Bramble House La Fayett

April 26th 1853—

My Dear Mary Ann

I left Indianapolis yesterday at 10 A.M and arrived here by Railroad at 5 P.M. I remain in this city to day, and leave in the morning of tomorrow for Chicago.

La Fayett is a city about the size of Ithaca and take it all in all, it is quite as pleasant, but I think rather more subject to the ague & fever, and other fevers perhaps. Ithaca contributes about $400, a year to the support of my business (the Telegraph,) and Lafayett, nearly as many thousand, and the prospect is fair that it will reach quite as many thousand for a year to come from the 1st of May. The receipts of this office for the year has been thus

1853— Jan$ 211.47
Feb 217.38
Mar 284.90 $713.75

The receipts for April thus far is $274.82, the whole month will not fall much if any short, of $330, notwithstanding, they have had a bad brake during the

mouth that kept the line down ten days between this & Toledo— I mention these facts to illustrate the difference in the habits of business men in the East & West in respect to the use of the telegraph as a medium of communication,

Every aspect in which I have been able to view this operation it looks flattering I really cannot see anything to prevent my making $3,000 a year out of the working of this line over all expenses including rent for the line—

Well since I wrote the above I have been a sleep in my chair, but as I did not dream anything worth relating I will go on and make out a kind of a letter and then go to work,

Last Evening I had a free ticket presented to me for the circus, on board a boat on the Wabash river the "Floating Palace" and I went and spent the evening in laughing over a capital circus performance, This is the first circus I have attended since A.B.C and myself got left by the Cars at Seneca Falls or Waterloo seven years ago, after which we walked to Geneva and spent

the evening at the Circus while waiting for the "next train" to come along —
This idea of a circus onboard of a boat fitted up for the purpose is a capital one for the accomodation of all places that the boat can reach, The Company was a good one, good horses, good riding, good tumbling &c &c —
The weather to day is warm and lovely, though yesterday was cool & last night cold, peach is Cherries & Plumbs are in full bloom, and bid fair for an abundant Crop if not "nipped in the bud" by an untimely frost,
In about 3 months there will be a Railroad in complete running order from this City to Michigan City which will give me a RR communication from this section of my lines to Chicago, & Toledo, and verry much increase the Comforts of ransit, from point to point on my lines —
As soon as I get matters settled a little I want you to make the rounds with me, over the line, so that you can get a correct idea, of "Hoseerdum", "Suckerdum"

"Buckeyerus" - "Wolperina" - & "Pukedum" -
I dont know as we can both get ready for the tour before the sickly season comes on - if not we will embrace the opertunity in the golden autumn, Or I should like to start from Ithaca with you and Mary, (leaving Emma to be weaned) about the 1st of August and make the tour of the upper Lakes, across from Chicago or Milwaukie to Galena - thence up the Mississippi to St Pauls, and by the time we could get back it would be in healthy condition through Lower Ill, and Indiana -
There is the Worlds fair to be visited also, that opertunity must be embraced during June & July, when it is more likely to be sickly at the west,
Well if, all this touring has to be performed, you will want a new shilling calico dress & I shall have to have my coat mended -
The Clown asked his Master last night, why a married man was like a steamboat? this Master gave it up, & he said - because he is constantly liable to be "blown up" -
I was never "blown up" was I? -
Yours Affectionately
E Correll

Mary Ann,

State of Indiana

Polaski County, Town 29 North
Range 4 West, Section 9 =
Thursday, 27th Apl, 1853 —

My Dear Mary Ann

As by the above hailing you can locate me, it would be about as great a feat as I could perform my self in that line.

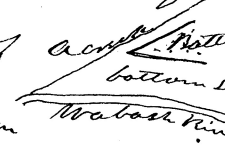
I was called up yesterday morning at 1 A.M at the Bramble house Lafayett, to take the stage for this place, with a positive assurance that we should reach this place in time to take the cars that leave 1/4 past 1 P.M for Michagan City thence by the cars of the Central Mich RR to Chicago, last Evening, but instead of accomplishing that, we did not reach here until 4 1/4 P.M, yesterday, say 3 hours behind time.

This station is a 1/2 story shanty, with 1 bedroom entry & dining room with side projection for kitchen, Erected about 2 weeks ago at the three terminus of the New Albany & Salem RR, about 53 miles directly south of Mich City, and about the center of a prairie that is from 8 to 10 miles in diameter as pretty land as for as the eye can scan in either direction, with some 1/2 dozen "log Cabbins" in sight in diffirent directions, I have visited one and the old lady says she has lived in this praire 5 years and they dont know what "fever" or

"ague-and fever," means she says a little influenzy that people had last spring is all the sickness she ever knew any thing about, If all accounts are true it is less sickly on the Paries than in the timber land,

We crossed the Wabash yesterday about 4 miles north of LaFayett in a scow, about day light, About 3 Miles north of the river we crossed the "Tippecanoe battle ground", Where the treachery of the "Profit" led him to make an attack upon the little band of herows under Gen. Wm. H. Harrison I judge it is a bout one Mile from the edge of the bluff forming the edge of the table land to the Wabash river, the intervening space is now one of the rich bottoms, cultivated in Corn that are so selibrated along this river,

As we approach the "battle ground" from the south it presents the pointed end of a piece of level table land, the shape of a creek



this shaped piece of land is free from under growth & covered with large scattering oaks standing now as when the battle was fought in I think 1812, — it is elevated about 15 feet above the bottom land at the right, and the bed of the creek & narrow bottom on the left, It was probably the strongest position that could have been occupied in the vicinity, If I reccollect rightly the attack was somewhat unexpected, as the Profit had made protestations of friendship, this

gave the indians some advantage in the outset and made the fight more sanguinary before the little band of "Spartans" subdued their treacherous enemy,

Tell Perry or Frank to Examine the history of the Battle of Tippecanoe, and see and let me know is my recollections are correct in regard to the battle and the conduct of the indians—

Directly or at a short distance north of the battle ground be come to "pretty prairie" and will may it be so named as it is really the prettyest land and has the prettyest fields of wheat on the ground that I ever beheld, this prairie is but a few miles in extent, near the north edge of it is two small mounds, about 40 rods apart, and some 8 feet high, say 50 feet in diameter, one of the passengers said that those where the Indians buried their dead after the battle, but I suspect that this is "mixed" for my best information indians me to believe that they have a more remote history than the battle of Tippecanoe,

Our journy was along the west bank of the Tippecano river passing through Monticello Thence to West Bedford, when we crossed the great Monong and followed up the north bank of that stream We passed through much of what they call here poor land, but it is well timbered with magnificent oaks, and I guess it is as good as land that we should call first rate in

"old Tompkins" — There is much land on this Prarie to be bought from 10/- to $3. per acre within one to 3 miles of the R.R. and I am sure that I cannot be mistaken in the belief that every acre of it is richly worth $20. per acre, — that is any man who has $2000 — to invest in a farm would do better to pay that $2,000. for 100 acrs. here than he would to pay it for land that he could buy anywhere in N.Y. for the same price —

This is a great Country, and the day is not distant when people at the east will acknowledge it.

Well, I just sat down to pass away a few moments and to let you know when I was &c &c — and that we are to have a game dinner — of Snipe — Wood-Cock, plover, Lark, Quale, Duck, &c. I took a tramp of 2 or 3 miles on the Prarie, and started 15. prarie hens, but they are wild, and we shall have none in our potpie — There is a load of 3 men, 3 women & 5 or 6 children, "squat" out on the prarie a few rods from the house who came from some distant settlement this morning to see the cars, their team is tied to the waggon about ½ a mile from the track out in the prarie, less curious to "see the Eliphent" than the women are, The papers will give you an account of a terrible accident they have had by a collision between the Cars of the Southern Mich & Central Mich R.Rs about 9 miles East of Chicago, I shall write again from Ch

Good morning — Yours Affectionately

E Cornell

Mary Ann,

Ithaca April 28th 1853

Dear sir

I recd. yours of the 19th yesterday and in answer I have made up my mind to accept your proposition and take the land I showed your letter to Sharps or as much of it as concerned them and they said they would give me possession to morrow morning if they do it all right if not I will write you soon ~~as~~ to the title as we talked I want made right so we neither of us will have any trouble about ~~it~~ it I likewise wish you when you are at New York to see a little how that can be arranged

E Cornell

Yours &c. E Manning

[1853]

N. Y. Apl 28.

Friend Cornell—

I have just rec'd yours of the 25th. Mr. O'Reilly starts in about an hour—perhaps may get this into his hands—am glad you approve our opinion.

One thing it may be well to bear in mind—a settlement may take place between Hendall & Smith. If it does I think H. will want to settle with our folks. Smith has told him that I am in a position to bring this about. The more formidable our position & the more troublesome we are likely to be, the better terms we shall get. I would rather settle with H. than with Smith. Hendall is essentially a coward, Smith is not. If on the strength of our position we can get contracts with two or three R. R. Cos it will help us

with Kendall. He must feel that in every way we shall be troublesome antagonists - that against our opposition a renewal of his patent will be difficult if not impossible. If he drives us to it I will drew up a sketch of Telegraphic history - of the ways & operations of the Morse patentees that will make their ears tingle. It will be a good deal of labor & I don't wish to do it. I think K. would have no fancy for seeing in print what could be written.

I think in your conversations with R. R. men you may show them that these threats of K. are all idle. He has been threatning for years - what has resulted from it? Who has been restrained by any legal process? They may be made to see that K. has more to fear from us than we from him. Without any vaunting or braggadocio exhibition let all see that we feel the strength of our position & have no timidity. I wish you or Speed could meet with Kendall & let him understand that if he keeps up this war we shall pay him back in a way not pleasant. The patentees are vulnerable. If you succeed in getting the Illinois line under our control, we shall present the most formidable front that Kendall has yet met. Let him know that we are for peace on fair terms but determined - our minds deliberately made up - the ground on which we stand carefully examined & if he chooses war, we shall abide his choice.

I wish I had money to advance for the stock in the Ill. line but I have a good deal to pay in May - more I am afraid than I shall get in. I have advanced one hundred Dollars to Mr. O'Reilly on his draft

on you I expect at ten days from date - At least I have handed him $.80 - & the remaining $20.00 to be paid to his order to-morrow.

Have you provision made for the $1000 note payable 11/14 May. I have had notice of it at the Mercantile Bank here. Don't fail to make provision for it in time - let the money be here before the day - accidents you know may delay it. & it will be bad for me as well as the Co. to have it protested. I shall have no funds to spare for a day -

This compounded basement is not rented yet - I have no doubt but James has done his best to prevent it. all he says I don't believe will make up the injury he does us. I shall probably have to let it go at $1600 - this will be a loss of $175.00 on this quarter. Does that fall on me? Mr. C.H. will tell you all about Litchfield.

Yours truly

E. W. Chester

Not getting this into Mr. C'R's hands I send it by mail.

I inclose a letter to Messrs Miller & Prentiss' young lawyers in Chicago of whom I have a very favorable opinion, without any personal acquaintance. I wish you would read it before handing it to them. Perhaps you will find time to look into it while there – if you can I wish you would – I should like to get this old debt at least as much of it as belongs to me. I give you a carte blanche to do any thing you please in relation to it, if any thing can be done, & if there is any thing in Chickerings hands as I suspect there ought to be, you are authorized to receive it either from him or Messrs Miller & Prentiss & use it if you have need. If it is found there is nothing to be hoped for I will dismiss it from

my mind.

Yours E. W. Chester

Ezra Cornell Esq.

E. W. Chester
New York
Apl 25, 1853

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*_____

Dated Ind'pol's Apl 28th 1853

*Received at Indianapolis,*_____

To E Cornell Esq!

I know nothing of Cambridge office, why its operator should be changed — I heard Mr Bryant say he had frequent complaints against him & that he would remove him that he farther thought he was not honest &c & I suppose would have removed him before this had he continued in charge of the Line.

I would call your particular attention to require the operators at Dayton & Cincin to give their undivided attention to the Line so that it will not be necessary to call them half an hour at a time before we can get them.

Mr Morrison refuses either to let us rent the room or take it himself. He says it was rented for a specific purpose & was fixed

Espicially for the telegraph office & that he considers it unjust to ask him to take it back; also if he should consent to take it & should rent it to some good fellow & said fellow should desire him to have the door between the rooms filled up by alleging it was in his way he could not refuse & it would subject him to that expense & then it would look so badly that both rooms would have to be ~~papered~~ papered"

The Line east is getting worse & worse every day I sent out Monday & the boys did not get back until tuesday evening put up six poles & since I hear there are severall more down Line works hard = I think you should start your man from here to Dayton soon as he arrives -

Yours &c

I. W. Chapin

J W Chapin
Apr 28 1853

Toledo O.
Apl. 28 1853

E. Cornell Esq
Chicago — Dear Sir —

I was to much hurried yesterday or I would have written you then — With regard to our line ~~have~~ was over it within 9 miles of Defiance the latter part of March — Considerable number of poles down & in 2 or 3 places wire is put up temporarily on notched sticks nailed to fences — It is about as bad between Defiance & Fort Wayne as near as I can learn. Many of the poles can be re-set as they are lying near ~~the~~ where they fell — about $150 or $200 will put line in good working order from here to Ft. Wayne perhaps less will do it — Line works very bad now & we need it badly — Considerable delays having been caused by operators going only half way between offices & relying upon the other half being attended to & issued orders on the

Binghamton April 29th 1853
E Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Dear Sir

I was in hopes to have written you letter news then I am forced to to-day - I hoped to have been out and doing things. but as it is I am obliged to lay still in consequence of Ill health, I tried last week to go out and do something went as far as coming - and lay confined to my bed till tuesday and finally returned yesterday my feeble - I hope however to be able to go out in a week or so my Physician says I can if nothing hopes I fear I shall be hard up by that time as I have been so Ill and I dont know what to do in that case - (What shall I do for funds)! What did you do ~~[illegible]~~ about R.R. Line doing so much business if anything what. - I read your letter to P. A. H. - I am glad to learn that you have done so well with that Line In regard to the N Y & W U Line I learn that the Repairing on the R.R. Line through it done ~~[illegible]~~

whenever they choose - In all probabillity they cause ~~the~~ Nearly all the trouble on that end - ---
Enclosed I send you a letter from Mr Chester I have not answered it yet please return it to me
When will you be this way again

Yours sec
G W Skinner

E Cornell Esq

G. W. Skinner
Apl 29. 1883

~~thought~~ strength of my being principal operator on this route until May 1st - that until further orders each op'r should go or send through to the next office in case of a break unless he met the person from the other office or ascertained positively that the line was mended - paying no regard to half way stations as heretofore - we have lost hundreds of dollars by delays arising from half - way inspection only - what think you of such orders?

As to local retrenchments &c I can advise with you best in a personal interview - will you be here soon to arrange things at this terminus?

Yours truly,

R. Chadwick -

Binghamton 30th April 1853

E Cornell Esqr
Chicago

Dear Sir

Yours of the 24th Was received this morning and as you feared it found me in very poor health, I have been confined to my bed Nearly all the time since We parted at Oswego. I Was taken in the night after I returned to B.N. with a fever which kept me down two weeks - I last friday (a week ago) tried to get out - went as far as corning and there I lay till Wednesday last before I could leave my bed and returned here Thursday P M. Today I feel better But am not able to sit up allday - yet. My Physician says he thinks I Will be able to be out in a few days Which I hope will be the case — I have written you two letters and sent some four pieces Dispatches to the office for you since I have been ill. I Went you yesterday and enclosed a letter from Mr Chester Which I have not answered, I thought you would like to see it — I am very Well pleased to learn that you have been so fortunate (and yet so modest) in your efforts to carry out your plans. I have of course done nothing since I saw you -

G. W. Skinner Esq 30.1853

I have no hesitancy about the 2d Wire or and the first or old ones leaving good stock. and I still hope to be able to get stock enough to put it up, I fear I shall get ~~stu~~ hard up for funds to go ahead with I have had to pay Drs Bills and cash runs low:—

What was done about R R Lines doing so much Business!

Did you take any steps about Wire - The N Y & W U Line is Managed very Bad! Bad indeed Run behind Last Month ~~200~~ $200 so H said. I learn that Mr Tillotson Men throw it down with Impunity on the Western end they in all probabillity cause the Breaks alluded to in your Letter to Mr H (Which I read) I think nearly all the Difficulty in caused by that class of things called R R Telegraphers on the Western end of this Line.

When shall we Look for you here again Please Let us Know —

Wishing you all success

Yours Respectfully

G W Skinner

E Cornell Esq

New York ~~the~~ may 11 1853

Mrs Cornell Dear Sir

I wrote last week, and not having received an answer I thought you had not received mine as I neglected to direct your letter telegraph office, incase you have not I wish you would go to the post office and get it but incase you do not get it I tell you what I wrote for I wrote for you to send me 25 Dolers as I am not earning but a very little over mi borde and I am anxious to come as we are so un settled I wont you to let me know as soon as you can direct your letter to 114 charles Streete N Yorke

Yours Respectfully
S Palmer

Montreal 1st May 1853

Dear Brother

I was highly gratified with the perusal of your letter of the 15th ult and hope that your present prospects of success in your telegraphic enterprise may be fully realized. I was only one or two days behind you in my in Lany and for ought I could learn to the contrary you might have been in the City while I was there though I saw no one that had seen you for 2 or 3 days previous — I hope that you will soon be in a situation to take my farm off my hands as there is very little prospect of my wishing to go on to it for several years, and real estate unoccupied is about as unprofitable an investment as a man can have — I am well satisfied that my place only needs some one upon it calculated to bring it into notice to raise its value to double what it cost as it is just near enough to town and lying in the most favorable position for the residences of men who are independent and doing business in town - Montreal is a very slow and uninteresting City but

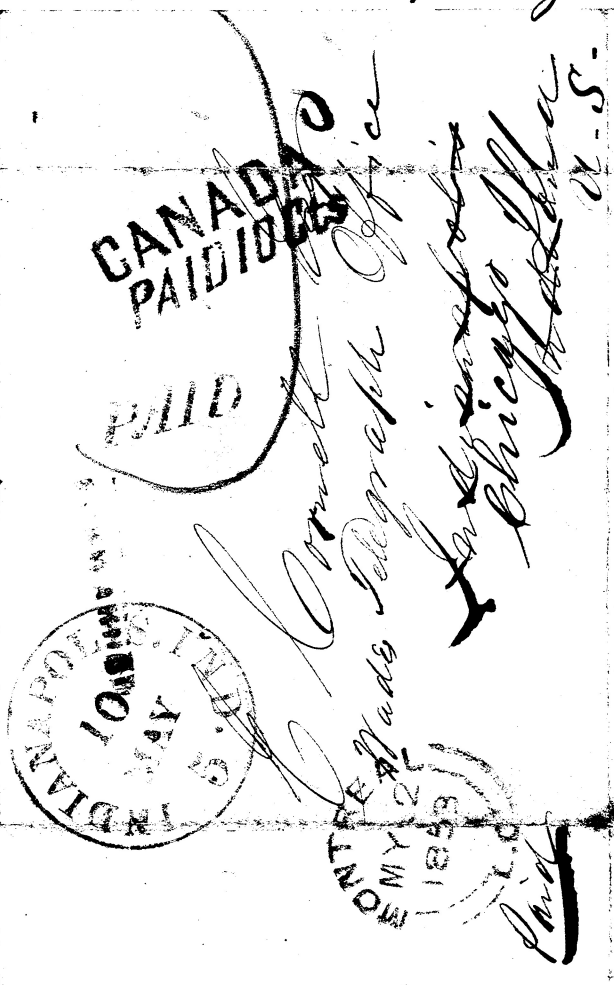
you cannot purchase real estate as near to the City (towards the mountain) as my farm lies to town for less than $2,000 to $3,000 per acre - I was in Burlington last week and find even though the Rail Road enterprises have managed to take the trade from that place, still the owners of real estate as near to the town as my farm lies are asking $2,000 per acre and will not sell for less - Burlington is very little larger than Ithaca and without any water power. Our shrewdest business men are calculating that the value of property must increase within the next 5 years at least 25 per cent by the extraordinary accumulation of the precious metals so that from that cause alone real estate would be a fair investment at the present time - but enough of this you understand it better than I do -

I will enclose to you our last report which you will please not make public as it was printed only for our Stockholders - We have divided regularly 10 per cent since we first commenced business annually - and now have enough contingent fund on hand to build as many miles of new line as we originally built, and do it in the most

I had almost forgotten to say a word about the Rail Road. If it can be located down near to the Cemetery fence along my line it will be just where it should prefer it - I would not like it upon that ridge near the Corner of my land as I consider that ridge to near town as it is and overlooking the whole of the valley & the South & West Hill (they would be called mountain per to the most decidedly) location for a line of residences about the village of Ithaca. Lots of one fourth & an acre out that ridge ought to sell for $500 - If you have any idea of taking the area of my hands you will try and keep the location down as near the West line as possible - I have no more time to write today - I will try answer good by Yours truly

Substantial manner - You wrote me in winter that you doubted the propriety of making our rates so low unless we were able to keep them down till the opposition "Stamped out" but I thot at the time that I saw how money might be made with them as they are and the result shows that I judged correctly - Our receipts for the four months just ended under the reduced tariff are about 1/3 more than in the same months of any previous year, while our expenses are very slightly increased, so that our profits for the first half of the year must be more than double the first half of any former year, and this with the opposition in operation on 200 miles of the best of our route viz between Toronto & Kingston Our rates now are 20 cts for 200 miles - 35 for 400, and 50 for 700 and I believe money might be made at 15 - 25 & 40 - the experiment will likely be tried if the opposition can live with them as they are, our rates are still lower than I have stated as we do a large business for the Government on which we make a reduction of 33 1/3 per cent - I am getting up a new insulator - shaped something like Gaults but entirely different in construction - Cost between 17 and 20 cts each I am using nothing but Cedar poles for our

news lines, not less than 5 inches at top and from 10 to 15 inches at the butt — and galvanized wire not soldered If I dont get a line that will work in the rain without Connectors I will throw up the business — I have tried some experiments with the zinc & copper batteries but Cant make anything out of them yet — In reference to Snows lines he is in operation from Hamilton to Simcoe & from Toronto to Kingston with a branch from Peterboro to Port Hope — He has built a swindling line 20 small poles to the mile — without insulation and intends to extend it through from Kingston to Quebec & from Toronto to Buffalo this season — the few Cents which they get when it rains they bring in to us to send!!



O. S. Wood Albany, May 1, 1853

I shall commence our building operations this week and expect to be from home a great portion of the time — Shall probably be in Buffalo in June or July — Let us hear from you again and if you can give any information in regards to Submarine lines croping the Ohio or Mississippi I would be thankful for it as we want another croping here for our Portland line, also one at Detroit — I want to work from Montreal to Detroit when necessary without re-writing at Toronto — Julius returns Compliments & says the Children are all well —

Attica May 2d 1853

E Carnell Esq
Indianapolis

Yours of 22d rec'd and I now attempt an answer,

I am very glad you let me know for what things an Operator would be discharged.

I send messages to Hudsonville, Terre Haute Clinton Montezuma Newport Eugene Perrysville Covington and Lafayette for 20 Cents for 10 words and 2 after 10, and Vincennes, Logansport, Crawfordsville and Delphi for 25 & 2,

Some of the Customers said they thought if the Tariff was reduced to one half of what it is now that the Line would make more, I do not know will leave you to judge of that,

My Instrument needs some repairs, they roller on which the impressions are made has worn too lose, would like to have it fixed if had an other one to use in the mean time, I have to pay 50 dollars per Quarum rent, My Salary is 25,00 per Month, I have no help, have pretty good Off

Very Respectfully John S. B

Tremont House Chicago May 2, 1853.

My Dear Mary Ann

I have just arose from my bed, and washed myself, and improve the time between this and brakfast to write you a line as I neglected to write yesterday,

I arrived here last Thursday evening, and telegraphed Phebe, so that she & Mart, came over, and arrived, Saturday morning, in company with J.H. Wade, Syd arrived from his "digings" in the interior of the State, Friday morning, and O'Reilly arrived from Ny Saturday evening, Yesterday was devoted somewhat to consultation,

This morning at 8 A.M. O'R, Wade, Myself take the Cars for Ottawa in this State, to see the "Elephant" in the shape of a large sale, of the Ill & Miss Tel Stock for unpaid, assignments, "dividends over the left"—

I have long felt mortified at not having been able, to make you

Chicago May 4th, A.M. My Dear you will perceive that I was abruptly broken off in the middle of a sentance, while writing monday morning, the interruption was caused by the announcement of brakfast, accompanied by the information that there was no time to spare

before the leaving of the carriage for the Railway Station.
I have been to Ottawa, and returned last evening, and will now proceed with my letter from where I left off.
a present of a silk dress. I have some indistinct recollection of having provided the means for the purchase of one, at some former period but when, is past my powers of recollection— I therefore determined to risk an expenditure in your behalf, and asked Mrs P. how much it would require to purchase a good piece of silk for you, she replied, ten or fifteen dollars, and I placed the latter sum at her disposal, and requested her to get as good a piece as she could find. She reports that she had purchased a piece of black silk, and forwarded it to you by Express, & pd Ex Chgs on it, and thinks it will suit you as I hope it will.
I shall Enclose you $5, with this to assist in the way of trimmings, making &c &c— and hope I may soon be able to pay you another instalment of the very large debt I confess myself to be owing you.
Martin & Phebe, remained till Sunday evening when they left for home, I had a good visit with them, They report all well at home, Hiram & Mary and family, are well and getting along well, the same of Uncle John's family— Aunt Macy & Manahs family well when heard from.

I started from here for Ottawa, as I have before mentioned in Company with, O'Reilly & Wade. We went there to attend the sale of the forfeited stock on the M & Miss Telegraph, the stock of which became forfeited by reason of the neglect of stockholders owning it, to pay an assessment of $2,50 per share to pay for rebuilding the line, (or at least this was the plea for getting the law passed authorizing the assessment, sale & forfeiture for non payment of I could have made the line, pay its debts and pay the rebuilding) — There was half a million of stock issued on this line, and the local stockholders had, had their "Eye teeth cut" and got their Eyes open, and wanted to lop off a large portion of stock, in which they have succeed as follows. Whole stock as issued — was. 9474 Shares at $50. Each = to $473,700

Amt paid on. 2,989 shares = $149,450

leaving 6,485 — Shares to be sold = $324,300

I bid off 3,087 shares at $2,51 pr share,

Leaving 3,398 which the Co. bid off at $2,50 pr share which will be cancelled, as the "law direct" —

The new Company will stand thus. Whole No. Shares — 6076 at $50. Each = $303,800

Owned by Cornell, Speed & Wade 3087 = $154,350

" " All Others — 2989 = 149,450 $303,800

Majority of 98 shares in favour of Cornell & friends = which gives us the controll of the Company and business —

This sale places the company in funds to pay all debts and nearly enough left to pay for rebuilding the line with cedar poles. There is also a prospect of getting $10,000 from the Ch & Rock Island Railroad Co to pay for putting the line on their road & doing their business, if this negociation is successful it will enable the Company to rebuild entire, with Cedar, and give us 800 miles of first class of our line, through one of the richest states for agriculture there is in the west.

We shall get a trible over half of this line thus renovated for up than $8,000.

The rapid settlement and growth of this country will enable this line when rebuilt to pay something handsome over expenses from this time, and in less than four years it will pay 7 per ct on its entire Capital.

The failure of this line was owing to it being built before the country was settled, and the bad management, and want of experience that lines have been subject to heretofore.

The section of country through which this line passes has doubled in population since it was built and will double again in the next 5 years— I think this is as good a bit as we have yet made. There is two or three rivets to clinch about "their dignity" which will secure the whole, & make our telegraph interest worth a half a million of dollars in a very few years—

I am aware my Dear, that the closing assertion of the last sentance, will be regarded as visionary, by many who have looked on, at the sale of the N.Y.&E., known of the failure of the N.Y. State line, & been informed of my purchase of O.I.&I at $2. per share, and now witness the sale of I&M stock at $2.50 because its owners dont chuse to redeem it at $2.50 - That is all verry will, let them so regard it, let them shake their sides, and convulse their rickety frames with laughter at my folly, all that is well, if it were not so, there would be the less chance for me to make a fortune, I have no desire for the use of their brains, their profound wisdom, may be directed to convince people that the "moon is made of green cheese" if they will only let me act upon my own convictions of what the future is to be, He who cannot see the future, in the mirror of the past, surrounded by the frame & gilding of the present, is a fit subject to be laid a side, as a specimen of antiquity, I dont belong to that to that school, In addressing, my beloved Wife in this free manner in reference to my hopes and

and prospects for the future, if my life is spared, I have no misgivings as to the effect it may have upon her, She has been too well trided, to make me believe that she will become Extravigant, because I have bright prospects for the future, And she knows me to well to suppose I would withhold from her, any means that could add to her enjoyment and happiness when in a situation, to appropriate them,

Your kind & affectionate letter of the 24th ult. last night forward from Indianapolis, verry happy to learn that all was well, and that Emma, is trotting so smartly about the floor,

I am also glad to learn that E. B has taken the Gas works, and hope he will make a good job of it, It will be adding a good improvement to Ithaca,

It is a gloomy morning, Rained last night & this morning,

I cannot say when I shall be down, but go some time the last of this month or first of next,

Much writing to do to day, and must bid you good morning,

Yours Affectionately

E Cornell

Mary Ann.

Copy Heads Book

May 1 – 1853

✓ H Blanchard	Nc	to	C C Hudson	D
C. C. H	D	to	H Blanchard	Nc
" "	D	"	Wilson + H	Co
J. J. Randall	Nc	"	C C H	D
	31			
✓ C C Hudson	D	"	L. J R —	Nc
	June 3			
H. Blanchard	D	"	S. Harris	R
T. J. Randall	R	"	C C Hudson	D
G. K Bain	D	"	" "	R
"	4th			
G K Bain	No	to	C C H	D
C C H	D	"	G. K Bain	Nc
G. R Bain	Nc	"	C C H.	D
	8th			
✓ C. C. H	D.	to	Mrs Bowen ✓	R
Randall	Nc	"	A Clark	D
✓ "	Nc	"	C C. Hudson 16 ✓	D
C C H	D	"	Randall 26	Nc
✓ " "	D	"	Blanchard 30	

10 June

✓Randall	R to	C C H		D
✓Blanchard	Nc to	do do		D
~~do~~	~~R to~~			
✓Randall	R "	do do		D
✓Blanchard	R "	"		D
	11th			
✓Randall (Smith)	D to	H Blanchard		Nc
	13th			
✓C.C.H	D to	Blanchard	66	Nc
✓ "	D to	do	10	Nc
✓Randall	R to	CCH	10	D
✓Blanchard	Nc to	do	11	D
	14th			
C.C.H	D to	Blanchard	10	Nc
✓C C H	D to	Randall	32	R
C C H	D to	do	10	R
Randall	R to	C C H	19	D
	15th			
✓Blanchard	R to	C C Hudson	7	D
✓C C H	D to	Blanchard	10	Nc
✓C C H	D 16 to	Blanchard	10	Nc
G W Beal	D to	do	10	Nc

June 23th

✓C C Hudson	D to	Randall		Nc
	27			
✓G.W Beal	Nc to	Hudson		D
	28			
✓ do	Nc to	do		D
Hudson	D to	Beal		Nc
H Needham	R to	Hudson		D
Hudson	D to	Mitcalf		R
	29			
L P Andrews	D. to	Randall	10	Nc
Randall	Nc to	Hudson	7	D
Hudson	R to	L H Andrews		D
	July 1			
Hudson	R to	Bain & Andrews		D

Hamilton May 4th 53

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir.

The following is the property belonging to the Hamilton office.

Chairs	1.00
Desk	75
Wire	1,00
Instrument Table	3,00
Lamps	1,00
Stationary	50
Stool	75
Bucket	25
Sign	4,00
Battery tools	2,00

There are some other articles belonging to the Wade line

Yours truly, J F Lawder

Covington Aug 5th 1883

Wm. E. Cornell
Indianapolis
Sir.

Your despatch was duly received, I should have written sooner, but have been unwell. The line here is in good working order at this time, but if you will send me tackle & climbers it will greatly facilitate the repairing of the line when down.

I see the tariff has already been altered from 20¢ to 25¢ between the nearest points. I dont know that I could offer any suggestions for its further alteration.

There is another subject however to which I would wish to call your attention. There was some trouble caused last summer by my having no messengers. The places of business of some of the business men here, are some distance from the office, & when business was good I would sometimes be gone a good part of the time delivering messages. Very often there would be persons at the office while I was gone, & thinking I was to blame some of them complained

of it. If I could get your consent to employ a messenger, I think business could be done with more promptness, & with greater satisfaction to business men. Please let me know what you think of it.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Very Respy

Yours

J. Kissam Goodwin

Lt Goodwin
Covington Ky

Binghamton May 6th 5-3

E. Cornell

Dr Sir

Enclosed Please find a letter from Mr F to me, which is but a type of nearly all that I receive from him - Thus far I have paid no attention to him - I wish to know if the contract with him will be affected by closing one half of the old offices on the line - He wants according to his letters, the following offices closed because they have not as yet paid Expenses - Narrowsburg - Honesdale Oregon, Pike Dansville and from what he says in the last letter which I send to you, one might infer that he would rather close Dunkirk than keep it open. As far as repairing the line is concerned you see what he says - If the line is not repaired it will not pay - O. E. Wood says the repairs will be made & thoroughly - But I can not so much as get battery materials for sufficient battery to work the line. We have not worked between DK & PE for a month two days at a time for want of battery at DK, but I have been over the line and find it in tolerable repair, Inattention of Speeds

operator there however is worse than the battery, but I cannot get Haviland to do anything — He has hired Brigham to keep the books & a boy to attend the 3 insts. for $600, per year & we can get no attention whatever on this line — Haviland says he has a good operator there and if we would keep line up it would be attended to — I have repeatedly sent repairers over that section when we might have worked — Foxton is not too blame for this — Please peruse the letter and return it to me as soon as possible — As I should not like to loose it, or have foxton learn that you peruse his letters to me — Write soon We are working poorly. Wet weather sows us up completely — The effort to keep the line up between N Y & W is not very strenuous — We seldom get N Y — Rects for ~~[illegible]~~ Apl are not much better than for March —

Yours very Respy

P. A. Hopkins

P. A. Hopkins May 6, 53

Chicago May 8th 1853

My Dear Alonzo,

Your favour of May 5th was rec'd this P.M enclosing your note for $500, for my endorsement to renew one due the 31st I have not rec'd the letter you mention as being sent to Indianapoly. I have four letters somewhere on the way between us & this place & that may be with them,

E. C Litchfield has solicited a proposition from us for the sale of our entire Telegraph interest, and I am engaged in putting the listening our property for him, but I doubt if he buys, as we shall probably ask more than he will give, our figures loom up to $400.000,

Rain for the week past, gloomy enough no time to write more to night, Ill

Yours Respectfully

E. Cornell

A.B.C

Janesville May. 11th 1883

Messrs Speed & Cornell
Chicago
Ill
Gent

I am informed by Col Hotchkiss under certain circumstances you would take our Telegraph line in Illinois —

I am willing to aid in any honorable way to put that line in a condition to send again. & Inasmuch as I have something of an interest in that line yet I thought I would make a few suggestions which will be considered a necessary part of the contract. 1st that we do our business from Wisconsin to Ch as before over the Illinois line. 2d that we check to pay over to Ch on other line instead of Au business. 3d that J & Be are Rept in ci with Ch — 4th that we have on four mortgages paid ~~in~~ beyond Ch coming to our line to Apply on on third paid here. 5th we do business from Wis same as before & you from Ch & Illinois as one line & no clicking at Be. 6th you give us some writing to allow us to build in Wisconsin under more Patent if there is any such thing. I am willing to help make the thing go along & do it fairly & in no other way —

the line in Wisconsin are doing as well as could be expected we have paid up most of the debts & in case you want to buy we are up for a trade I have lived on nothing for 4 years & just now begin to live well. I want to hear from you & know what we may depend upon. Col Hatchkiss assigned his interest in Illinois line to me last year - still he knows my views on matters connected with that line. Please write to me at Janesville - soon as I want to know what you propose to do - or in case you do nothing I shall to protect myself

Respectfully Yours
E W Smith

E W Smith
May 11. 1853

Mich City May 15th 1853

E Cornell.

Dear Sir

I have arranged matters here so that I think the Rcts will pay expenses now = Each Line pays $20 for Operator Each Line pays half ~~its own~~ the office expenses - Each Line its own repairs The Nett receipts to be divided Equally. The Line works well today The sun shining & Quite warm. I hope to find a good man for repairer & have him out soon = Stevens at Chicago had made up his mind to go to California & had sold some of his effects with that view I was compelled to pay him $600 to keep him. Wilson Cobb & Myself thought ~~it~~ he would earn that better than a stranger as he is well acquainted with Business men Checking &c. I hated to pay that much but the Line being in

such bad order compelled me to be out on it in order to keep it at work & I ~~had~~ could not attend it myself or get a capable man.

Please write me fully at Chicago. I find we have plenty of Blocks for repairs.

73 to Alonzo

Respectfy Your
obt Servt
Chas H Speed

Mr E Cornell
Ithaca
N.Y.

Hopkins has offered Palmer $500 per year but no amount yet

Binghamton 13th May 1853
E Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Dear Sir Your letter of May 6th was received this morning it found me still very feeble to much so to be able to do business I have tried twice and have been taken down while out. I have written two letters since I saw one to Indianapolis and one to Chicago - and telegraphed you some six or eight times also - but Dispatches dont seem to go well.
My health is very poor indeed I did hope it would have been better before this at least so much so that I could attend to business - but as yet I am unable to set up all day When I shall be able to go to work again I cannot tell but hope to before long I must or I am down

I am very Glad that you have succeeded so Well With that Line I think it is one of the best Strikes out. You connot now do otherwise than make one of the best things of it and the controll of the West must fix the costen Lines beyond a Doubt I see this clearly and you will Kill the House & O'Reilly Lines dead dead sure. Hopkins is Waging along as usual Running behind $200 per month Line has not Worked either way this Week and Connot under such Management as Mr Faxton allows. the Line is Running down very fast — Mr Hopkins thinks of putting the Wire on to the R R poles and wants your Wire to use I said to him it Wor not Tel Co's Wire and he must treat with you about it he Wished me to ask you to telegraph him about it immy Please do so I sent a Man out to ~~Cattot~~

to collect stock subscription last week. Last he returned and says he was met with a, we are accommodated now by the RR Line, we get our business done under the head of sickness — this is practiced at all the stations and with impunity here, only and Mr T—— says it is not necessary to have two wires on the RR for soon the RR Co can and will accommodate, unless this is staped we may as well staped —— I feel very uneasy about this New Wire I fear some-times I shall not be able to carry it through for want of health and funds to go on I am now out so when I do get able to go out and attend to business again I shall not be able to do anything — I think sometimes I wish I was with you too. I think I shall try again next to go out I wish to go west and close up in such places as I have

any hopes of doing anything and then turn to the East if the money could be raised without asking the villager to help I think it ~~could be~~ would be better. Cant it be done in some way cant you loan of N.Y. & Erie R.R. Co $15.000 for say 7 or 10 years I think we can do it for $17000 and can get in larger place enough to do all we wish. I think so many ~~small~~ small affairs will be a load for the Co to bear that will only be a curse, a Telegraphic Nuisence at least which I abhor and so I think you do what say you to doing or trying something like this

Please let me hear from you soon

Hoping yours are ingaying the best of health very Respectfully

Yours G W Skinner

E Cornell Esq Wrt immy please

Geo W Skinner
May 13, 1853

MORSE'S AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK AND WESTERN UNION LINE.

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

Office in RAIL ROAD DEPOT.

TARIFF OF PRICES FROM BINGHAMTON.

	First ten words.	Each word added.		First ten words	Each word added.		First ten words	Each word added
New York,	50	3	Honesdale,	30	2	Dansville,	30	2
Peekskill,	40	3	Carbondale,	25	2	Nunda,	40	3
Cold Spring,	40	3	Montrose,	25	2	Pike,	40	3
Newburgh,	40	3	Owego,	25	2	Springville,	40	3
Goshen,	30	2	Ithaca,	25	2	Dunkirk,	50	3
Middletown,	30	2	Jefferson,	30	2	Elmira,		
Narrowsburg,	30	2	Bath,	30	2			

For Rates of Charges to more distant Stations please call at the Office.

WRITE PLAINLY—give FULL ADDRESS and Signature—USE NO FIGURES except date and number of street. PAY IN ADVANCE except for answers to communications, on which is written "ANSWER PAID." Communications destined for Lines connecting with this, will be promptly delivered to the connecting Line, after which this Company will not be responsible for any remissness in transmission or otherwise. Office hours, from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M.

BINGHAMTON, May 16th 1853

By Telegraph, Dated Bn 9 P.M

To E Cornell

Dear Sir

I expected to have met you on the mail train east tonight. Failing in which it will be impossible for me to accompany you as you proposed. as the Night Express both meet a little above here & it is necessary for me to be at my post

in the morning - We have trouble west of Bu. since the hard blow today and I fear it may be extension from the situation of the old poles Please write me immediately in reference to the wire as I wish to do it immy if at all - And I wish you would make it convenient to stop over a day with me on your return - I wish to see you much - and I think Faxton does by this time

Respectfully
P. A. Hopkins

Hopkins
May 16 1833

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

E. Cornell Esq.

Utica, May 16 1853

Dr. Sir.

Yr favor of the 5th is at hand, absence from home prevented an earlier reply.

Am much pleased to learn you have succeeded in securing "all the lines West of Buffalo and North of Pittsburgh and Cincinnati range" this ought to bring us a great share of the Western business. — Now go to work and make your lines reliable and the business can be done via Buffalo. — I do not now recollect being at that place at any time in the past 2 years but that the line west of Buffalo was down all day or the greatest part of it, and the answer is that it just happens to be so when I am there. — when there is April last it did not work half the time, 2 days, — We have faults enough, and more than we ought to have, but there are very few days in the year that the line is not worked from Buffalo to New York.

You speak of insulators, have you made up your mind which is the best? having been experimenting for the last six years you ought to be able to decide by this time, would you refer us to the "Erie" line for a model?

You say "many of the answers come back via Phila & Pitts, why is this?" Simply because Mr. Smith has disposed of all his interest in the

N.Y. A & B. C and transferred it to Read & C and there is not a day that we do not detect them in giving our answers to No 2 — instead of 2½ Wall St or at Hanover Square Office

You ask if we do not attend to getting answers; I answer we keep Six Men at one dollar a day each to deliver Messages and to get answers, and so far as I can learn or discover, when in New York, they are faithful and do their duty.

As you justly remark the success of Telegraphing depends entirely on the promptness and accuracy with which it is done, and great and constant exertions are necessary to keep our young Men and Boys up to a Standard that seems to be indispensable. — We have had rather more than our share of bad luck on our lines this Spring, but are now having them put into good order, and hope hereafter to do business with more dispatch

The Poles on Broadway New York are ordered down and we are called on to do it. What has the Erie Line to do with them? do you own the poles or any part of them?

Yours Respectfully

W. Paxton

P.S. Mr. Wood just informs me that he was at Buffalo about the 7 or 8th of this month, Messages were then being received from Chicago part of the way by R. R. and part of the way by some line of Telegraph, some of them 4 days old, and any quantity 3 days old. I do not pretend to say who is at fault, you being away out west must decide that question. It seems to me this is an answer (in part) to your question why so many answers are sent from N York via Pittsburgh

[illegible]

Burlington May 17th 1853

Gents

The suit Roy & Can. J. Rel Co v E. Connell et al has been continued, this term, on motion of Plffs they taking no costs of this term. I have not heard from Connell since I saw you in the winter. It will be manifest to you that it will be of little use to go to trial without some explanation, and for that purpose it will be necessary for Connell to send me what papers he has, relative to the matters in controversy, and possess me of any facts having a bearing upon the case. I presume the Plffs will endeavor to procure testimony in support of their allegations either here or Elsewhere. May I hear from you about the matter.

Respectfully Yours
L. B. Eenglesby

Messrs E. F. & G. W Ewen
New York

Columbus. O. May 17. 53

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

I went to Louisville & remained there 4 days till their meeting was over & think it may result in good.

They have Consolidated the 2 lines south permanently & Elected Tanner Pres't again & it is all under the Controll of Kendall & Tanners side of the house & not committed to Reid line for their northern & eastern connection & if we will make any fair arrangement with Kendall he says he will secure to us that whole southern connection - his "western line" (the Hoffmans lines at St Louis) from Wheeling to Pittsburg. Balt. & Wash, - & go in with us in good faith, in all our operations, recognise the purchase of Smith's Interest &c &c - on the whole I think, in a very good manner to arrange with him in a way favorable for us & he & I agreed on a full meeting at N. York the 8th of June if you & Col Speed can be there. he says it must be all done before the 22nd of June. answer by Telegraph & mail if the 8th will suit you. Kendall & Tanner are both out with Reid & Tanner in his report recommended a connection with our

lines. don't fail to be there the 8th but if you cant be there then, say what day will suit you. remember we must have time to do it all up before the 22d

Now about a little immortality The "Illustrated News" of N.York is going to give us all a place & all the Daguerreotypes & Biographies are there but yours. this is Barnums offer to Stoffner & Charges none of us anything exept to pay for what Copies of that No of the paper we want. Stoffner told him to send each one with $10, of the No that contained them by Express, but those who do not want them need not even pay that much

Have your Daguerreotype taken & write a short biography of ~~another~~ one square or less & forward them to the "Illustrated news" immediately, all the rest are in his intention was to have them done in may & will if yours is in time. say in your answer what you do about it

when will you be in Cincinnati?

Very Truly Yours
In haste
J. H. Mack

(~~Private~~) N. Y. May 18. 1853.

E. Cornell, Esq.

Dear Sir — I send you letter just received from Trade. Hurra for Jackson! The "Northern Combination" are bringing the old bull-dogs to terms. I send you Trade's letter; as well as my affidavit about A. L. & Mr. Tel. Company". Please preserve both carefully for me. They will show you something that may be useful for you to know in dealing with the Bank. If the Bank will hold on — not let its Agent proceed for a month — it will then see (if it does not before you leave it) the utter folly of coming into conflict with us. — You see Reid is getting victories "over the left", with a vengeance. The dastardly dog! The viper will yet shrink back to the obscurity I drew him from — with the dark mark of baseness & ingratitude on his pious brow. Even Amos Kendall now "cuts" him. Yours in haste,

Henry O'Rielly

Read my affidavit carefully.