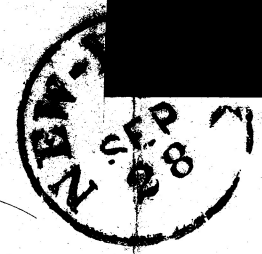

Ithaca Dec 14th/1854.

My Dear Father,

I have just rec'd a letter from Mr Munn in which he says "If your Father will pay me $500. on his Bond in part of the principal I wont ask him for any more in two years," &c, I think you had better take him while he is in humor and pay him the $500. and how is it to be done? I will give you a statement of what is to be done here for the next 90. days. and what there is to do it with.

In the first place say. Int. to Mrs Stokes next week	$285.
My dft. on you payable in NY 22/25. Dec	200.
payment on your old Tillotson note now $125. 9/12 Jan say	25.
first note to Conrad. 27/30 Jany	200.
Note I gave Dr Morgan for you now $144 think I can get $105 renewed, 5/8 Feb	44.
My dft on you payable in NY. pd Holmes 18/21 Feb.	600.
House rent due 1st Feby	75.

I believe this with $200. to Conrad 27/30 Mch. will carry us } $1429 well into next summer, if we dont have to pay the $900 or $1000 to Stokes. I have got one of those $500. Utica dfts. which I will use to pay the two first items, leaving $929 to be figured somehow—

Upon looking matters all over and seeing the the great want of funds to get along and keep above board. and looking at that land north of the creek, seeing how very hilly it is. and mostly over grown with brush that will require a great deal of labor to remove. the very poor fences, almost none at all. and considering that if it is cultivated in connection with that south of the creek. when living on the south hill as you propose, it must be done to a great disadvantage in travelling up and down two bad hills, even if it was good farming land after it was reached.

I have thought it best to sell it to Manning for $1,200. he would not raise a peg and was quite disposed to back out from his offer at that. I tried him hard for $200 more but he would talk about it, at all all that, and I am inclined to think that he paid all he could afford to for it. If any body would take it and put up a nice water cure or some similar institution on that eminence north of the bridge it would be worth double that sum, but I thought that you or I could make more out of Telegraphing than such a speculation and as a customer for it was pretty uncertain. I thought we had better let it go, and use the avails to promote other interests that were more promising in prospect.

It will take $500. to pay the mortgage and leave $700. towards paying the $929. before referred to, and leave the 12. acres south of the creek on which I guess I can borrow $800. if so. I can pay Munn the $500 for you. What say you to this? I think I can do it and if so I think it will help you considerably.

Please let me hear from you fully. How much have you got to pay aside from ~~this that~~ I speak of say till April? by that time you will be able to anticipate your next Dividend and rent of Erie line.

Since I wrote you the other evening I have been thinking more about the management of the Erie Line, and I am satisfied that if Utica wont do anything now the best thing is to go to work and show as disposition to be independent of them. I am confident that it is worth $50.000 to them and that they can be made to believe it.

If I had $20.000. I dont know of any way that I would go to work sooner with a view of doubling my money in 3 years than to buy it at $50.000. and get the right kind of a contract from the E & M. That contract you have with the Erie RR Co is of immense value to it. provided you can make the patent concern work to suit you. Curtis said that Kendall threatens to sue the RR Co. Is it not best to get some kind of a settlement with them & they would probably be willing give you a patent deed for what they could get.

I dont know but it is this that deters the Utica folks from moving in the matter. I told Curtis that if Kendall sued you, you would beat him & get a judg for damages already sustained on E & M line for want of protection.

All well. EB starts in a day or two

Yours Very Affectionately

A. B. Cornell

I would pay postage but it is 10 pm and I have no stamps and I want to mail tonight so it will go in morning mail

84 John St. New York,
December 14th 1884.

E. Cornell Esq.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 11th inst is before us from which we regret to learn you have been so seriously under the weather, but hope by this time you are fully restored to health.

Even a promise of money comes gratefully now a days, & altho some promise & do not perform - we hope your case will be different, for we need every dollar we can raise, & the chief purport of our writing is to ask you to use extraordinary efforts (if such efforts be necessary) to send us money so soon as you receive this. Do the best you possibly can & much oblige.

Yours very truly,

James Cocker & Co.

Niagara Temperance House
Buffalo Dec 14th 1854

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

I wrote from this place some three weeks ago — as yet I have not received any answer — I sent one letter to Indianapolis and a Copy to Detroit giving such information as I had about Matters as they stood then — and asking you for the Loan of the Wire Laying at Jefferson — You said you would have a place for me but did not say what or where I can Turn here soon now I can Leave the Line to be completed by my foreman if necessary. When will you be East and how do you get along

Very Respectfully
G. W. Skinner

William Pew

Pittsburg Dec 14th 1854

Dear friend. I am aware that in writing you at this juncture, I but add perplexity to perplexity to an already over burdened mind, but necessity compels it, Mr Wood & others have given me information of your difficulties & of the treachery & baseness of those you have so long befriended & made, towards you, & you must have trouble enough of your own. but I am so immediately connected with you & dependent on you, that I can not do anything without your assistance, situated as I am at present, I am completely done over, unable to move a peg, with no prospect of being in a better condition & daily and hourly growing worse, I have put off my creditors with encouraging statements, until they begin to think me trifling with them, I want to hear of no Being, being in a worse hell than I am in, I cannot endure it longer, & yet I have spent so much time & money in this business that I feel as if I ought to get something out of it at least, to help me pay the debts the line has got me in, To continue on in this way would be worse than madness, & I am liable every day to have everything taken from me by the Sheriff — I talked similarly with the A & E folks & told them I thought they ought to give me the stock or judgment that I might take the line & prevent others from getting it. They kept putting off, until they found

Messenger boys daily dunning me. for what I owe them. My Operator will leave very soon if I dont get something for him — Old Operators pressing me for what is due them, The City water man just in office & been in every day this week. says if not paid tomorrow must kill our stuff, has to hand in money this week, The Gass bill due this week & must be paid, A horse I purchased in Mc. pretending it for the E & M — but gave my note $50. which is past due, they want immediate pay — My Clothes on my back, getting quite ragged & I have not paid for them yet, man who did pay for them is hard up & wants me to pay him My wife but little better off — & visiting now Cause we have not means to pay board, my Ithaca Creditors pressing me hard, in Feby next. I will have to pay life insurance & House do — about $100. & I yet owe for the money I borrowed to pay it last year, $200. & upwards. My endorsers have paid for me, they are getting every dollar they can towards it from offices & otherwise. The $600, I borrowed to rebuild & repair line, due & I pressed to pay. My Pittsburg indebtedness about $800, Ne about $250, Erie about the same, & Cleveland in all borrowed money included, about $500, & I not in a way of earning 1 dollar, & you not in a situation to help me. Mr Breed the man whom I sent of to Pittsburg urging payment wondering why you dont answer his letter, The National not likely to make connection so long talked of — The House folks, with a heavy Capital. like the fiends of hell, bent on your destruction, who together with your treacherous Clerks & assistants getting your lines & business away from you. Mr Reed tells me, they have applied for injunction on E & M

& are likely to get it - From various sources
I learn they have got the Southern Michigan
line from you & Coten's business &c to the amt of
over $100, dollars a day from you, Now with these
facts - how can we sustain our Cleveland line?
I find the National have the Sandusky line &
will send all their Michigan & Illinois business
that way, that if they dont connect with the House & do
with me, what will it amount to, we will get
nothing but Cleveland & Buffalo business -
from the National & what little business you
send me, which we cannot even have
answers for, All our present Cincinnatti
business we get no answers for, Our poles
all rotten & Expense of repairs for exceeds
the income of intermediate receipts, where is our
hopes, You have been a friend to me, & helped me
some, not what I Expected, but all you could I
suppose, I feel in honor bound to you -
I have had proposals made to me that would
help me materially, by 4 different persons
for different interests. Not a great while ago,
The House folks would have taken me in
& done pretty well by me, now I dont spose
they would, Notwithstanding my soul harrowing
perfect torturing condition, I have refused
any proposal. Thinking I could not leave you
& yet if I get nothing for my lines, how can
I pay you & others, I owe $9000.00 most on line
account - I could have made recently, ~~a~~
such a disposition of lines as to enable me to
pay you & ~~many~~ more of my debts & a good
situation permanent. I could not make up my mind
to leave you, & I know you cant make up to
me my loss, however well you may be disposed
towards me, I have tried to see you. telegraphed and

telegraphed you. to no effect. I suppose the despatches did not reach you — as you have no line reaching to Indianapolis. I have asked if you had received them, got no answer, I do sincerely think that the Cleveland line can not be sustained with the Competition we have & the business we are likely to get, We have much less than usual now, & we have been running in debt, largely, for long time — even the little hopez I had of getting reports for paperz from you E & M. has gone to the shadez, I was about commencing to furnish the Pittsburg Press with reports — but the House folkz got them from you — It doez seem to me, you cannot withstand the powerful opposition they will bring to bear upon you, even if you retain the E & M — Besidez they are like the fiendz of hell — hell bent on your destruction — were I out of debt. I would volunteer to aid you & help you in this your time of need — but I am worth but little, & the duty I owe my Creditors & friendz & family. call me to do something towardz making payments & gaining a livelyhood, In three different wayz. I have had strong inducements to leave your vicinity. but ~~[illegible]~~ a feeling of honor & remembrance of friendship prevented me, & I am still working, on the Cow tail principal, going down hill, with not a shadow of hope that by sticking with you we will either of us be benefited — Now will you write me back & say, what are you making all this adieu about, your line is only an incumbrance to me & not worth the time spent in reading your letters, if you do, you will but be doing what every man I ever dealt with yet, has done — before you

(2) [DECEMBER 14, 1854]

Had you not better compromise or sell out entire & go home & take some comfort the remainder of your days. Sell at a sacrifice better go home & engage in a quiet & easy business. You Can at least, get enough to pay your debts & retire with ten thousand and perhaps more - your life, as at present is ~~but~~ anything but happiness to you. indeed if you Keep on. I doubt whether with the energy & perseverence you have. ~~and~~ the feindish opposition. that you can retain your rationality An honest man Cannot endure the treatment he meets with on every hand. you must make your self a damned rascal first. and that is not a pleasing thought. you have done enough in your day. to enjoy the few years left you - Sell out & go home to your family & be a Comfort to them -

Now for your present situation. I feel that you are almost friendless, you have scarely one in your employ. who is working for your interest, They all talk that you are running under & going to the devil fast, or at least many of them so far as I Can learn - & your Clerks & operators are very inefficient & indolent. For instance. on Examining the books to see how it is that we are sinking so fast & not getting enough to pay 1/4 the Expense in Pittsburg & Cleveland. I find by the booked messages here, that this office has been paying out from 5 to 25 cents, on through busness often, the number of words in check one more than in message. these things should be stopped & corrected — In this I enjoin perfect secrecy, Examine for yourself — If not too much of a task I would send you copy of all the business for the last few months that you might see for yourself. Once or twice I attempted to send back errors but found I had too much to do, & I was unwilling to attend to it. I presume it was useless, for I dont suppose any attention was paid to it, by any one, you have too much to do yourself — & have not faithful & trusty assistants & those willing to trouble themselves sufficiently — I have tried to see, & suppose I cant, what to do I dont know — If you care but little for me & my lines, let me dispose of them & pay you & pay some of my creditors Is not it my duty, I cant decide myself, My lines can be of but little use to you & I may possibly dispose of them so as to realize something. I dont know as I can now suppose it is too late, In answering me — Dispossess yourself of self, & do by me as you would be done by, if you were in my situation would you have stuck to me as I to you, against all good judgment & merely as a matter of feeling & honor & love as much as I have — Can I see you? When & where. If I dont get some money immediately I will have to close here. I will be closed up by sheriff & I left alone to operate here if not closed — Do answer me quick, that I may know what to do, I am completely done over —

Truly & Respectfully
Yrs H. R. Rice

E Cornell Esq

Washington Dec. 15th 1854

Ezra Cornell Esqr

Dear Sir, Your letter of the 4th inst. came to hand some days ago and would have been answered immediately had I not been overtasked with other business.

I had a few days before ~~ago~~ heard in New York of the base treachery of some of your employees bought up by the House interest and also that the same interest were buying up claims against you and resorted to every expedient in their power to oppress and ruin you or to force you into their measures.

I shall write to Judge Caton and endeavor to procure the stock of Messrs. Morse & Vail in his Line, having great confidence that it will be of some value. In arranging the strength of parties in that Company, you may safely put Faxton on your side of the connection is likely to be kept up with the N.Y. & Buffalo Morse Line.

I am not so clear about my duty to the Indiana Line from an apprehension that it may not sustain itself. To part with the patent right and take stock for it with a prospect that it will soon become hopelessly worthleſs by the insolvency of the Company. Unleſs satisfied that the Company can sustain itself I shall consider it my duty to hold on upon the patent right and take the chances of getting something for it hereafter. How can I obtain authentic information as to the present pecuniary condition of that Line?

Nevertheleſs, I am desirous to do all I can consistently with a higher duty to sustain you in your warfare against the unprincipled men who assail you. But for our complication with F. O. J. Smith, I could aid you much more than I can now.

What is the condition of the suit upon your Erie & Michigan Line? We had a rumor that the O'Reilly people *alias* the House people had an injunction against you. It was a mistake of course; but I should like to know what are your prospects.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Amos Kendall

Albion
Michigan

P. A. Hopkins Dec 16/1854

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 Charge 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, Dec 15th 1854

By Telegraph from Bn

To E Cornell Dear Sir

Enclosed Please find a circular of Mr Scleotams. announcing to the public the opening of their Line for Public business— Mr McCallum has issued large hand bills, of which this is almost an exact copy— So far as this line connected at present is Concerned it will help our receipts & as you do not intend calling on the public any farther to assist in building the second wire. why is it not right?—

I wish to know what rights we have in regard to passes if any - Mr McCollum has seen fit to prescribe the number of my passes & the distances for which they shall go - my main repairer pass has been limited so he cannot go west of Hornellsville - Skinner says he has flatly refused to issue him any passes only for himself - He says the passes have in some instances been abused - As for me it is false - unless you calls it abuse, to let others ride on them, than owners, or men whose name it bears For instance I let Alonzo have a pass of course not in his name - Also let E.B. Cornell have one this week to go west with - otherwise I have never let a man have a pass that was not in my employ - Please write soon - Yours

P.A. Hopkins

SPEED'S
ERIE AND MICHIGAN TELEGRAPH LINE.
FROM BUFFALO TO MILWAUKEE.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS OUT IN FULL.

PLAIN WRITING—USE NO FIGURES EXCEPT FOR DATES.

The Address and Number of the Street to be given fully.

By Telegraph, Dated Crawfordsville

Dec 16 1854, ... *o'clock,* .... *min.* .... *M.*

Rec'd at ....

.... 185 .... *o'clock,* .... *min.* .... *M.*

To Chapman

The directors have your a/c but no funds to satisfy it - Cornell can probably arrange it to your satisfaction

R. E. Bryant

Michigan City March 31st/54

O. I. & Ill. Telegraph Co

1853	To A. C. Chapman	Dr.
	To Balance due on Salary for Jan	4,63
	" " " " " " Feb.	22 00
	" " " " " " March	11,66
	" " " " " " April	2 59
		40,88
	Contra, Cash by E. Cornell	$8 90
		$31 98

Recd Payment in full of
E. Cornell
A. C. Chapman

Mr. E. Cornell

Detroit 16th Dec 1834

Dr Sir

Yours of the 12th inst recd.
I owe Don man something less than $1200 dolls. I believe about $1150 — If you will pay the $600 which I paid you on Munn a/c on the Utica debt, I will pay the bal due Munn, altho it is not due him until I get my pay from Rochester — say next fall — I will also pay at Utica my half of the balance due on the Stock, if you will have the stock issued, and divide it between us — I go to New Haven next week and will be gone until the 1st Jany — Will you meet me at Utica on the 1st Jany? write me at Newyork Care Peck & Bloodgood merchants, whether you will be at Utica on the 1st. or when we shall go there & have that business closed

Yrs &c J J Speed Jr

You better get the Stock in certain lines & also in the 2nd lines & take it with you, as the Utica people will want theirs, and I want mine —

Ithaca Dec 17th 1854.

My Dear Father.

Your favor of the 12th Inst written at Indianapolis came to hand last evening, and I hope that ere this you have fully recovered your health, so as to be permitted to attend to your business. It is of the utmost importance that you are careful of your health and I hope you will be very prudent about exposing yourself. I have written you four or five times during the past 10 days and I believe have directed all to Albion except one to Detroit.

When you get back to Albion I wish you to embrace the earliest possible leisure hour to answering the various answers and suggestions they contain.

I dont know but you will think that I write a good deal for what it amounts to. but I am anxious to assist you all I can and as my mind is constantly engaged in your service trying to devise any means great or small to help you along, and thinking that some of my ideas will be of service to you I have given them to you pretty freely of late. I hope you will write me fully soon, and as often as you can find time.

I enclose two notes of \$100 Each, one for you to sign and the other for you to endorse, to renew your \$125. & my \$100 notes. please return them in time.

Please let me know the result of your first six months administration as soon as you get your figures together. How much surplus after dividing 5%? What has been the comparison heretofore between the fall & spring half of the year. I suppose the fall half must exceed the spring— I mean in receipts of line. Have you got that second wire working between V & Buffalo. When do you think you will get home? Will mother come home before spring ~~think~~? All well

Yours Very affectionately

A. B. Cornell

A B Cornell
Dec 17/1854

Dryden Dec 17th 1854

My dear Father

I recieved your letter on monday last. and I was very glad to hear from you for I had not heard from you or mother since she went west I intended to write to you before but as I was away from home and did not have any utensals for writing I have been puting it off,

I am going to school this winter to try to finish my education so that I can be of some help to you,

Next time you write to me I want you to tell me what you want me to go at in the spring for I want to begin to make some calulation on it,

I want you to tell mother to write to me and I will answer it to my best ability.

We have got very good sleying atpresant but is like to go off to quick but we had so muck that it was most imposible to pass a teem on the road becaus the track that had been beten was so high that when you would get off with a load it was most imposible to get back again, and in some plases the drifts were so high that you cant get by a teem,

Last summer I baught a yearling colt of norman and I paid him thirty seven dollars for him and he agread to keep him till the first of april next for two shillings a week and then he will be two years old,

And then I am a going to make a bargin with grandfather to keep him one year longer

I have to take care of the horses and the colts for to pay for board
and that comes very good for me becaus I like to be around
the teem and I like to see them look well. I have got so
I can do any thing in the line of farming I done all
of the ~~fall~~ plowing this fall for granfather.
We have got about thirty saw logs to get to mill this winter
one pine tree cut eight logs and the largest was five feet
through and it is very clear of nots. he thinks he will
have it sawd into panel stuf.
Hay is fourteem dollars a tun and very scarse at that
we havent got any more hay than we shal feed ourselves
The folks are all well as far as to now but ant emly
she is sick with a fever but the docktor thinks she
will get along

Yours truly
F. C. C

F. C. Covrell

Detroit 18. Decr 1854

Dear Sir

Above I hand you a Copy of an order that Mr Speed gave me to apply on his account due the Erie & Mich Tel Co. If your Company or who ever owns the $30.000 Stock in the E & M Tel, Co for purchased of Speed will accept the above order for the amt of $1500- in payment of Dividend of 5 per cent. which will produce said amount on your Stock, I think our Directors will declare such a dividend, at their meeting next thursday.

Please answer by return mail to this place, as your action will have some influence upon their

Yours Respectfully
E Cornell
Prest

wood Esq
Secty &c

E. Cornell Esq
Indianapolis
Ind.

NEW-
SEP
28

Copy to J R Elwood
Dec 18 1854

Albion Decr 23. 1854
Sent J. F. Sawder $10. by mail to Piqua
C

Piqua Dec 18th/1854

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

"Hope deffered maketh the heart sick". I have been waiting a long time for that small balance. You promised it long since. Will you please send it imm'y I need it badly. If you cant send it now cant you give me an office some place where I can make it. You gave me the refusal of this office But I find Crawford has left and Mr Brownell has it. Answer imm'y 73

Yours &c.

John F Sawder

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

Utica, Dec 19th 1854

E. Cornell

Dear Sir

In my last I mentioned to you that Judge Caton was here He left here yesterday for New York. He said part of his business was to ascertain which line was working best east of Buffalo. We showed him by messages we was sending & have been sending for the House Co for several days that they had to rely upon us to do their business

I understood the Judge that he had a contract with the House Co to do his business & that they were to hand it over to us at Buffalo. I assured him that they would not hand it to us but would send it by Rail Road & by mail as I am informed they are doing to a great extent with the business West of Buffalo. I am satisfied that for some reason he is giving their line the preference in the business he has to send East of Chicago

Our Co have made up their minds not to purchase Kipocks interest in the Canada Junction line from Buffalo to Suspension Bridge if they throw the business from that line into the hands of the House Co We shall then work our line We now have there. Our Mr. Makepiece was here to day from Buffalo

Geo Curtis, Dec 1854

and informed me that the business of
your Erie & Michigan line in Buffalo
is very much neglected I suppose it is not
necessary for you to wait longer about making
a Change in your office there on account of
the negociation between us & Kissock for the
purchase of his line. I think Judge Caton
will not purchase Mr. Faxtons interest in the
Western lines or rather in the Contract of
Cornell & Speed. He says he expected that the
money was mostly invested in his line but he
finds that such is not the case & therefore
declines taking the interest He says He does
not consider the Stock in Ill. & Miss Line worth
over $3 70/100 pr Share & that he can purchase at
about that price & he finds that it will cost
Considerably more to take Faxtons interest He
says ~~the~~ He does not consider the Stock in the
Ohio, Ind, & Ill Co worth any thing (I mean the
line you have leased) & that you have taken
down the line or a part of it & that he purchased
a part of the wire how is this is it so and
is it true that the Stock in the Ill & Miss line
is worth only about $3.70 pr Share. Is there
not danger of those House Co men getting some
Claim on that Stock & thereby prevent your
having the Utica Stock transferd to the Several
owners; it should not be delayed any longer
I hope you will write me & post me up
on all these matters Yours in haste
Geo Curtiss

J. Haas 19 Decr 54

Lafayette Dec 19.54

E. Cornell Esqr
Albion
Michigan

Dear Sir

I this evening arrived at home by cars. I sent the men & team back over line to see if any improvement could be made they will be here tomorrow. The line between this point & Indpls is in nice order now. I met Guthridge about one mile west of ~~Indpls~~ Brownsburg. I have not carefully overhauled the work done by me but it stands about thus. Reset 104 poles — Put in 21 new poles put 44 blocks on trees — 31 blocks on poles — 20 Insulators on poles where blocks were good — Took up & mended line 20 or 25 times — also had a great deal of trimming to do — Total Expense near one hundred — including Robinson hand at one dollar per day and found (Robinsons contract) team at 2 dolls per day & found & Expenses of all parties. The particulars will be given you in my report for this month —

Mr Beck will be in Vincennes this week. a report of his proceedings will be made out on his return.

2 page

I am sorry we could not be together more before you started to Albion. I do not know my place as assistant Supt. do not know how far my power extends. I do not wish to overreach myself, for nothing would hurt my feelings more than to have an order of mine countermayded by other than myself. I do not wish others to think I possess more power than I really have. & when that is once understood, I will not be troubled with matters beyond my sphere - this you will see at once will be necessary for the benefit of all parties. I wish, Mr Cornell, to do everything within my power to "benefit you" & will work hard in studying your interests -

Here are a few things that have come before me but dare not say anything until I was better posted as to my sphere - There is some 60 miles of wire East of Indpls that needs attention I understand it is being destroyed for want of that attention. There is also a lot of wire before the office at Dayton - that should be disposed of, they say they have no room in office for it consequently it is left outdoors & has been for sometime past. - we need wire here and several of the offices need a small piece to be prepared for emergencies. There is also a lot of wire at Indpls Depot.

4th page

right without "Knowing" the particulars. He must understand the whole, to be enabled to act "Judiciously" & to ~~your~~ the interest of his employer.

I wrote you for contract with New Albany & S. RR folks. but your reply was mailed to me at Jamestown from here and I have not as yet recd it-

Nearly all the Louisville ~~business~~ ~~&~~ & some other business goes via Madison line from Indpls. I think its channel should be changed to our line. true they pay half the Expenses of Indpls office. but they should do that & not compete with us for business to points above mentioned originating on our own line. or even at Indpls-

another thing it does not look right to me to pay nearly nine hundred dollars for an operator for our office at Indpls" only one Instrument" a "good man" can be had to take charge of our Instrument there for from $500. to $600. saving $300. per year & at the same time paying a man a very good salary. I do not mean to say Wallick is not a good man by any means that is not the point. It does not look right to pay him $500. to keep the books for our one Instrument Coleman. Willson does all the operating at 30 dolls month. ~~Ha~~ I have much more to say but am compelled to desist. have written this so fast that I made mistake in pages- please let me hear from you-. self & family tolerably well, TS

Yours Haas

☞ — - - — 3 page

There is an Extra Horse & wagon at Dayton (taken there by Palmer) on Expenses and doing no good. The Dayton office has but one route on which a team can be used if I understand matters correctly. They also have but one route at Indpls for team. We here have three and it looks to me like "this" is the point at which that horse & wagon should be located.—

I should like to know more about lines East of Indpls I understand a great many holes are already dug and poles waiting to be put up on Central route. If Palmer & Guthridge are hired by the year (One at 2 dolls other at 1.25 day) they should be doing something that would be of some benifit to you. Palmer has been trotting over line to Dayton & back doing no good, that line works poorly most of the time. Evansville will be ok in a few days & we must by some means get that portion of the line in good order. The main trouble appears to be between Dayton & Union. I think it advisable for you or I to go over that line by cars & ascertain what is needed so it can be put in (good order) at once.

I should like to have a copy of your contract with the Bellefontaine & Indpls & the Central roads. As one can do things best

Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Telegraph Co.

ALL MESSAGES STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

STATE SENTINEL JOB ROOMS, INDIANAPOLIS.

Piqua, Dec 19 1854.

The following Message was received from

Dated, 1854.

To Mr E. Cornell

Your's of 13th received, Mr Crawford went from here to Buffalo, but whether he is there now I cant say. I believe that is his home, at least he told us his mother lived there.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain Your's

Very Respectfully

E M Bromley

L B Englesby
20 Decr 1854

Burlington Decr 20th/54

Dear Sir

Yours of the 12th is recd & contents noted. I was somewhat surprised that you were not here at Court or did not account for your absence, as it placed me in a very awkward predicament, but I came out of it straight. The verdict was simply a verdict of non-assumpsit i.e. that there was no breach of contract as they alleged, nothing more. The Co. have taken exceptions but the exceptions are not yet filed. The Sup. Court commences its session here a week from yesterday Decr 26th. when I trust to secure a favorable decision. In reply to your query as to how I got a decision in your favor I can only say that the Court favored my view of the case & so ordered it. Dodge, Benedict a young man from Montreal, Hickok, Loomis a young from Keeseville were their witnesses besides a number of depositions they had from New York and Boston.

I have every reason to suppose that the Sup. Court will decide in our favor, but if not we shall be obliged to have another trial next term in March.

How are you as to funds? a remittance would be of service to me.

Very Respy

L. B. Englesby

E. Cornell Esq.
Albion

E. Cornell Prest.

Girard, Pa. Dec 20th/54.

Dear Sir,

Not having heard from you since your favor of 27th ulto. I would today take the liberty of asking you to what conclusion you have come abt. the Office in this place.

You will please let me Know, if possible by return of mail if you are willing to let me have the Office or not, as some people here are determined to have a change; they wish me to have either the charge of your Office in this place or an Office established here on O Reilly Line.

In your answer you will please enclose those two Certificates of mine (from Paducah); they are on one sheet.

By an early reply you will much oblige

Yours respectfully

Theodore Hempel

Detroit Decr 20, 1854

Dear Alonzo
Your favour of 12th recd this morning giving copys of Mr Mumms letters &c, Mr M is a verry Old man and in verry feeble health and his style of writing is the result of habit and not from any fixed views of business & as long as he gets the interest paid promptly he will not be verry unhappy, as he would be if he thought the principle would be paid as that would involve the necessity of his making a new investment,

I now think I shall have to go to Boston to see the Prest & Directors of the Mich C. RR. Co to borrow five or six thousand to pay off that Mich Southern Tel Mortgage & then take a new mortgage on their line — and thus close up the House party, again — Dont mention a word of this, for some how my movements are verry well known by the opposition. There are some leaky vessels some where that report me, so I have learned the necessity of thinking to myself only — The Buffalo Office will get attention pretty soon, I have been waiting for Curtis to close a contract with Kissick for the Canada connection before I made any move there, "Grandfather Wood" is a pretty clever man, but he is and Old "Fogy" and not exactly suited to the present times, As for Bristol there is no excuse, if he ment to be fore he could at least have let me know that he could wait no longer for his pay —

We have a Directors Meeting tomorrow and I shall urge the making of a Dividend of 5, per ct,

I Recd your Dispatch of 19th to day (2nd) one, respecting those Utica Dfts, the amt we owe that Co, aint over $500 — we have not pd it yet,

I will write you again soon, Mother is to be here this Eve — Respects to All & Perry yours Respectfully

E, Cornell

Mr. Cornell, Friday - De 21 Apl. 52

Yours to J J Sp. from Indianapolis dated 15 Ins- rec. yesterday - J J Sp & his Wife started to N.Y. Wednesday Morng He had fix'd up his Iowa Matters, with some Gentlemen who were here, a little different to what had been done, (not essential) fully to please him - which will probably be carried fully & Completely out, at Albany on the 3rd next Month - I Rec. a Letter from Kendall after J J started, saying what I cannot fully explain, that there was to be a Meeting at N.Y. the 27 Inst., with a view of attempting a Consolidation of the House line with Morses - I had just to read it, so as to give it to Genl. Clark, who calculated to see J.J. at Owego - say next Monday night, or perhaps before. - J J calculated to Stop at Rochester Yesterday to go to Aurora to day, to Owego by Elmira Monday, thence to N.Y. & Providence to see about a line, don't know what to call it - I believe Snow put it up from Toledo to Ch: you know all about it - to come back to N.Y. from Providence & thence to Albany, to see the Iowa Gentlemen on 3 May, & home in week or so - He will see some one ~~at~~ N.Y. who will know about Kendalls plan & design's of the Meeting on the 27 - even supposing he does not get the letter from Kendall, which I send by Genl Clark, tho' there is a good prospect of his getting it - and will in all probability be at N.Y. 27th at the Meeting. Our line is now doing better.

very respectfully

Jno. Jas. Speed

Detroit Decr 22, 1854

Dear Alonzo

Your favour of the 14th inst was recd this morning, and I dont know but it may be wise to sell that land for the price you name under the circumstances, as it is desirable to get out of debt as fast as possible, and then have the means to do with,

I have not time to write fully We had a Directors meeting yesterday and did a large days work, and among other things voted a dividend of 5 per Ct, for last 6 mo, this will give me $3,000, but I have used some of it, I can get say $2,000, which will answer to stop the House holes in this region —

We have earned about 10 per ct for the past 6 mo, and our line was never in as good order as now & we are improving it every day,

I hear nothing from E. B. yet Mother is here, and we shall go to Albion to night,

Respectfully Yours

E. Cornell

A.B.C

OFFICE OF THE
Milwaukee Sentinel.
Daily $7 per Annum.
TRI-WEEKLY SENTINEL.
$3.50 per Annum.
WEEKLY SENTINEL
$1 per Annum.
AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF
Presses, Types, Inks, &c.,
AND
Printers' Stationery
OF ALL KINDS.
BOOK AND JOB PRINTING
Executed with neatness and despatch

Milwaukee Daily Sentinel,
RUFUS KING & CO., Proprietors.

Milwaukee, Jan 22 1854.

Sir

I have made arrangements with Draper at present until some understanding is arrived at with Ass Press by which reports are sent over E & M Line & have our old Buffalo dispatch business renewed at same price as we agreed upon viz 3 cts per word from Buffalo & have written to Henderson to send them

Will you please send a notice to Operators along line to put these despatches put through & also to have the offices send us any item of news they get hold of which is to be checked in my arrangement at same price as Buff despatches. Please attend to this & notify the different offices at once. The Presdts message over E M Line took them all down We beat the crowd

Yours &c
J S Fillmore

Cincinnati 22d Dec 1854

Mr E. Cornell
Indianopolis

Dear Sir

My object in addressing you at this moment is in relation to a telegraphic despatch which I sent on 18th Inst to my Brother Alexander McGregor Terre Haute by the National office line here & a serious mistake has been made in the copying of the despatch which was Worded as follows

A McGregor Terre Haute
call post office for letter. collect Leighton if possible
J McGregor

The Answer at Terre Haute

To Mr A McGregor
call at Post office for letter
com right on if possible
J McGregor

The operator here say he cannot give any redress & refer to you. this mistake was the means of hurrying my Brother to leave his business & come on here in all hurry & may be the means of loosing the collection of a note of 650$ which was enclosed in the letter above aluded to. My Brother claimed here his expenses for Travelling & time lost & Hotel charges in consequence of the mistake made in the message he will call on You on his return to Terre Haute & I think it but fair that these expenses should be allow him. he will explain to You the whole matter regarding the collection note. the operator here Say he has no power to refund any thing without Your permission

Respy Yours
J McGregor

Albion Decr 23rd 1854

Dear Alonzo

Your favour of the 17th inst was recd this morning enclosing two notes one for me to sign for $100, and one yours for me to endorse for $100. both of which I execute and enclose herewith,

I shall not be able to give you the figures of past 6 mo untill, I get report ready for publication some time in next mo — I think however that we have earned at least 10 per ct over the legitimate expenses of working line, but we shall not have that 5 per ct on hand as a surplus after dividing 5 per ct, as we have used the money as follows Paid for rebuilding line — $1400, Material on hand pd for but not used Wire $546.00 Poles $350, Due from Haviland since July 1 — for his over drafts $200, Pills & Tousling Owe $157, pd Old debts $1050, here is near $4,000 for first 4 mo and the other two will be say $1500 — which makes abt 5 pr c that is entirely outside of expenses for working line inclusive of verry liberal allowance for repairs &c, &c

I have recd your several letters forwarded to Detroit, and have answered hastily and have not time to make any more full answers at present, Your make very good suggestions, and I am glad you turn your mind to the subject as it will be profitable in various ways it will not only make you thorougly familiar with my affairs, but it will train your mind to intricate business matters, and also make you familiar with the business and resources of the Telegraph, which is destined to become a large and important branch of business —

Tubb at Cleveland has arranged for the settlement there of the Thayer judgment by paying $400. and the Bristol matter by giving endorsed notes at 3 & 6 months, They will get a judgment against me at the present term of Court at Dr for some $1700, but cannot get a judgment at present for the Dft of $1,000 as they have no proof of notice of Protest, and I am sure there never was any protest, so there will be $2100, to provide for him which my Dividend will provide for. Then I have to settle with Utica folks, but hope to get along without money, or obliged to use no more than I can get out of Spud,

by Middle Feb I shall have to pay Livingston $850, &c, &c —

Cobb has $600 of my funds in his hands, which I hope to get soon but shall want it to use in my building on O&I line —

The Debt Cobb & Haviland owed the Co for money used by them last June to pay on S.M line, they settled by giving their joint notes, two notes for $690 each payable in 6 & 12 mo with interest secured by E&M Stock to amt of $2,000 — Havilands a/c not yet settled, he owns up on one dft of $400, that he chd to Co but had no right to, there are charges of at least $1000 more that are wrong but how much I can get righted I can't yet guess. Haviland did not like my scrutiny of his acct and asked a committee to settle with him, Walbridge of Kalamazoo & C Joslyn of Yp are Com. and I guess he will be glad to get rid of them

and have me restored again —
They will neither of them sanction
his loose way of doing things —

I have while writing heard
that Uncle E.B & Wife had arrived
in ~~Attica~~ Detroit too late for the
train, so they will be here on
Evening train say about midnight
tonight,

I just heard this morning that
grandmother Cornell has got
an heir —

Mother and Em are well &
send love to all, Em has
a great time kissing "Ell" in the
locket, she will not forget "Ell"

I rec'd a very good letter from
Frank this morning, he writes
better than I supposed, with little
practice he will make as good
a penman as you are,

He wants to know what business
he shall go at in the spring, I shall
tell him that I design him for
a farmer, and expect him to make
the best farmer in Tompkins Co
You the best Banker & Frank the
best Farmer. Yours. Respectfully

A B,C

E Cornell

E Cornell
Albion Dec 23 1854
Telegraph business

Monroe Dec 23rd 1854

Dear Brother

Within you will find my reports &c and although I have not done things up as I should have done, I think you will find the account right, I have not put down my own labour in the reports, we will fix that when we settle I have provided my self with a pocket diary for the year 1855 with a blank space for my Cash account &c and I am going to turn over a new leaf with the new year & see if I cant make things work a little better in future and if it would make no difference to you I would like you to pay me some certain sum per month and I pay my own expences, so that I can Keep Expences in with my Cash account, I will commence to Keep it that way with the new year & we will talk it over when I see you. I should like to see you as soon as convenient

Respectfuly I B Cornell

E Cornell

C, H Speed
Decr 24, 1854
Dec. 24, 1854

Indianapolis
Dec 24.

E.C.
Dr Sir:

Work on Line goes very slow. Poles all up but 50 at Fortville. Cant get a car as yet to take them up. Cant get men to work till after Christmas now. Wire up beyond Fortville short distance. Old Line works very well this cold weather but gets down very much. Have had to send Palmer out

on old Line East
for a Day & a half
I hear The House
Folks have contracted
with Indiana Central
to be Done by first
May - This if so
will hurt us very
much - We could
have afforded to
have built it for
25.00 per mile Rather
than have had them
build it as we
have the wire
nearly on the ground
Twelve Dollars a
mile with our
present wire would
put it on Road -
The House Tribe
are aiming for
Chicago & They
will get There i

if we are not
very careful -
The moment they
get here. They
will Extend to
Terre Haute & St Louis
& get to Chicago by
New albany & Salem
I Think Cant some
thing be Done to
block them - N A
& S Road should
be secured at once
if it is possible -
Would it not be
well to have Father
get J W Brooks of the
Central Road to help
us. Am afraid
House folks are
working at The
Terre Haute Road

The Ohio & Miss Road
should be attended
to as they will
have 100 miles running
very soon - Judge
Caton might have
some influence with
them as part of
Road is in Illinois -
You should see
Eckert or Wade about
Line from Union to
Galion - There is no
one to attend to it
~~at~~ or if there is no one
does - Down too much
Boys negligent &
out of office half
time. J.H. complains
very much of the
way it is managed
I may go home the
first if mine gets along
well & can leave

Truly Yours
C. H. Steed

Aylmer C.W. Decr 24 1854

Dear Brother

I enclose the within note of $70 payable in 12 Mo with interest as payment for A.B. Dubois a/c according to promise if you will accept it and if not return it and I will remit you the money.

The reason of my doing so is this a couple of parties in Brantford are starting a Pottery the capital stock of which is $3000 and I wish to take a share and attend to the sales which I shall do if I can raise 1/3 the capital. I am short now about $300. and in case I forward the above amt to you shall have that much more to make up some how, and if you have not immediate use for the money you will very much oblige by letting it stand the above time. If you cannot wait send the note back immediately so that I will know what to do & oblige. All well when I left home, some two weeks ago. with respects to Mary Ann & family

Respectfully

J. H. Cornell

E. Cornell

Albion Michigan

Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Telegraph Company.

ALL MESSAGES STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

STATE SENTINEL JOB ROOMS, INDIANAPOLIS.

Toledo, Dec 26th 1854.

The following Message was received from

Dated, 1854.

~~To Mr~~ E Cornell Esq —

Tubbs at 7 days Tom ~~and~~ Hamilton has done nothing towards getting number ~~two~~ working as yet – If we wait for him, am afraid it will not be done this winter besides losing half of the wire by being stolen – We are ready here to work as you desired when here – It seems too bad to let it lay down so – For two days past there has been little or nothing done Every one seems to do as they please Line works very hard Hope things will improve soon –

Respectfully yours

W A Beach

Ft Wayne Ind
Decr 26/54

Mr E Cornell

As I have quit working on the Telegraph Line & as I I wish to [illegible] embark in some other business. I would like to settle with you for my services. I do not know exactly how much is due me. I think though about sixty-five dollars. Will you condescend to inform me where I can see you & when,

Very Respectfully Yours
Edward Grover

UNION TELEGRAPH.

CONSOLIDATION of the HOUSE, MORSE, O'REILLY & WADE LINES:
Under the Control of the

NEW-YORK & MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
PRINTING TELEGRAPH Co.

VANDUZEE & BARTON, Sc.

Detroit Office—Jefferson Avenue, 1st door above Farmers & Merchants Bk. 1st floor.

Detroit, Dec 21 1854. By Telegraph from Rochester 21 1854

To E Cornell

Your letter not received till last Eve—
If E & M Telegraph Co make a dividend of five
per cent the NY & Miss Valley Telegraph Co will accept
draft of J J Speed Jr for the amount of dividend
on thirty thousand dolls Stock held by last named Co

if J H Wade assents to the draft of Speed

S. R. Elwood

1/1/1 16-11