I guess you can close with them — If you think proper to see Litchfield before we publish our declaration of war, do so — You may perhaps go to him as a pacificator, and after I have got him frightened a little, he may close with you, by swapping the terms a little — then will be no use in my seeing, or writing to him again — If you think it makes for peace to see Litchfield, Mr Chester had better pay

his respects to him, by commencing a suit at once - I suppose that Litchfield really had no authority to make the contract, but we had every reason to suppose that he had. because he is in the habit of making contracts, which are recognised by the board, and they have no right to recognise one contract make by Litchfield, without their sanction, and repudiate an other contract made in the same way, unless they can show that the parties with whom the contract is made, knew that Litchfield was exceeding his authority - I have no idea that it is for our interest to submit to the wrong quietly, and do nothing about it - see the Co; or see Litchfield, if Mr Chester thinks he is the proper person to see - Carry on the war with spirit, as I propose; and make the public, & especially the R Road Cos, feel that we are somebody

Yours truly

J J Speed Jr

Mr E Cornell
or
H O'Reilly Esqr
N.Y.

J. J. Speed Jr May 31 53