My Dear Brother Albion April 1 1853

Yours of the 26 March came yesterday I was realy glad to get it and think I can number you with my correspondents again. I was much amused with your letter and beg your pardon for Laughing heartily at some of your ideas. Now this Ladies of the Hosier State Looks not so bad to people who are not a little homesick I recon Judging from my own observation. I have the pleasure of knowing a few in the north part of the state. Mart fancies them very much. Judging from the way he will sit up nights and play backgammon with them I have some very good friends in that state and hope to have more Mother can tell you more of Dare Otis wife than I can. Joseph married a Smith I think of Scipio. I recolect that Dr Otis family did try to be aristocratic and was much surprized in seeing Joseph look so shaby and common he does not look near a smart as any of my brothers and has this appearance of having a very small mind

I took quite a dislike to his appearance I cant say to him for I did not know him enough to know that I should like him he looks a great deal older than you and the Idea of his ever wearing a Starched collar was quite ridiculous I have never seen Isaac. he has a smart-family I hear. Mart is quite as good a boy as ever and they send men to the Legislature here not so smart as he and perhaps he will have that honour yet if he would stoop so low.

You took my ambitions views quite seriously We shall not have him for the present My Children four in number are as follows Arbina a young lady of 14 1/2 years nearly as tall as her mother and nearly as good looking. (She says she dont want people to think me the youngest: ha.) She is the second year of the graduating class in the Albion Female Collegiate, and bids fair to have ordinary talents. Martin Edgar Jay was fourteen yesterday. has great taste for drawing and mechanics. Ninth Summary

and like the immortal Daniel Webster, is dull at fourteen. Orson is nearly eleven partakes, some of the reckless spirit of his mother. can do any thing that he takes a fancy to and does not feel at care if an engine passes on the M.C.R.R. that he does not examine to see if all is right He has fine feelings if they can be aroused in the right way. Little Mary is of the age of your Little Mary is a slender child but appears healthy. has been to school most of the winter and learned finely till some little darkies commenced going and the boys would rub their hands on their face and the thought she was getting black and would not go on other day. I misinformed you about Haverlad offer. it was from 15 to 20 dollars per share instead 20 and 25. he did not say who he wished to buy for I supposed for him self. I do not know how much he has saved. he has $1000 per year and ought not to spend it all

Can you possibly think you can stop our one train when they are 8 or 10 hours apart Shall I not make arrangements to have ~~an~~

citra ready to convey you on after about 2 or three hours, I know fellows who are not in such a hurry to get through the world. I hope you will report yourself when you get back to Indiana. I have not heard from the east in some time

Please give my love to All and believe me as ever your most affectionate

Sister Phebe

(P.S. Mary and family are all well.)

Phebe Wood
Apl 1-1853 —

Portland Ap. 6 / 53

E. Cornell Esq

Dr Sir - I am in receipt of your favor of 1st. inst. I rec'd the two previous letters of the 4th & 24th of March. to which I suppose it refers. The former seem to indicate no topic for answer. The latter I answered promptly addressed to you at Ithaca, as requested - on the 31st of March.

In regard to the proposed amalgamation with the Ithaca line from N. York city west, I will readily answer, when I know the scheme proposed. I am favorable to consolidation of interests; when I know what mine are, what other people's are. And if our own proper interests could be adjusted, I should be ready to amalgamate with the other lines, upon liberal terms - This is all I can

say, while thus in the dark.

As to price I will sell 2 or 300 shares in Indiana & Illinois line, I am unable to say, until stock is issued to me, & I know how much I own. I have been promised that stock through various sources, yet am unable to obtain it, or any reliable information as to the cost of the line amount of stock payable for the patent, or any thing about the concern - except that the whole concern has been in a jumble & a fight - the natural condition where pretty much all concerned have been pirates upon the Patentees.

No definite progress has been made in a settlement with Kendall - a few random proposals have been interchanged.

As to my being in a situation to settle all outstanding questions between you & me, I have never been otherwise - I have always been ready to do it - am still so - I dont believe any money is to be made for either party, by our interests remaining where they are. But my differences with Kendall do not, I never have formed any hindrances to our settling according to our contracts.

I regard Mr O'Reilly's & Mr. Speed's recent operations for administering upon my estate in the west, before I am dead, as a very strange proceeding, & without any validity whatever -

Yours respectfully
Francis O J Smith

P.S. The wire that was promised by your impeters never reached the U.S. I imagine.

"Copy"

Washington, April, 7th 1853

Wm Robinson Esqr Prest &c

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 4th inst is just at hand

I had no doubt of the disposition of your Company to respect the legal rights of others, for on regard for legal rights their own property depend for protection. You ask who can build our line I reply that by contract and power of Attorney irrevocable the exclusive right to dispose of Morse patent in Pennsylvania is vested in me and in Ohio in the Hon F O J Smith until the 22nd June next and after that date it will require the assent of both in both States

Under what pretext Mr Wade acts I know not but I know he has no authority to act in Pennsylvania I beg of you to favor me with a copy of his explanation when you receive it

Very respectfully

Your Obt Svt

Amos Kendall

N. Y. Sept. 8. '53.

E. Cornell, Esq.

Dear Sir - Enclosed is a letter from Col. Speed, received some days ago. By a letter received this day from him, I see it directed by you or me; & it appeared to his former letter to you, & wished us, or either of us, to see its contents. I therefore opened his former letter to you, supposing it to be the one; but I do not see any thing in it for me to do. I therefore enclose it to you. I expected to see you here before you went west; I hope you will arrange Hartline (Blake) on fair terms. Let us know the earliest particulars. It is needless to say a word to you about the importance of securing Hartsease, even tho' it should not directly realize one cent of profit. It would be benefi-

rial otherwise, in many ways, so all-important to future operations.

Yours truly,

Henry O'Reilly.

I will next mail you a copy of Col. Speed's last letter to you or me.)

Henry O'Reilly
April 8, 1863

Dayton, Apl 8/53.

Mr. Cornell

Dear Sir:

Yr of the 4th rec'd yesterday. I do not yet know what the despatch was which excited Mr. O'Reilly to assail me so foully, & I do not understand why Mr. O'Reilly should forsake Reid, against whom he alleges high crimes, to attack me at a time when he had agreed to refer our quarrel to you. Besides, I pronounce his statements, so far as related to me, false in toto, & he must have known he was perverting the truth when he made such a publication. I regret the controversy, because I have already been robbed of years of time & peace, & the embarrassments still upon me are suffi-

Delano 8 Apl 53

cient to blast my hopes for life, but I do not fear that I shall in the end vindicate myself from every slander & show the long catalogue of injuries which have been heaped upon me by those two men. If they will have war to the knife, & prefer it to a fair & just arbitration of the difficulties, let it come. I have no more concessions & no more proposals to make, beyond those I have made. Should they succeed, by perverting the truth, in making any believe I have ever been guilty of a single dishonest action, they cannot succeed with those who know me & the difficulties I have suffered for O'Rielly, nor take away my own consciousness of rectitude; if you mistake me, if you imagine that I would make any concession of principle to stop the career of O'Rielly. "Those whom the Gods destroy, they first make mad." His best safety lies in his becoming just & good.

But I drop you this, merely to say that I have no part in the controversy except that I sent Reid the Report at his request, to judge for himself of the facts, & that I hold myself ready always to abide by justice asking no favors beyond that.

Very resp'y yrs W J Delano

The paper I hope you will send from Cleveland.

Ithaca 12th 1853

Mr

E Cornell Sir- I Calculated to see you again before you went west but you went a little sooner than I expected I wanted to buy that fifty acres of land if you would sell it any ways right I think you ask too much for it by 10 dollrs per acre and all other People thinks the same that I have heard speak about it but I would say to you that if I will give you fifty dollars per acre for it and have the interest to commence on the first day of April 1854 and the payments in some manner as we talked and you throw that old waggon in to draw the stone off which is not worth more than 4 or 5 dollars and I want possession this spring Now Sir the reason why I say so is it will take me this summer to to get the stumps sprouts and stone off and then I think after it is all cleard off it is to much for it But if this meets your mind & you conclude to let me have it write me & also a line to your tenants to give me possession of the land & the contract we can make when you come out here sometime Please answer this on the receipt

E Cornell E Manning

P.S tell me a little about the rail road

Arnda April 15th 1853

Mr E. Cornell

Sir I received your Kind letter of the 7th of Feb. in due time, stating that you would soon make up my account, & have the balance transmitted to me — Although I dont want to put you to any inconvenience, but I am going to leave again for school but the 1st of May next & it would be a very great favor to me, if you could see how that matter stands before that time —

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Your Most Respectfully

E. Cornell
Ithaca

E. W. Packard

Indianapolis Apl 15. 1853

Dear Alonzo

The long protracted question is settled and it is decided this morning to lease the line to me at $3,000 per an for 32 years, the money to be used in rebuilding the line — The other parties died hard, they fought till they fell in the last ditch, but they are defeated, and they feel it, it is a hard blow for them, and a capital one for us — They admit me to be the best tactician they have had to contend against,

The receipts of the line for March was about $3,500, an increase of $500, over the same month last year, The increase of Jan Feb & March of this year exceeds the same months of last year by about $1,500, or say $6,000 per year, I think I could live and pay my rent at last years business, if so the increase would make a fine thing of it,

My health is first rate, and my spirits up to the boiling point —

With this I send a blank draft to renew with an a/c of Tel Co —

Yours Affectionately

E. Cornell

A. B. C.

P. S. Tell Mother that I wish she was out here.

Tell Ellen. She must prepare herself to accept an invitation from me to go to Spy sometime during the summer to see the Worlds fair

Tell Frank he must hurry up that Algebra, so as to be ready to take the next step in the fizzix —

Tell Perry he must hurry up so as to take the Algebra when Frank gets through with it.

Tell Mary. I want to kiss her

Tell Emma to get right up and walk across the house.

E. C.

Greenwich April 16th 1853

Mr Cornell Sir

I went to N York yesturday hoping to find you. but as you was not there, I now write to you to inform you that the note I hold against you, became due the 14th of this month, & it is time it was paid, I have a payment to make the first of May & I must have the money if it is to be had. if it is not paid by that time I shall put the note in other hands for collection I want an answer immediately, it will save cost & oblige me to have it paid by that time. I reside now in Greenwich, the note is $88,69/100 dated April 14th 1852 If you had rather pay the money to Chas Howland of South Danby Tompkins County N.Y. I will inclose your note in a letter & send it to him if you will pay on or before the first of May his receipt for the money shall be good for the note Yours &c

Josiah Bassett

This letter was postmarked "Greenwich Conn," I think. It was very indistinct —

ABC

Josiah Bartlett
Apl 16 1853

Indianapolis 17. Apl 1853

My Dear Alonzo

Your favour 11th inst Mailed the 13th was rec'd to day also a letter from E & Manning on subject of the purchase of 50 acres north of Fall Creek, With this I will enclose an answer to Manning which you will please Copy and then hand to him –

I had supposed that your Uncle E. B. C was mistaken in regard to the amt I owed him, but as I have not been in situation to pay even small balances, I have felt no courage for an examination of accts –

I got my papers closed to day for this line and it will prove a fat job if California & Australia keep up the supply of Gold. I should not be surprised if I should make from $10,000 to $15,000 per year clear money out of the line the 3 last years – and it is good for 5000 on the start –

You need not increase expenses however yet on the strength of it –

I should like to build a fine Cottage house on that Pelton lot on the bank of the Creek for Ellen, and one for Mother up on the farm Yours in Haste

ABC

E Corelle

Copy Indianapolis Apl. 17. 1853

Dear Sir. Yours favor of the 12th inst was rec'd this PM and I hasten to answer it. When I last offered you that Land for $50 pr acre, I did it with a conviction on my mind that it was worth much more money than that. but I had been somewhat embarrassed for 2 or 3 years past, having lost more than five such farms is worth by the rascality of other parties who I had trusted my business with, and being in debt to Mr Munn on the land I therefore concluded to sell out a part of my land at such prices as I could readily get, and close up my business in a snugg[er] shape than it was at present.

Since I saw you however my fortune has again turned, I have this day closed a Contract and got the papers executed by which I shall make $25.000 clear of all expenses I have been working for this contract the last 4 months, but fate seemed to be against me till last friday. Matters took a different turn, and I happened to be in luck and about 2 hours ago I got the papers signed and delivered all O.K. This will place me in a situation to be perfectly easy - and under such circumstances it is a matter of indifference to me whether you take the farm or not. but it has always been a principle with

me to make my word as good as my bond as far as I have the power to do so. I will therefore say to you that you may have the land at the offer I made you. $50 pr acre on interest from the first of May next 1853, and if you consider the old waggon any object you can have. that in the bargain. as it is of little value. You can have possession at once only the Sharp's have crops on the ground. If you conclude to take it you can show Mr Sharp this letter as an order from me to give the possession of the 50 acres up to you.

You ask me to tell you something about the Railroad. I cannot tell you much. as I dont know much. but I learned all that was known at Auburn. and from what I learned in Newyork. I am satisfied that the road will cross Fall Creek somewhere near the East end of the tunnel and near the stone wall. Cant say as to location of Depot but I think I can give inducements that will secure it to Fall Creek. It is not prudent however to mention this as it is not good diplomacy to let your rivals know your plans. Keep cool and say nothing and all will be right and in two years from now you cant buy land within 2 miles of Ithaca for less than $100. pr acre. Write me if you conclude to take the 50 acres as you are the last man that gets the chance at this price.

Yours Respectfully and in
Good Spirits

E Cornell

Mr E Manning
Ithaca
N.Y.

O'REILLY'S

Atlantic, Lake and Mississippi Telegraph.

OHIO, INDIANA AND ILLINOIS LINE,

CONNECTING DIRECTLY

Cincinnati, Toledo, Chicago, Evansville,

AND INTERMEDIATE PLACES IN

WABASH AND MIAMI VALLEYS.

Despatches sent to any part of the United States and Canada.

☞ Please write plainly—use no figures—answer quickly—give full address. Despatches delivered within City limits promptly, and without extra charge. All despatches strictly confidential. Despatches left at the Office between the hours of 7 A. M. and 8 P. M., will be punctually forwarded.

LUSES' POWER PRESS

By Telegraph from Dayton

Dated April 18 1853

Received at Indianapolis,

To Mr Cornell

O'Reilly pays no regard to the investigation & arbitration agreed upon by through you & is pursuing his old course of slander. I regret it but I must defend myself & may carry the war into Africa he has written me another letter full of the most groundless insinuations & as it is folly to reason with him I shall not reply but hold myself prepared at all times either for impartial investigation or vindication by law

W D Cleland

Attica, April 18, 1883

E. Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Dear Sir.

Your Telegram was received and I now take this Opportunity of writing you on the Subject you named and some others also.

Some of the boys on the Line supposed you would discharge me as soon as you came into Office owing to your having no kind feelings towards my brother who has been connected with this Line for some time past.

I do not think you can have any hard feelings towards me because my brother done you an injury and I hope you will continue me in my present situation as long as I conduct myself and the Office correctly. If you wish any recommendations I can send them as soon as you wish.

You may rely on my

attending to the Office as well while you are manager as if you were a near relation of mine.

The Line is in pretty good order as far as my jurisdiction extends and I should think by the way it works that it did not need much repair.

This Office does about $1000 worth business in year and the amount checked to other Offices is about $500 more.

I do not think the reduction of charges would do much good I should think it would do more hurt than good

I should like to keep this situation as long as it is your pleasure that I should do so and as long as it is conducted rightly

Very Respectfully

John S Bryant

P S Please write me fully soon as possible

J S B

Binghamton 18 April 1853

Ezra Cornell Esq

Dear Sir,

I have been making diligent enquiries for the last 3 weeks to ascertain where you were to be found, and have addressed letters to you at New York and Columbus but got no response.

In the foreclosure suit against Blunt and Philipse — Mr P. put in an answer setting up in substance that he had sold his share to Blunt and took a mortgage & had no other security — That at the time of DeWitt purchase had been heretofore mortgaged by Blunt and Philipse to them as collateral security, and claiming that those premises — (to which his mortgage from Blunt did not extend) ought to be first sold and applied on the original Beebe mortgage, so as to leave Philipse's mortgage of Blunt so far retained.

As this was the decided equity of the case I was compelled to amend the complaint, and make you a party, as you have a contract for this part — and that this might be accordingly first sold. The whole history is set forth in the enclosed printed copy of Complaint.

I wish now — (as do the parties) to present the decree in both suits at the special term in March or the first Monday of May — so that the property may be sold under all the decrees on such convenient

day thereafter as may be agreed upon. If the cause goes over this Term, it will occasion great delay as it will be sometime before another Term is held in that County. This is material to you also for another reason. I shall perfect the judgment against you in the other foreclosure case at that Term, and it would be prejudicial to your interests to have your share sold alone leaving Blunt's share to be sold afterwards — The share belonging to you might in such case be sold under value.

In order to perfect the judgment in Blunt's case, it will be necessary that you should admit service — as of a day more than 20 days previous to the Special Term. I hope therefore you will admit due service in the form and as of the date appearing in enclosed admission — and send it to me by the earliest mail — as there will be no time to spare.

Please tell me also what payments you have made to Blunt on this contract, and whether you desire to fulfil that contract, — Do you wish to have it sold independent of you — or to have provision made in the decree — that upon the payment of the balance due on the contract, the property shall be conveyed to you?

I will have the decree drawn in such way as shall guard and reserve your rights — consistent with the prior rights of mortgagee — if you will signify your wishes. If however you claim nothing

under your contract, I shall take the decree for the sale of this part - and to apply proceeds to the Blunt and Philipse mortgage to Beebe.

Please give me a full answer by the earliest mail.

Yours truly
John A. Collier.

Toledo O.
April 19th 53-

Ezra Cornell Esq
Indianapolis Dear Sir,

Having understood from Mr. J. Haviland that you have leased our Telegraph line from May 1st. I must respectfully apply for the superintendency of said line unless it is your purpose to manage that part yourself - My experience in telegraphing warrants me in the application, having been in the business since March 1846 - I learned in the Philad.a office during Mr Alfred Vail's time - subsequently came west with H. O'Reilly & opened the principal offices as he built westward - Madison, Ind, Vincennes, St. Louis &c. thence north to Galena, Dubuque & Chicago & have been in charge of this station, & the O. & I. & I. Tel. line since march '50 - For general character & qualifications I must respectfully refer to H. O'Reilly, J. J. Speed Jr - Dr. I. Coe, our former Treasurer, R. E. Bryant, our present Supt - Any merchant

in this city &c - &c. ——

In case you intend superintending yourself, I wish to be pleased to hear what your wishes are with regard to this station - I presume we will connect with Speed line here on & after May 1st. —

With regard to our office here, under the impression that we were to remain connected with the Lake line, I offered to take charge of the books, spy messages for delivery &c. for both sides, having an assistant at each instrument for the sum of $400 from each line, ~~&~~ making but one head to the office & saving each line $200. —

I wish to propose the same in case we connect with Speed line, or Lake, provided I cannot be appt. Supt. —

The plan of one manager was approved by Mr. Bryant & Mr Allen & would have been carried into effect but for the unsettled state our line has been in for some time past as you are aware —

I have always worked for the O'Kelly interest believing him deserving of all he claimed & procured for him the votes of all the stockholders here - altho' there are but 2 here, yet that was all -

Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Yours truly,

Rufus Chadwick

Manager Toledo Station.

"

Eugene Ind. Ap. 19/53

Dear Sir

Your circular of yesterday is before me, and I hasten to answer it,

1st. As to improving the business of the line it is susceptible of a great deal. If you are an operator yourself. (& if not the first thing you do ought to be, to learn) you should go into some office on the line and operate a week in cog, then you will see yourself what is the faults of the offices. There is no operator at Montezuma and that would be a good place to go. & when you see for your self or have some confidential man to see for you. It would be easy to apply the corrective. I mention Montezuma, because that office has no operator at present, and you could reach there in a few hours from Indianapolis, via Terre Haute, the canal packets leaving Terrehaute on the arrival of the cars from Indianapolis & arrive at Montezuma about midnight. This is strictly confidential

2d. My office

The posts in my beat are all sound, & the line good, in my office every thing in good order except the Platinum foil which gets loose frequently & I have to solder it on the best

way I can.

The circumstances under which I took charge of this office are these. The old operator had shut up the office and no business was done. The merchants requested me to take it and learn to work it. I am a practising physician & told them if what time I could give it would satisfy them I would take it. which I did about the first Jan. last.

You ought to go over the whole lines yourself and not leave it to the operators to manage the whole concern as they are a mind to. with no one to say what must be done & what must not.

It is my opinion that a mess for short distances might be sent for 10 cents & increase the receipts of the line so long as there is so much spare time as there is at present. I may be mistaken but think not.

If you do not attend to your own business I doubt if any one else will

Yours very respectfully

R. M. Waterman

To E. Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

R. M. Waterman
Operator Eagle
Feb 19, 1873

Jamestown Indiana

Apr 20th 1853

Mr E Cornell

Sir

Having Received a Message from You directed to all offices I avail my Self of this mode of Saying to You that this office was established for the Purpose of keeping up the line and I am Operator with a Salery of $10 Pr Month and the Receipts of the office. every thing furnished and all Expences Paid for Repairs by the line The Receipts of the office range from nothing to $2 Pr Month Should You deem it expedient to make any change on this Subject I desire to know it at as early a Period as Possable that I may make my arrangements to Suit, in case You think it best to wholly dispence with this office

in conclusion I will Say the line from here to Brownsburg is not in a very good Condition and a few days Repairing, might in all probability Save time and Expence in the End,

Yours Respect

John M. Walker

Jamestown Ind
Apd 20th

J M Walker P.M.
Hall

Mr. E. Cornell.
Indianapolis
Indiana

John M. Walker
Operator James Town
Apl 20. 1853 —

Copy

By Telegraph from Philadelphia

Pittsburgh April 20th 1853

To Col Wm Robinson Jr

I am just seen Mr Kendall who has been invited by Hon. J. C. J. Smith to settle their disputes who he has just seen

They are determined to prosecute the parties now professing to act under either of them in the west without their authority and Mr Smith distinctly denies any right which Mr Wade assumes to have as coming from him. I have no doubt that a clear right signed by both parties can be obtained for you by which the property can be made entirely safe to you & you can be entirely free from litigation

J. D. Reid

By Telegraph from Philadelphia

Pittsburgh April 20th 1853

To Col Robinson Jr

Better be cautious about a contract for Telegraph line or you will get into trouble with patentees I will see you when I get home

J. K. Marshall

Newport April 29th 53

Mr E. Cornell.

Dear Sir

I understand.
you have leased this line upon which
I am Operator and I therefore write you
according to request. I Came on this
line about one Year ago. I [illegible]
I have remained and kept the Newport office
this Town being Small the office receipts
does not amount to more than about $6.00
per month the year round. The line that
comes under my notice is in good operating
order. Some of the Polls are beginning to
rot and will before very long need Some
repairs. My instrument is a good one with
the exception of the key which needs to be
repaired with a new one. I do not know
that I have any Suggestions to make more
than it is highly essential for the Offices
to attend a little more Promptly to their
business with the hope of Seeing you
Soon I close 73 Yours Respy

J. M. Hood.
Opr

Binghamton 20th April 1853

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

Be kind enough to excuse my not writting sooner for I have been very ill all the time since I last saw you— Have been confined to my bed and room till Yesterday. and am now only able to go about the house a little. Have had a fever. and have now a very sore mouth. I get along very slow I thought I should be out before this. Hope to be soon I Recieved your letter Written at Erie with the $10 Enclosed..

I have not heard from Col Weller yet. Soon as I get out I will write again Let me hear how you prosper.

Very Respectfully Yours

G W Skinner

E Cornell

1853

(Private) Ap. 20.

E. Cornell Esq.

Dr. Sir Enclosed are a couple of Chester's opinions — you see it covers all — & I thot you might want to show it to the officers of L. & Upper Miss. Railroad, for Riersted's benefit.

Don't fail to beat Chicago on 30th April — so we may be ready for Ottawa on 1st March, or morning of 2d.

Glad to hear you did so well at Indianapolis

Yrs A. O'Rielly

Paid

6

NEW-YORK
APR
20
PAID 6 Cts.



Ezra Cornell Esq.
Care of
Messrs Barbour & Porter,
Indianapolis
Indiana

H. O'Reilly
Apl 20/1853

Indianapolis Apl 21. 1853.

My Dear Alonzo

Your favour of the 15th inst was rec'd this morning. I am glad you have looked over my old letter books, there is no doubt of all the remittances then mentioned having been made and it is not impossible that many items has been overlooked and not Entered.

I care less about the losses I should sustain in by such omissions in the case of your Uncle E.B than if it was some one else. He is a brother that I have a feeling of great regard for and if I was able should take pleasure in aiding him in any way he might need or desire.

I have no doubt if you will look over my letter books, and E.B. C's — J.S. Bristol, & Sam Holmes letter you will find several hundred dollars against Holmes that I have not got charged to him, and all such items I want when I have a trial with him, and want the evidence procured handy. Holmes says I owe him 3 or [redacted]400, I believe I can prove that he owes me, and I have no doubt if the truth was known that he owes me five hundred dollars. He was on the Troy & Canada Junction — the Troy & Whitehall and the M & Erie. & Ithaca & Athens lines —

I wish you would thuroly examin his accts,
I am glad to learn that the bill to make
appropriations to drain the Marshes has pas-
sed, it will greatly benefit Ithaca—
Let me know what was done at RR meeting
at Trumansburg, Was my RR article published
and did it produce any sensation in the stock
Market—
I. Should be glad to see a good Car factory at Ith-
aca—but sages saw mill is of no use for that pur-
pose except the engine—
The 5. Acre lot stands at it has for ten years
past, the title in J. S. Beebe, and the mortgage
that he gave Capt Holman is assigned to my
Father for my benefit, I bring on the note with
Beebe. I could not have the mortgage assigned
to me, I must have it foreclosed soon—
I, Calculate to work out, and no mistake—Mr Munns
will foreclose the Mortgage on the Hall Creek pro-
perty, and thus put it in a situation so title can
be given where sales are made, I shall have the
benefit of the sales. I have a few Creditors who re-
fused to release where sales were made this pre-
vented by being able to make a good title hence
I could not sell any thing when the title
stood in my name, Mr Munns foreclosure will
remedy that dificulty—
I dont know yet whether I shall want to loan
any money on that land or not, I will see

how telegraph matters go first —
If E. Manning takes that 50 acres I shall be able to settle up the balance of that purchase with Munn & Hunt which will make some 50 acres more paid for, and unincumbered —

I have already written you & Mr Tichenor about the $1000 dft —

I think Hammonds case is about my case He acknowledged to me that he had got his pay of Tichenor, & he is a foolish fellow to spend his time and money in a wrongful law suit —

I shall go to Chicago next week —
I shall not write more to night, as I have been copying the Auditors moves last night & to day & am very tired —

If I had $10,000 to buy land with out here I could invest it so as to make $50.000 in one years —

Telegraph Matters look well, just now

good night all

Yours Affectionately
E Correll

A.B.C —

P.S. I wish you would discontinue the practice of writing letters with out proper margins take this as a sample — This can be bound —

Immediately rough mark

N. Y. Ap. 22. '53.

Ex Cornell, Esq.

Dr. Sir — I learn from several sources that the wild-cat Southern Mich. Telegraph is to be rebuilt, under countenance of Roch. folks, & perhaps Reid, to give them connexion to Chicago, &c. The ~~battle~~ parties will make desperate effort to control or buy up Illinois & Mississippi Stock at Ottawa on 2d May. Manor I will be at Chicago on 30th April — not any too soon. — Hope Speed will be there. Best correspond with trade, if he does not come, to see how far he can aid, if money is wanted to buy in stock. If this Ill. & Mis. line is allowed to go into hands of Philistines, it will be disastrous to future

N.B. The success you gave R. "over the left", amuses us all. It was well done — but the work is not finished till the Illinois & Mississippi is made right.

operations in the "Northern Consolidation."

I enclose you ½ doz. copies of the Contracts, with Chester's Opinion, & send some also to Barhom as you desire. You see I have printed the special Contract of 1847 by which the Morse Patentees arranged to have Smith settle with me. It was a great error to omit it before. It shows just how Smith came to settle with me, by Kendall's own appointment! When you get this letter, let me know by Telegraph. You had best ascertain from Caton how the line stands. I confess I do not understand. Caton only works one section, I hear. What becomes of the remainder? My regards to Lob Speed. Yours truly, Henry O'Reilly.

H. O'Reilly Apl 22nd 53

Newport April 23rd 83

E. Cornell.

Dear Sir

Yours of the 22nd is before me and I now take the opportunity of answering it. With regard to myself I am a man of 26 years married and a permanent citizen of Newport. I am connected with a drug store and am Notary Public of this Township, I entertain I believe a respectable position in society, and with regard to fidelity I let my neighbors judge of that. The Office came into my hands on this wise, A man by the name of Bell, took charge of this office when the line was first established, He was to be allowed $20. per month for attending it & if should go over that amount, he was then to deduct out expences of repairs, or room rent or other expences if any, & after that if any money left it went to the Superintendent. He kept from the time it was established until last April he was elected Clerk of the circuit Court. I learned to operate and took it on the same terms he had it. I would just say with regard to your Shutting up this Office that I do not presume it would do - As the citizens have paid for one here they will unless money refunded probally keep it run.

I said the receipts of this office amounted to $6. per month - Average. That may be rather small but they do not exceed $70 a year since this line was established. This is a small town and but few men to use a Telegraph, and hence, it could not be expected this office to run up so high with so few customers, although they patronize it very well. There is a vast difference between the People of western Indiana & Illinois in relation to Telegraphing and those of the eastern States, among the people here they do not use a Telegraph so much as they do in the east - But I think the receipts can be increased considerably - I think I can procure $3. per week for the reports. without much difficulty - and that will be one grand addition to this office. - I have my instrument in a suitable room for the purpose and aside from public Scrutiny. and I am in such business as requires my attention - not like a number of the Operators who have no other business and therefore they get tired in their office and go to ramble round and the result is when you want to send a mess. there is no one to recive it - that is not only a vexation to the operator but very apt to lose custom

In relation to raising the tarriff - I am not however, altogether satisfied at present whether in the end it will enhance the interest of the line or not - There are some if the Tarriff is raised will not Telegraph so much - others will patronize it the same I do not know - tho; but the addition you spoke of would as that would be but small on one mess but amt. to something in a year on this line. There is one thing certain this line aught to pay a considerable sum above expences if managed rightly. I dont know that I have anything more at present I would say anything I can do to promote the interest of the line I am on hands and willing at all times to do my part. I can raise the $3. per I think without much difficulty and that will bring this office up considerably - This office through the Winter and Spring pays from $12. to $18. per mo. through the Summer it does not more than pay for the acid used, with the hope of hearing from you soon I close - and any more information you want which I have not given you Please let me know I ready at any time to give you. Yours Respy

James M. Hood,
Opr

Mr E Cornell.
Indianapolis
Ind

Albion April 24th 1853

My Dear Brother

On my return home Saturday Phebe read a letter from you in which you took occasion to set me up a little for not writing to you, I acknowledge the corn and will set about retrieving my character although I may not have or see anything verry encouraging to communicate from this region. I feel that I have occupied but a small space in creation for the last two or three years, having occupied my time exclusively to rebuilding and repairing our line between Detroit & Chicago and keeping the instruments and offices intermediate in good condition and see that they all yield a monthly revenue above all expences which the yearly report of our supt ought to show though I believe it does not You will notice however from the report the amount received by those offices is $4708.22 one third of which belonged and was paid into the treasury the other covering all expences except repairs on line. Now for the cost of repairs for the same time You will notice again the amount paid for repairs is $2783.05 of this my account covers for the materials used $220. Now look on page 5 of report and read "From Detroit west to Kalamazoo one thousand new poles have supplied the place of so many old ones." then estimate the cost of tools to work with

and I think you must admit the expence is not onorous. Please notice report again under the head of paid repairers. The amount is $585.6,71 of this sum my account covers $600. which pays for all the labour done including my own except one hand from Detroit who made out his account and drew pay from treasurer, not over $100. This makes the whole expence of repairs $920. while the one third of receipts are $1569,40. Now suppose the same state of thing existed between Bu & V— & V & De it would leave in those offices (according to report) $3178,3,20 to pay salaries. and other office expences. And by the way please look at the Miscelaneous office expences $8454,65 Where can they occur. There are 36 offices on the line, 12 of which are under my immediate supervision and where I know not one cent of this sum has accrued. It is beyond my powers of comprehension or ideas of economy that the Cleveland office receiving on an average $1000. per month cannot clear itself of expences. There is so many to handle the money there is a mighty good chance for leaks and I notice that out of $60,000 and over of receipts only about $10.000 gets into the hands of the treasurer. I do not set these facts before you to perplex your mind or create uneasiness for I know you have enough of it or will have soon, as I hear you have rented the line which has been competing with us for the last five years. I am confident there has been

improvident expenditure on that line which renders them poor and unable under their former management to keep themselves afloat any longer. You have steped in just in the right time to make a good drive out of it and in the end you will have and keep the control of it in spite of all the powrs that be. Your bargain for repairs to apply on rent at the rates you give us 50 cents for reset and $1.00 for new is just double the actual cost under your economical management. You can correct the abuses heretofore existing and at all points where the lines approach each other it will vastly lesson the expences by uniting as much as possible with the C & M line. I have laboured incessantly for to make this portion of our line as prompt and reliable as possible and it is getting more so every year. I do not buy any other kind of timber but tamarack & cedar for poles. The former costs in piles on the track $18. per 100 the latter $50. I have a contract for 2000 cedar a portion of which is delivered. I have as many poles on hand as I can set with one gang of hands and unless the treasurer starves me out for funds I shall get the line in good condition for fall business. I am confident that the business of telegraphing will or can be so managed as to pay well for all labour performed and neat a fair per cent on the capital invested. I have not attempted

to deal in or buy stock in any line from the fact of not having any money more than for immediate use and did not want to get embarrassed by promises to pay. I have advised all the holders of stock to be patient that we were doing the best we could to make the thing pay and I believed it would do so soon. I have been carful to keep clear of dept so that myself or the company do not owe any thing west of Detroit. Phebe thinks we live verry poor and blames me for letting the Co. keep my wages and perhaps she has some times reason so to do though the company does not or ever did owe me much at a time. One thing is certain I have not gained any in property to any considerable amount for the last six years. We have lived out all my earnings and probably should if I earned twice as much as I do. I find there is no end to spending money and the only way I can do now is to live as it were from hand to mouth, get what I can & let it go as I get it

I want to see you verry much & hope I shall be able to come across you some time this summer and as you are so much interested in the western lines around the lakes you will be in this region somewhere near and if you will let me know where I can find you I will come 100 or 200 miles provided always and this is the express condition that you refuse to come and see us,

affectionately yours M B Wood

Indianapolis Apl 24. 1853 -

My Dear Mary Ann

The sabath has again arrived, and I know of no way in which to manifest my devotion, than by writing to a beloved, and faithful wife, cheering her with my hoaps, and sharing with her the cares, and anxieties of life - You may not be supprised to be informed that my mind has of late been more occupied with financial than social or domestic subjects, and each day reflection upon the subject of my late contract for the lease of the O. I. I. Telegraph, confirms me in the belief that it was a capital hit.

I cannot think there is a doubt but what I can clear $5,000. a year by it, which if realized will enable me to close up my affairs satisfactorily and arrange for the disposal of more of my time to the promotion of the personal comfort and happiness of my dear Wife & children and aged parents.

Telegraph matters has been hedged in on all sides from the out set with perplexing and embarrassing controversies. The history of Telegraph has thus far been a history of wars, and there are many of those contests unsettled, and likely will be untill time removes the prime movers in them Smith & Kendall form the stage of action -

As far as we, and especially myself have had any agency in those contentions, it has been the result of necessity, by the force of circumstances, or in self defence, I have sustained myself most signally, and thus far have come off the victor of every battle, and this while much weakened in my resources, by a train unfortunate adverse circumstances, I am recovering from the effects of those disasters, I enter the field the field for the present Campaign, with increased resources, renewed energies, good health, a sound constitution, and a determined will, tempered from as good material, as ever a "Damascus blade" could boast, and I am bound to go through, all I have to say is that those who are on the track had better get out the way when they hear the bell ring—

I am in negociation with the Lawrenceburgh & Upper Mississippi R.R.Co who have a meeting of directors at Lawrenceburgh tomorrow, I may go there to see them If I do. I shall go from there to Chicago to meet Speed Wade & O'Reilly on the 30th inst We have a meeting there for purpose to straighten out affairs in relation to the Chicago & St Louis line, and I shall avail myself of that visit, to make the proper arrangements for operations on this line after May 1, 53- when I take possession of the line,

I figure up prospectively for this line as follows, The receipts last year, were $ over

Were ——— $35,890.59

The 1st qtr of this year indicate increase for the year of ——— 8,000.00

$43,890.59

This has been under a low tariff that will bear an increase of 20 per cts to be equal to the tariff of other lines — say increase of business by that means ——— 8,778.00

$52,668.59

Deduct recpts for other lines say — 13.

Net receipts of line ——— $39,668.59

Add to this saving in expenses by uniting lines and getting rid of duplicate offices — 2,000.00

$41,668.59

Deduct rent $3,000 to be expended on the line in rebuilding ——— 3,000.00

Net amt to pay for working line & profits ——— $38,668.59

Deduct salaries as now paid per an ——— 13,447.20

25,221.39

Amt left to pay ordinary repairs and other expenses such as rent, fuel, light stationary, Batteries, all say ten thousand dollars, which is much over the mark ——— 10,000.00

Balance for 1st years profits ——— $15,221.39

This you will say is unreasonable, and so it really appears, but at the same time the basis of calculation seems sound and business like — Again it is only claiming for gross receipts $52,668.59 for a line of 800 with verry little competition, while the receipts last years on the Erie & Michigan line of same length and with much greater competition was over $61,000, and bid fair this year to be $80,000.

As I remarked, it dont seem as though any such result could flow from this operation, and I dont make the figures to inspire any unjust hopes or expectations, but merely as a basis upon which to found the opinion that I have made a favourable arrangement, and one out of which I shall be likely to make money. It is a far better arrangement than I expected or should have asked for, and it never would have been made if our opponents had entertained the most distant idea that the thing would fall into my hands. The passage of the extraordinary law last winter, and all the scheming in the matter was prepared & intended for their benefit & not mine—

They had prepared a bed of roses for themselves and a bed of thorns for me, the only thing that has turned different from what it was set down in the bill is that I have taken the wrong bed. The thorns, lacerate their flesh, instead of mine and I enjoy the luxury, and sweet perfume of the bed of roses— A trifling difference but a mighty important one,

Please write me at Chicago

Yours Affectionately

E Cornell

Mary Ann,

Pokeepsie April 25th 1853

Dr Sir,

Yours of the 16th instant is received with its enclosure concerning which you ask me, if it is correctly quoted I answer, that it is sufficiently so, though not in the same words throughout, as compared with the full opinion in the Polytechnic Journal. It is on this decision that some one at Washington ventured to set afloat, some time ago, the false report that the Supreme Court of U.S. had decided the Telegraph case in favor of O'Reilly. Whoever he was, I will charitably believe that his intellect was too muddy to perceive the bearings of the decision (which was in the leadpipe case of Le Roy vs. Tatham) and that he had not discernment to perceive its irrelevance; irrelevant except as the principles, the Judge declares bear favorably, indeed, conclusively so upon my case. The Sup. Co. next Decr. will settle the matter, and I trust will clear away some of the fog which reiterated misrepresentation has created around the whole subject.—

Respectfully Yr Obsent

Sam. F. B. Morse

Ezra Cornell, Esq
Indianapolis.
Indiana.

O'RIELLY'S

Atlantic, Lake and Mississippi Telegraph.

OHIO, INDIANA AND ILLINOIS LINE,

CONNECTING DIRECTLY

Cincinnati, Toledo, Chicago, Evansville,

AND INTERMEDIATE PLACES IN

WABASH AND MIAMI VALLEYS.

Despatches sent to any part of the United States and Canada.

☞ Please write plainly—use no figures—answer quickly—give full address. Despatches delivered within City limits promptly, and without extra charge. All despatches strictly confidential. Despatches left at the Office between the hours of 7 A. M. and 8 P. M., will be punctually forwarded.

LUSES' POWER PRESS

By Telegraph from Crawfordsville

Dated April 25 1853

Received at Indianapolis, _____

To E Cornell

I have a Carboy of good acid on the way to Lafayette dr you want it at cost & carriage also about one Thousand insulators at Chicago which you will need as you want them at cost Conclusion have you

Bryant Apl 25. 53

in regard to the horses & wagon I spoke to you about - please answer by telegraph.

Bryant

Jamestown Ind Apr 25 1883

Dear Sir

Yours of the 22nd Inst is at hand asking me to be more explicit as to the Contract under which I worked as Operator, together with many question. which I Shall answer

I Received a Compensation over and above the $10 & Recpts I keep a hors and most usualy go out on line myself for which I charge from 50¢ to $1,00 and my Epences Should any accrue. Such as taven Bill.

Horses generaly hier for 50 Pr day

all of my time is occupied with Post office and Telegraph whether I will be Continued as P M, I am not able to Say. I Supos this is in a great measure Optionary with myself the P.O. at this Place being Rather a drag than Otherwise and no One desires it

But whether I am Continued as P M or not it will have nothing to do with my attending to the Telegraph

I am a Married Man 34 yeas of age have One Child a Boy 7 years Old My wife attends to the P.O when I am absent and She can Telegraph Some So that others Can understand her

I think it doubtful about geting a Club for daily Telegraph Reports.
Some think the Recpts might be increased by a Reduction of the Tariff
I think I fully Realize the importance of Strict fidelity not only in Telegraphing but in every action of a mans life Fidelity and Purity Should be a ruling Passion;
as I said in my form letter The line was not in a good Condition Many of the Posts are leaning and liable to fall at at every wind The line has been Broke many time during the Past winter Thes Repairs in may Places have been Bodly Executed for the want of time and other causes. being out of wire. and Some time Post rotted down though I belive there is but 3 Post missing I believe I now have answered all Your questions. & you can make Such Propositions as Seems best and I will accide to them or Reject. I would be Pleased to have a Personal interview with you and Should you visit Crawfordsville Soon. You could come this way. Pleas answer Soon and any information you ask at any time Relative to the Busineps of the office or line will be cordialy given

Your Respt
J. M. Walker

Jamestown Ind
Apr 25th

J M Walker P M
Free

E Cornell

Care ~~Indianapolis~~

Bramble House Ind
Lafayette Ind

J. M. Walker
Apr 25, 1853
Jamestown Ohio

April 25 = 1853

Mr Sowell I received yours 22 - inst
was glad to here from you but am
under the necesity to say that I cannot
meete you in indianny but should
like to doo so, I have ben disappointed
in geting my money as I expected
I shal leave for home soon and it will
bee doubtful about my comeing back
before fall I find some varry good locations
here for sale at reasonable prices for a country
improved as much as this I should thinck
likely thare was so many ready to by land
whare thare was good locations that a
man not more used to the business than
myself had beter invest his capital in
an older country, stil I mite stand as good
a chance as athers if I was ready to come
rite on but am not
yours with respect

Leuther Brown

Huron Co Ohio

Binghamton April 25th 11/53

Dear Sir

Your favor of the eleventh was received yesterday, it having reached here while I was away on a trip over the line from Rondout to Dunkirk - I am pleased to learn that your affairs there have taken the favorable turn which you announce & I hope the same success may attend your future calculations - As for us we are wagging along about as usual, only that we have greater facilities for getting off business now than heretofore, which renders it quite easy to get off all that is offered, and do it with very general satisfaction - We send for the same tariff either to N.Y. or to the west, Via Jefferson or Danville if we happen to be down east or west - We have until this month been able to keep the line working east to Newburg nearly every day, & also west during the month of March - Since then it has gone tough & has kept two repairers constantly on the line, & then not able to work through more than half the time. Poles break every day & Pins every other day, so that between

the two we have been down a great deal - but have repaired but little business As for general repairs I have understood from the first that they would be made as soon as the ground would permit - O.E.W Telegraphed me a few days ago that I could have men to commence Gen'l repairs 1st of May and I shall go to Ithaca tomorrow & order brackets &c for that purpose & hope we shall get the thing moving soon - We have an office at Numdo & Portage & shall have one in a week at Springville - I found the line in that section in very good order - F does not keep the line up as prompt between Newbury & N.Y as it should be & in fact not as I believe him obliged to but it is owing to the bad management of his New York office. Every man there scoffs & sneers at the line & when it breaks, there is not the least effort to get it up with any prompt nyk - I think there will be a reformation in this respect very soon - as they are getting waked up in regard to it - The receipts last month were much better than in Feby, but owing to our system of paying salaries at very

office in stead of farming them out which went into operation the first of March, we ran behind about as much as we did in Feby-And still I believe it will be a saving in the end, for it enables me to manage such offices well & get their duty out of them promptly I have no trouble in getting the receipts of the whole line now in the course of half an hour & all corrected up in half an hour more, I am gratified to state that only two of the monthly reports for March differed at all from the daily reports. I have got rid of Allen & have a good man in his place. have a good opr in partnership with gibbs at J and begin to get things into good ship Shape - I am confident that there is a lack of interest at Ik for this line, but there we are connected with speed who controlls the operator, He is first rate but cannot attend the 3 insts & do them all justice & can not go on the line - The same difficulty exists at Dansville where it has gone about as far as it will - Skinner has been quite sick but is around again. what he has done I know not. I should like to have had the privilege of seeing and testing one of those new insts you got up in New York

Who is supt of your line there? and
What are the general prospects for young men
in that country now— How high is different
Kinds of land and is there prospect of its
rising in value very fast & what are the
best locations? I should infer that you have
a good opportunity of ascertaining these Kind
of information— What salaries do you pay on that
line— I am much in need of the
money that the Co owe me, & trust that,
when the next installment of debts are paid I shall
receive mine in full— Would you advise
me to buy our stock at par? Please let me
hear from you as often as convenient
I will try and keep you posted in regard
to this line

Yours Truly
R. S. Hopkins

E. Connell Esq
Indianapolis

R S Hopkins
Apr 25 1853