Utica Apl 11. 1855

Dear Alonzo

I get my business closed up here by 3 P.M to day and leave for the west with the money $5500 to pay up that judgment at Detroit. The Ky & Ohio folks not only assist me cheerfully (by being well secured) but they are getting their fellows enlisted, in reference to the contest with the House folks west; and will aid to resist the Southern Mich line from the House folks, and will make common cause with me in the struggle, and aid what they can by the purchase of the stocks necessary to controll. Ohio & Ill & Miss, lines and in reduction of tariffs &c, & C, = = =

This places the matter in a position to relieve my anxiety and free my mind from evil forbodings for the future, that has annoyed me more or less for the few months past,

There is but little left, for Wade + to speculate upon, and I trust this description will soon be gone,

I regret that I had not time enough

to go home and remain till monday morning, but I have not, and must yield to the necessity that calls me back to Detroit,

In our arrangements here we have provided for a connection of the lines at Buffalo for 5 years. So we shall have nothing to fear in the efforts of the House folks to cut us off from the business of N.Y. A & B line,

I want you to send me a Statement of the liabilities at Ithaca, so I can devise ways & means to render you such aid in carrying them along, as may be necessary,

You must encourage Frank in his efforts to improve his education, and you must Comfort your Mother, in her fits of need, during my necessary absence, and I will exert my powers to draw the Telegraph business to a favourable close as fast as circumstances will permit,

Yours affectionately
E Cornell

A.B.C

P. S. It is now 2¼ and I expect to be off for Buffalo in less than an hour

E. C

Tell mother to write to me

Pittsburg April 11th 1875

Dear Connell, Still I am in the land of the living & not as I was — I just got in from a short trip up into Warren Ohio & across to Akron &c — The Clerks of the National sent me money to go up in hopes to get him working but it will take a great many ten dollars to do it. Its all flat. Even the line to Erie that we just fixed up good as all down flat again & down will all be stolen, if not fixed. I don't know what I am going to do — I am tormented to death with persons calling for their pay. I have exhausted every means & now keep out of their sight as well as I can. I owe a man in Nicholette who has sent the note down here to collect for board of my last year operation between 12 & 13 dollars, & livery bills at Rochester Pa. of about $34. some of which the House folks are to pay & one made at New Brighton of about $100. & the National want theirs of about $40. I have numerous little sums to pay. I have to go there before the 15th of this month to witness the sale of my House & Lot if I can't raise $200 interest

I will pass through Cleveland about the 12th or 13th inst & home again up all hope seeing you ever again - The Proprietor of the Spirit I have had the last year was kind enough to let me have the assistance of Letter & but retains all else & has lien on it - his bay calls for $250 it seems to me. the only way to get rid of my trouble is to blow my brains out - if that would pay my debts I would not stand long - It is worse than death to live this way - I close in haste - for bloody

Yours W. P. Rice

E Cornell Esq

W. P. Rice
April 11, 1855

M B Work Esq
Albion
Mich

Pittsburgh April 11/65

Sir

The agent of the P. C & St Telegraph Co at Dayton, O. has returned the ballance due by your lines at that point $1079.30 on April 1st This amount has been accumulating for some time and has become burdensome to hold by our company. as Treasurer I have had to advance these ballances to meet our payments several times and under our union arrangements while other companies contribute to the business for which you owe this ballance the P C & St L Co have to bear the burden of this debt— we feel disposed to be indulgent & liberal with neighbouring & connecting lines but more promptness is indispensible in ballances and our engagements make it necessary that we have this ballance before the 1st of May next— please give this your early attention and advise me.

If I am mistaken in addressing you or the proper Officer of thes Co please hand this to the proper Office

Very Respectfully Yours
Joshua Hanna Jr

Communications Confidential, and must be pre-paid.

In Communication
—WITH—
Silver Creek,
Dunkirk,
Fredonia,
Westfield,
North East,
Erie, Girard,
Conneaut,
Ashtabula,
Painesville,
Fairport,
Cleveland,
Milan,
Norwalk,
Sandusky City,
Fremont,
Birmingham,
Maumee,
Monroe,
Toledo,
Detroit,
Ypsilanti,
Ann Arbor,
Jackson,
Albion,
Marshall,
Kalamazoo,
Niles,
Michigan City,
South Bend,
Chicago,
Waukegan,
Southport,
Racine,
Milwaukee,
Cincinnati,
New Orleans,
St. Louis,
Pittsburg,
Columbus,
Galena,
Indianapolis,
Janesville,
Alton,
Madison,
Zanesville,
and to all places South and West.

Speed's Erie and Michigan Telegraph Line.

Office No. 15 Merchants' Exchange—Up Stairs, & 145 Main St.

Buffalo, Apl 12 1855, M.

By Telegraph from My Dear Mary. Ann. I just rec'd a despatch from Phebe saying she wanted me to bring a case of Homeopathic book & that Arlina was very sick & Edgar just coming down from which I infer that Arlina has the small-pox, if I am right in this inference, then she must have caught it of me, and Frank who was much more exposed may yet have it. So you had better watch him closely, and if he shows symptoms take him in time by calling Dr Morgan, And put him at once on a proper diet, mush & molasses is best, and no grease of any kind must be allowed him, He may escape as there is not one in twenty who have been vaccinated that take the small-pox on exposure, There is no cause for alarm only be watchful and understand your situation and meet the case in time

I arrived here last Evening in Company with Mr Curtis I have thirty five hundred dollars about my person, and it is somewhat bulky, so I dont feel over comfortable, until I can get to Detroit and pay it out, and thus relieved of the anxiety, Business prospects are as favourable as can be expected, and there is reasonable prospect, of a good seasons business of which I am fully determined to get my share of,

I shall look for letters from you when I get to Albion and should wish that you was here with me to go west if it was not for the importance of your being with the children until the Smallpox question is disposed of, I shall write you on my arrival to Al- I was sorry to see by despatch to day that Betsy Ann was sick I hope she will soon recover

Yours Affectionately,

E Correll

Pittsburgh April 13th. 1855

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

Mr Reistle manager of Dayton Telegh office has made a Statement of the Indebtedness of the Indpls Line at that Station up To 1st April $1079.30. To Mr Hamm Treasurer of the P C & L Co he informs me To give you notice of the fact as we are under heavy Expences rebuilding our Line and much repairs it is highly necessary we should Collect from our Connecting points at the P C & L Co has To pay a Great portion over To other Lines which are well aware of you will Please remit To the Treasurer and oblige yours Truly

Jas Don Duncan

Supt P C & L Telegh Co

Racine April 10th

To M. B Hoover Esq.

Dear Sir.

I send you Report & have been trying to get it in before but it was impossible for me to do so. I have settled the Old a/c of Office myself & think by the appearance of matters, of this Month. That things will be Straightened For the Boats have just Commenced running this Week on that a/c it has been unusually dull for this time Year. Mr Draker goes North today will see him & get his advice in Regard to Office Affairs!

Yours W. Seward

Byron Sherman

Albion Apl 14th 1855

Dear Monze

I arrive at Detroit yesterday and paid up the Ely grdgment & cost $3577,45 and reached here about 10 P. M.

This morning I found your letter with the enclosed Note for $100. dated Apl 17th & Dft for $200 Mar 3s. which I accept and endorse and return to you with this letter, by todays mail.

I dont know of any thing now for wade to operate upon except those two small judgments in Orange & adjoining Co and those mortgages held by Mr Munn. The mortgage he could not buy at a discount and therefor may not meddle with it.

In regard to selling my telegraph interest I dont see any immediate prospect, as the Utica folks think they have no power to buy it for their Co. And I dont believe the House Co have the means or could give me such security as would make it safe to sell to them and the National folks. I think have all they want, they are not holding their own. I think as we are drawing largely on their St Louis business.

I think it is not impossible that I may get a chance to sell my interest in Ny & W. Union line to Ny & R RR, Co, and my Ill & Miss interest to the Ill Central RR Co. I shall examine that lead a little, but it wont do to mention it as Jackson & Hopkins might be alarmed fearing I was going to desert them, which I shall not do. If there is a chance to do anything I will confer with them at the proper time.

As to my health. I think the prospect is encouraging to suppose it will be better than it has been the past 6 months.

My next Operation will be to worst the S. M line from House Co if it can be done I think the Utica folks will help in this matter as they begin to realize the importance of lessening the House facilities and increasing ours.

Arlina is sick and has been 3 or 4 days but whether with a fever or Small-pox is not yet decided, I think it is not the small-pox, as it is full time for the eruption to come out if that was the case.

Edgar is growing but keeps about the house I feel better than I did while in Ny.

Tell Frank to write to me, and give me a history of his voyage home from the Suspension Bridge. It is a route I never traveled and his description may be a guide for me at some future journeying

Tell him, also to give me an exposition of his views about the School business.

I should be glad if Perry would write me and let me know how he expects to Spend the Summer;

I am disappointed in not finding a letter here from your mother. tell her, she must be more punctual in writing.

Please give my respects to all the big ones & little ones, and tell mother to kiss Emma & Mary for me, and tell Emma & Ell to kiss mother for me, and you can kiss Ell for me.

Yours Affectionately

E. Cornell

A B C

Wm A Brach
14 Apl 1855

Erie & Mich. Telegraph Company.

ALL MESSAGES STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Toledo, April 14 1855.

The following Message was received from

Dated, 185

To Mr E Cornell Supt

Our poor old line west is in a bad way - Wish you could arrange with air line Railroad to build a new line on their road - That will be the most direct route to Chicago there is - If attended to soon think it could be done — We need a through line & it seems impossible to do business without one — Chicago business amounts to little or nothing the way it is now - Not ok one day in the week & then so much RR

business on our western ckt
that we dont get a sight at
Chicago more than three times
a day - as it has been for last
week or more We caned only
grind to Mich City - slight
trouble between Ch & Ty which
could be removed in few hours
& now it has been there for
two weeks - A man with a
relay & go to work night
could fix it in half a
day - Ch does not seem
to see the necessity of getting
it right To be sure he has
sent repairers through & finds
nothing but the trouble is still there
& is probably a block nailed to
a tree - I have suggested his
taking a relay & go & find
it - He says no one in Ch
to go - so it is - & it is bad
enough - We can never beat
the opposition & compete
with them under the existing
state of things - 75 dollars
expended in resetting poles
on Wabash line between here
& Ft Wayne would be of
more service to this office
than our eastern or western
connection - We are fighting hard
for business - & can get it if
We can get it off as readily
as our neighbors Yours Truly
E Cornell Esq W A Peach

T. A Strong
Apl 15. 1855

Defiance Apl 15th 54

E Cornell. Dear Sir.

Your Favor of the 3d inst was duly recd. I was pleased to hear from you again: also that there was some prospect that we might soon be doing business again on the Lins. Having confidence in your intention to deal fairly with me, and to fulfil promises upon which I have ~~relied~~ placed such reliance as has induced me to make essential diffrences in my calculations and arrangements for business, I beg leave at this time to refer to the subject. You will recollect that it was through the expectation of a more desirable situation last Fall that I returned here and

resumed the charge of this Office.
Although failing to obtain
another office. I did not feel
disposed to complain on that
account. as I presumed it was
out of your power consistently
to furnish me with another
place at that time, and after
the Winter had commenced.
together with dull business
and hard times. I did not
expect that you could well
do so at least until Spring.
My Reports since last December
have shown that my expenses
have exceeded the receipts of the
office. In consequence of my
expectation to leave last Fall
I gave up a situation which I
could have retained as clerk
in a Drug & Book Store and have
thus been compelled for the most
part to remain idle through the
Winter, so far as earning money is
concerned. You are also aware
that the Line has been during the
past 6 months considerably in
debt to me, a good share of which
is for money that I have paid
out for repairs. If I could have
had the whole amt two months
I could have invested it in land
much to my advantage I think.
But Sir I do not wish to complain.
I am aware that you have a great
deal of business to attend to, and
suppose you find plenty of places
to dispose of funds. It is necessary
however that I should look to my
own interests, and I find the
Spring Season at hand, with ~~an~~ a
nearly depleted pocket and

at present no very promising situation in business. But I am not concerned about that. I can find business to do. If however you could give me a good situation at telegraphing, I should be glad of it. If not and if you could pay the Balance due me soon I will be satisfied, and if you choose will perform the duties connected with this office until I shall find it advisable to resign. There is a man now on the Line between here & X trying to get it O.K. But it must be rebuilt before it can be relied upon. I will write again in relation to the condition of the Line, and in the mean time hope to hear from You

Truly Yours J A Strong

Vincennes Ind
April 16th 1885

Friend Haas,

When I left this office there was a ballence of $28.54 due me from your line, and it was money paid out of my own pocket for Repairs & which Mr Cornell promised to remit me soon I have waited patiently for a year for him to remit it and now I would be very glad to have it as I stand much in need of it at the present time, Mr Cornell has my Reports you can refer to them.

If I do not get it soon from you or Cornell I shall try and get it some other way

Respectfully
Yours
Elmer Sellers

Ottawa April 17. 55

Sir –

Yours several letters to J. D. Caton have been duly received but owing to the continued absence of J. D. C. have been deferred He is now at Monnisfield at the superiors Court – Many letters about persons cups I can answer. I have sent you samples of a new lot and we will either replace those sent or refund the money as you advise the last lot is good.

Yours Respectfully
E. Connable Esq. Fred. Bassett
for J. D. Caton

Dunkirk April 18. 1855

Dear Sir:—

I have bought a house and am to pay $50. on the 1st of May, and I tell you so to account for a request that you will accept, and return by mail the Enclosed order on which I can raise the money = The order will be held by Mr Tillotson—

Yours Respectfully

John C Van Dusen

Egra Cornell Esq[r]

Indianapolis—In—

1

Albion 18. Apl 1855

Dear Monze

On returning from Janesville last eve I rec'd your favour of 12th Inst and it was very acceptable,

The way I settled with Mills was to pay him some $550, the balance as I make it deducting the Dft of $600 and interest from its date from his a/c

I left the Dft with him to use in a suit against Day his book keeper as no suit have used the money upon it,

At Utica I borrowed the money on my note at 6 mo to be renewed for another 6 mo making a year Secured by an assignment of my C & M Stock & part of Mc & Mfs stock The suit of Ayr & W & him has not been meddled with; I have some $40,000 Ill & Mfs stock not incumbered that I wish we could make a loan on, to pay off those bank notes,

We are very short of funds here now, and have not enough to pay our way, and repair our line; will soon be better I hope,

I have no resources here that I shall not more than exhaust to get on with the business -

I shall see Mr Curtis in few days. when I will see if they will accept Draft for Rent due Aug 1. st and let you have that, to help along. but then again there is one of those Livingston notes due about the middle of Aug. of $850, Which must be kept in mind, And I gave E.B. C a note at 90. days for $100. Which I want you to place on your account

I have not time to write more at present, and have written in great haste, All sick here with small pox except Orson, Arlina who was first taken is getting better Mary is very sick, Others comfortable, I hope they will soon be about again — I shall write more as soon as I have time

Yours Respectfully
E Cornell

A.B.C

Plymouth Ap 19th 1855

Mr Connell

Sir— Your favor of 17 inst is just Rec'd Very much obliged for the Statement,

As for the Tamarac poles, I was talking to the County Surveyor last Evening, he says there is a Tamarac Swamp about five Miles West of Plymouth and thinks they can be got out in Summer, There are plenty of Swamps in the Vicinity of the Road— but not on it, near this Place only that one—

When you get that line furnished, and Establish an office in this Place, If you do no doubt but you will, and should like my way of doing business I should be pleased to have the care of it.

I have done the very best I could with this under the circumstances, And there is not a citizen of this Place but What will Tell you the same, I am not out of office during Business hours at all, more than necessity requires,

Yours Respectfully

D McDonald

E Connell

Ithaca 20th April 1863

Dear Brother

I arrived home safe on Wednesday morning found my folks well as usual & had been quite sick but had got better Jane appears well and cheerful she has not had any poor spells in several days. your folks are as well as usual Except- Frank he is complaining with chills and fever accompanied with pain in his limbs his Mother thinks it is an attact of ague & fever

I presented that note to Mr Williams and he said he could not discount it now what shall I do Jane is the same fix as McGeehen home without money to help my self here or to get back with I think this is rather hard and I also think that you were satisfied that I would not get the money on that note, You do know I am situated I can not make any arrangements for my family or do any thing to get ready to return to my work, I want you should send me some $20 or make some provision do that I can get it here for I can not do with out it let me hear from you imm

Yours &c

E. B. Lomell

Do How are they getting along at Mantz I am anxious to hear, let us hear by Tel

E B L

Ithaca Albion Apl 22. 1855

My Dear Mary Ann,

I returned here last eve or this morning at 1 A.M from Toledo. and found M.B. very sick with Small-Pox. having a high fever. I sat up with him the balance of the night and gave him acouite ~~the~~ each hour and by daylight the fever seemed to be subdued. and to day he is much better than he was yesterday. He is broken out as much as I was. and Mary is broken out in the face ten times as much as either. Phebe, Arlina & Edson did not broke out enough to swore by. They are all comfortable except M.B. and he soon will be. Orson has not been sick and the prospect is that he will escape. Mr. Udell our Operator in Detroit is now sick with the same difficulty. Probably caught it from me. After I found the disease much more than I apprehended any danger of dony.

If Frank escapes. I shall think it strange for if any body was liable to take it of me I should suppose he was more exposed than any body else could be, I hope however

Your esteemed favour of the 15th I found here today, and was verry glad to here from you I am glad that you consulted Dr Morgan respecting Jane. and have no doubt that nervous derangment or instability may be the Cause of her trouble,

I am afflicted with the nerves of many a trouble, she really suffers a great deal. and I dont know as any thing can help her, a change of air is perhaps the best of any thing that can be done for,

I am glad Frank is fairly installed in his School, and hope he will pursue his studies cheerfully and industriously

Betsy Ann's Case turns out much as I expected, I did not feel any Special alarm on her account,

I suppose John & Molly has got moved to Toronto by this time. last Wednesday when I went to Depot to go to Detroit & Toledo. I found, two of Mollys Sisters the one that Spent the winter with her, and the one that has been to School Calista I believe. Calista was on her way to Windsor Canada to teach in a school of fugitives, I left her at Detroit in charge of a Rev Mr Flood who met us at Depot. She expected to have met a School mate on Cars that was going to Canada on the same errand, but

She was not on board. They are sent to Canada as teachers by some society who have the educational welfare of the blacks in Canada under their keeping. The elder Sister returned to her brothers some 6 miles from Albion.

I have just rec'd a letter from Daniel from Belvidere. he writes that he likes the place well, and is doing well, that he has bought a village lot, and working to pay for it &c. &c.

I go to Chicago tonight or tomorrow to visit Mr Curtis Pres't N.Y. A & B. R.R. Co. and we go to Ottawa to visit Judge Caton & his Directors, to see if we can get all business arranged to our satisfaction -

Then the tug of war comes in reference to the Southern Michigan line, and I hope my plans will all go off as I design them, if they do Sevastopol is taken.

Last monday I took a horse & waggon and rode over to Janesville the day was warm and Spring like the second real warm day we had had. The country looked beautiful that night we had a thunder shower which cleared off warm. I returned the next P. M. and the country had changed

like magic from beautiful to lovely.
My senses were entranced with the sweet odors of Spring, All nature was alive,
I rehersed Spiritually a letter to you that I wish I could now transfer to paper but I cannot, the inspiration that animated my soul has passed and its images linger like the dim recollections of a pleasant dream,
The shooting blade, the swelling bud, the expanding blossom, the cooing dove, the chirping bluebird, the sprightly robin, all, all, sent up, praise and thanks giving to heaven, They proclaimed, each in its own way, beautiful, there is a God,
The sophistry of the atheist is ridiculous when arbutted by such overwhelming testimony all, nature proclaims him a liar,
My soul was captivated, and in its rapturous moods, held ideal ~~visitings~~ with its kindred soul far, far away—
There is nothing more lovely than nature in the Spring time, I long for the opportunity to enjoy this lovely[illegible] more perfectly, more rationally.
I sigh for the enjoyments of a rural home, Home! Sweet, sweet, Home, there is no place like home,

Yours Affectionately
C. Cordell

Mary Ann.

Detroit 25th Apl 1838

Dr Sir

In relation to Zanesville contract I cannot now remember how it came to be made in my name, but it shall make no difference as far as your rights are concerned, nor will it make any difference in the settlement of Hawkins account as he understood very well that it was made for the benefit of the C & M Line -

I have advised with Mr Howard respecting conveyance of Return on Line from Indianapolis to Lawrenceburgh, and he has examined my contract with Howe Line, & says that the conveyance must be made by the parties to whom I sold, and a conveyance from me would be valueless - If you will send me a Copy of the contract you made with the R R Co, I will try and get such a conveyance as you want

Yrs Respt J J Speed Jr

Mr Donnell

Newyork April 24 55

E Cornell Esq

Have just returned to town - Have not seen Law Below find proxie to vote on my stock — Yours truly Donald Mann

Know all men by these presents That Ezra Cornell is hereby authorized & empowered to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of the Ohio, Indiana & Illinois Telegraph Co upon any stock standing in my name upon the books of the Co. the same as I could do if personally present

Donald Mann

In presence of
S. K. Took

Binghamton April 24th 55.

E Connelley
Dear Sir

I have been disappointed in collecting some funds, and shall probably want the $206. due from you by the 1st part of May. Please be prepared to send it on short notice, and I will write again -

I regret that our part of the contract with the N Y A & B folks has not been carried out, with regard to the surrender of Skinners Line. It gives them a good excuse to hold off from completing the repairs west of Portage & they are making no preparations to do anything here -

Tillotson has taken charge of Gibbstine & thus controls the Elmira business entirely - our office there does not pay expenses. He does all the business he can get on the R R Line. at our expense - If you & Mr Curtis are satisfied, let them sleep. Tillotson told me he took N Y business because we have no office

these - I have written fully several times to Curtis but get no answer -

How do your Del matters progress with Have the Hunt folks completed their visit to Chicago - Please write me at your earliest convenience

Yours Truly
P A Hopkins

P. A. Hopkins
24 Apl. 1855

Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Telegraph Company.

ALL MESSAGES STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

STATE SENTINEL JOB ROOMS, INDIANAPOLIS.

By Telegraph from New Ind

Dated Apl 25 1850.

Received at this office,

To Mr Haas

Mr Ingleerain leaves for Ky in morg - he requested me to forward Account to you - he will settle this week our & his Bond Must be settled forward Money to L D Atkinson - and he will act it -

Yours

A Cochran

New York
April 25

Ezra Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

I have 10
shares of Ohio Indiana & Illinois
Telegraph Stock - I will sell it
at $6 per share - Mr O'Reilly
has told me you would buy it
probably - I have also 10 sh
of the Illinois & Mississippi Co and
would like to sell the same
if you are buying - please
give me your estimate of this
last

Yr Obt
F Marquand
247 Broadway

D. Longworth
247 Broadway
N. York

ORK

Gen. Lamb Esq
Quartermaster
Fort

Maumee City April 25th 1855

E Cornell Esqr.
Albion Mich

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 16th inst rec'd. In reply say that the whole of my bill against the Erie & Mich Tel Co. (as rendered to you by Mr Bells) was made by S. L. Bancroft the operator at this place at the time. I tried a number of times to have him pay the balance my due, his excuse was that he had not the funds to pay it, & that the agt or Supt was going to send him funds to pay off this & other small bills & he then would come in & pay the amt my due. I desire easy about it supposing that it would be so.

Yours Respectfully
O. H. Marks

Telegraph Office, Roscoe, O.
April 20. 1855.

C. Cornell, Pres. &c

Dear Sir,

I have recently had a Conversation with A. Medbery Esqr. who informed me that he had seen you, and that you had the Control of the "Cleveland, Wheeling & Janesville" Telegraph line. I did not understand as much by your letter received some time since - I have been at work putting this line in working order from this place to Adams' Mills, ten miles south. It was badly out of order, - Posts old and rotten, and as a natural consequence a good many fell down, and the wire was badly broken up - I have succeeded, however, after an outlay of about $30. in putting it up, and it is in a tolerable Condition for working - although I am short of Insulators and I think there is not less than from two to three dozen wanted on my ten miles. Between Adams' Mills and Dresden, however, the line is still down, and badly broke, as a gentleman informed me yesterday. That part of the line belongs (according to arrangement) to the Dresden Operator to repair - but as most of his business is with Janesville, he takes very little interest in keeping it up from Dresden to Adams' Mills, (six miles) Now I would suggest that, inasmuch as the posts which are still standing on that portion of the line, must be very near falling down, - and as a large number are already down, - that the line be reconstructed along the Railroad - instead of along the old road. - The wagon road is very crooked, - making the distance six miles from the Mills to Dresden, whereas by the Railroad, it is but little over half that distance, and then, there will be a Telegraph along the Railroad at an early day, and it seems to me that this old line may have the benefit of the Railroad business, if a start is made in time.

I have written to the Dresden Operator stating that I have put my Division of the line in working order and urged him to turn out and fix his Division immediately - but have heard nothing from him, although I wrote four days since. Now, should he not attend to it immediately, I ~~shall~~ will undertake to go down there and put it up, either on the old line, or along the Railroad, as you may deem expedient, provided you will furnish the funds to do it with. - I have already expended more than I expected would to get back, - merely to prevent the line from going to destruction and after Constructing it to Dresden, I think it would be a Capital idea to continue it along the Railroad to Newark providing a suitable arrangement - can be made with the R.R. Co. of which I have not the least - doubt, from a Conversation I have had with one of the Directors of this Company - From this place East, or "North" as we generally call it, the Telegraph is totally down. Last Season I exerted myself a good deal to keep it up and to ~~keep~~ it make it work, but - could not succeed - The wire is badly broken, destroyed, and carried off - as I am told - I have had frequent applications to sell it, and it is not unlikely that as I would not sell, a good deal has been stolen.

I did Contemplate going out and taking the wire & insulators (what are left) and bringing them here for preservation and safe keeping - but - after spending about half a day in taking off the wire I concluded it was going to ~~be~~ require more time and money than I had to spare - and for the present let it drop - But the wire ought to be taken off - sooner the better - and stored somewhere that it might be in readiness when wanted - I would think that if the line was now reconstructed along the Railroad, in a permanent manner, that it will be the best thing that Can be done with it, - and I am under the impression, that the old wire Can be taken up and the line reconstructed for from $25 to $30. per mile This is a rough guess, - and I have put it at the highest figure It might be done for a very much lower figure -

By making an arrangement with the Steubenville and Indiana Railroad Company - a good deal of business could be got for the line in addition to what it would get of course - Said Company, I have good reason to believe would be willing to assist in the Construction immediately in any way except funds such as transportation &c, and after a Month or two will be able to assist with funds, So says a Director - But there would be a new line to build from Steubenville to Wrightsville - distance 30 miles, and from Dresden to Newark 20 miles - But that part might be postponed until such time as suited the convenience of the Company to build - Or the line from Dresden to Zanesville might be taken off - (Some 15 miles) and put on the line to Newark, if deemed advisable - At all events the line from Zanesville to Dresden needs a thorough overhauling and repairs - My own judgment would induce me to favor the dropping the line from Dresden to Zanesville - and moving it onto the Railroad to Newark - unless the Dresden people would take charge of it and keep it up better than it has been done within the last year - Continue the line along the R.R. to Adams Mills thence to Roscoe, Coshocton, and R.R. to Wrightsville and I am not quite certain that it would not be better to stop at Massillon, forming Connection with Trade line from there to Cleveland, in which case, there would be the line from above Massillon, which could be put upon the route from Wrightsville to Steubenville - But Something should be done and quickly for the line is not only down from here to Wrightsville but also from there towards Cleveland - It is all important that something should be done immediately or abandon the whole thing - Should your business allow you to do so, I think you had better Come down this way with as little delay as possible - Please let me hear from you at your earliest Convenience -

Very respectfully &c

Jas Bassett.

Operator Roscoe

Lafayette Apl 27. 55

E. Connell, Esqr.
Chicago Ill

Dear Sir

I saw several enquiries to offices in regard to Tariff. It looks like you were going to get up a large one which I hope is correct. Do you put the Tariff for our line with the more extended one. What did you think of my form for this line -

Kiersted asked me the Tariff from Dayton to Chicago I told him to charge 60 + 5 (I believe) until further directions - He said no more. It is evident that he does not feel interested in our welfare. does not work to our interest. Wallick declines Dayton office - at $55. unless he can remain at Indpls he will leave line. I told him to stay at Indpls. I have been trying to get Bryant to go to Dayton at $60. I may be he will go if so he is worth hundred dolls year more than any man I know of, does that meet with your approbation -

Johnson at Union will settle the last

at five dollars per month seven months he wishes some money badly what shall I do. I think I can make out 50 or 100 dolls against the other line at Union If I could go there we send but very little business to them & they sends considerable over this line. It had better be attended to at once, Johnson think of leaving the office. It can be attended to better when he is present. According to your contract with the T H & I R R. We are only permitted to ride free from Cramfordsville to Mich city - I have seen under the impression that our passes extended to the terminus of the road but did you understand it. I wish you would write Mr Knowlton to give directions to all his Conductors to recognize my passes. it disaccommodates us very much to get them from those who are authorized to give them. I spoke to Mr Knowlton about it some time ago he said he would arrange it.

Our Evansville debt settled - they paid O V & M line nearly two hundred in March which we might have had if our line had been O.K. what shall we do - Our agent at Terre Haute thinks we are troubled by persons

who designedly cut the wire & chop trees & on it. can anything be done towards putting the line on R R. I telegd you last night but was not answered. Here is our Perrysville crossing gone again. Our operator at Perrysville says the wire gets lost when crossing falls. It takes some 6 or 700 feet to cross river then, at a cost of 12 or 15 dolls each time to get line O K. Please inform me what your wishes are.

Mr Wyleraine of Peru has an acct of some 9 or 10 dolls against that office for horse hire &c. which he wishes cashed or will sue —

Are we to charge office at Rich city for business going from C & M line to & from this —

Please make an arrangement with Bridge Caton to divide the tariff to St Louis from Chicago, as to pay them 45 & 3. that is all it costs Ria Vincennes, I thought best —

Where are the instruments that were used at Eaton Richmond & Cambridge — The citizens of Clinton this side of Terre Haute refuses to give us control of the magnet & instrument at that place. They say it belongs to the citizens that we have nothing to do with

it - the person having it in his store refused to let me have it (as I passed down to Terre Haute) without first consulting the stockholders, they have no claim on it - what had best be done.

Please answer soon as convenient & come over also as soon as practicable in haste

D. Haas

J. Read
Att'y
May 27
1853

Navarre April 27th 1875

Mr E. Connell
Albion Michigan
President

Dear Sir

Feeling it a duty that is incumbent upon me to inform you of the present Condition of the line it is badly Down & the operators have temporarily fixed it up but Every wind we have put out of fix again I have had no Circuit for three weeks, have been in the same Room that the Telegraph is for the last two years & have had knowledge of the amount of business done & there would have been more business this Spring than there has been since I have been in room for the same length of time, the Citizens of the place & the Merchants more particularly feel quite an intrest that the line be fixed immediately as they are badly bored to be obliged to go to Magillan perhaps two or three times a day to Telegraph & then perhaps be Disappointed as the other line is in a bad Condition also I have had the opinion of all

the Operators Except Cleveland & they think that if the ware properly repaired that it would pay better than Ever in Consequence of the other lines being in such bad Condition there ware thirteen Messages presented at this ops yesterday, My opinion is that it would be good policy to have the reparen jobs along the line immediately & Every thing looks promising of a big Crop if such should be the case this line has never done the business it will then do I am out of paper & wires & should have a small strip of platinum say one inch wide & five or six inches long please tell me where I can get them & give general information and oblige

Yours Truly
Elias Weygandt
Opr at Navarre
Station

Friday Mapillon April 7th 58

Mr. E. Cornell

Dr Sir

Over
since I took Charge of this Office
it has been a losing concern I
have not made a single copper
and since December last I have
not paid my way.
The expenses of the Office has not
been paid. On looking over my
Register Book I find that the line
has been down 2 Month and 4 Days
and the consequence is that I have
not paid my expenses nor the
expenses of the Office. For the Month
of January the line was down
14 Days Do do for the Month of
~~March~~ February 12 Days Do do for
Month of March 11 Days & for the
present month it has not been
up at all. So you see it is no gain
for me to stay. My object in writing
to you is to say that it is impossible
for me to remain here any longer

The Company owes Mr. E.R. Richmond
Two (2) Dollars for horse hire. To Mr
Wm Brown $1.00 for coal for Office
and lastly To Messrs L & S Rawson
$6.66 cents for room or office rent
for two months the space of time
that the line was down. The reason
the Company is to pay the rent is the
the line was down and I was
not doing anything had no money
& could not get any. I shall pay
them for the rent as long as
the line was up but do not ~~feel~~
think it is in my place to
pay them when I was not
earning any thing. Therefore the
above debt. Total amount that the
line is debtor to is $9.66 cents. I shall
leave the Office on next Monday still
I do not wish to leave it with out
some one going in my place
but necesity Compels me to do so
I do not know of any one that
would take the Office here from
the reason that nobody (to my knowledge)

knows the art. You can do as you choose send me the money to pay debts or send it to the creditors themselves it would be cheaper to send it to me & I would a little rather pay them but just as you wish.
The great fault is that the line was not kept up better and it seemed to me that they did not care wether the line was up or not. Now I will close & if there is anything you wish to enquire or have a knowledge of & I know anything about it I will give it with great pleasure. Please answer by return mail & let me know as to what I shall do. because I wish to leave Albion day. —

Yours Respectfully
William Atwater

Dr. C. Cornell
Albion
Michigan

Chicago Apl 27. 1855

To the Executive Com
Chicago & Milwaukee R R Co
Gents

I have just learned that the only proposition before you from or in behalf of the Erie & Michigan Telegraph Company is one signed by J. J. Speed Jr. as Pres't. dated in April 1854. At that time & up to July 1854 Col Speed was President of the E & M Tel Co. I was elected as his successor on the 1st of July 1854.

I make this explanation to show you the impropriety of acting upon that proposition, at this time and to call your attention to a proposition that I submitted to the President of your Co some time last winter, but which I presume has been mislayed, or in some way confounded with the proposition from Col Speed, as I am told that my proposition is not before the Committee.

I have not a copy of my proposition here, but it was substantially as follows,

The Erie & Michigan Telegraph Co. propose to build a good substantial line of telegraph from Chicago to Milwaukee along the line of your road. at their own expense and maintain and work the same at their expense, Excepting as follows.

They propose to do the telegraphing that

RR
your Company may require over any part of their line (which extends from Buffalo N.Y via Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Chicago to Milwaukee with offices at all intermediate towns.) free of charge, in Consideration that the RR Co will grant the exclusive right of way for the Telegraph along their Road, transport the material free of charge over their road, for building, repairing & working the line, and pass the men of the Tel Co free over their road for building, repairing and working the Telegraph. Any telegraphing that may be requisite, during the right, for the successful running of your Cars to be arranged for, so as to give you all the facilities you may require along the line of your road, on satisfactory terms.

In conclusion, I would remark that the Erie & Michigan Telegraph Co is the only party who own the Morse Telegraph patent for the territory covered by your road.

The merits of the only other system in use, the (House printing Machine) you can learn about by enquiring where the two systems have been in use side by side. I will however mention some facts that may throw some light on the subject. On the New House Printing Telegraph line from Toledo to this City, they are using the Morse instruments, and have done so

since the opening of their line. Such messages as may have been delivered to Customers ~~are~~ the printed slips from the House Machine, are printed on an instrument in the Chicago office that is detached from the Toledo & Chicago line & ~~worked~~ working upon a local circuit in the office. the messages having been previously telegraphed over the line by the Morse instruments.

Again. between Cleveland & Cincinnati there is two lines of telegraph on each side of the RR. one a House line & the other Morse line. The House, co purchased some of the ~~House~~ ~~line~~ Stock in the Morse co and then leased the Morse line, after which they suspended the use of the House Printing instruments and have since worked the Morse instruments on both lines -

Those facts are the best evidence of their own opinion of the merits of the two instruments.

Yours Respectfully

Detroit Apl 29, 1855

My Dear Mary Ann

We have smiling upon us here a most lovely Sabbath morning, it is the very type of heaven, many very many enjoy it, but alas, I am not among the happy number, I am just enough unwell to make me miserable,

Last tuesday, I went with Mr Curtis from Chicago to Ottawa, I began to feel unwell in the morning, and kept getting worse till I got there, altogether making a hard ride. I went to bed and doctored myself up that P.M & night, little better next day so I crawled about, some, the next day still better and returned to Ch & have been creeping about ever since but dont fully recover, though I feel better to day than I did yesterday, and hope to feel still better tomorrow,

I have the perspirations in hand for paying off the Mortgage of the Southern Mich Line and have got the funds ready, We, Mr Curtis & Mr Walker of Utica N.Y & myself expect to be at Jonesville to Morrow & Adrian the next day with 500 Eagles, ready for the emergency, We shant be caught by their refusal

to take currency in payment on the mortgage as they might do, We shall have the Gold,

This I trust will end the chapter of vexately communication last Nov by Cobb & Haviland, they will at last find me hard to crack, So this cannot be the end because, I expect a good law suit out of it. I shall sue the Providence Bank, to recover back the money, I paid them last June $66666 and damage I have sustained in the non fulfilment of their Contract, I think I shall give this job to Mr Chester in N.Y.

Mr Curtis is a first rate fellow, for the best President the N.Y. A & Bu Tel Co has ever had, and his Board of Directors are getting waked up to the importance of these western Connections, and they are so far Committed now then is no fear but what they will fight it out, We found at Ottawa that the McPhillips line gave the House line in Jan'y for messages amounting to $1042.57 in Feb $692.57 March $695.36 They gave us at the same time only for Jan'y $96.41 — Feb 127.83 — March $134.91 then is $2789.65 in these months that we are entitled to the whole of, and only got about $359.15 — We have now got

the promis of this business again which was our business to Ottawa, If they fail us on this promis we go in for a revolution on the Prairies, I own 1/3 of the whole line and my Utica friends own 636 shares together we own little less than half but are bound to controll it,

The receipts of that line has increased largely since last year and if it is honestly administered I should at least see dividends of say $1. per share which would give me $1,910- If I get it it will help me, if not I shall want to know why I dont get it,

Martins folks are getting along quite well. Mart who was sickest when I left there has been out making garden two or three days past,

I gave C.B.C a Note for $100. payable at the T.C.B.K, I wish Alonzo would help him to get the money on it if he can,

We are laying out so much for repairs & C. & C that funds is scarce, & I am sorry I did not have the money to pay him when he went home, as he is decidedly hard to please or at least I am generally unsuccessful in my efforts in that line,

I got a letter from C.B.C saying Frank was complaining, I fear he has the small pox

by this time; but I trust with proper care he will soon get over it,

If I can possibly spare the time this summer I want to take a trip around the lakes from here to Chicago and up Lake Superior, and want you to go along when I go.

It is 3 P.M and I feel as though I had but little strength, resolution or courage. My back aches, and I feel generally mean,

I have used up all the extract of the mandrake that Dr Morgan gave me I am not fully clear as to the value of it in my case. I gave Albert some one or twice and he thought it beneficial to him. It may be useful, and I want you to get some more for me and send it to Albion by express

I see a lot of boys in front of my window gambling with Pennies. I hope my boy Perry is better engaged,

Kiss my little Girls for papa, and tell them to kiss mama for me,

Write me often, and let me know when you will go to Providence, come out here or to somewhere else, How is Pattie and all.

Yours Affectionately

E Cornell

Mary Ann,

E Cornell
April 29th 55

Binghamton April 30th 1855-

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir -

I wrote you a few days since that I should probably want the money on that note. I do want it very much. Please send me a draft on receipt of this, as I have but a few days to raise $500, or loose a hundred - Do not disappoint me. Please Telegraph me on receipt of this & say when you send -

The old Line works very well from N. York to Newburg. Notwithstanding 110 miles of iron viaducts -

Folks all well & Send Regards to you & our friends in the west -

Yours Truly

P. A. Hopkins

P. S.

I Telegraph You today - Interest six months about $7. dollars - &

Dunkirk May 1st 1855

D. Sir

Enclosed pls find May report. You need not take any pains to hunt up a situation for Chas Ward the gentleman who applied to you from DK, as he showed his gratitude to me (for paying his board for 5 weeks & trying my best to get him a situation) by stealing $52. of me the evening of the 18th and sloping for parts unknown. This loss leaves me pretty hard up, and if possible please remit me imm[illegible]

Yours respectfully
Jn° A. Townsend

To W. B. Wood
Albion
Mich

Defiance May 1st 1855

Dear Sir.

Your Letter by Mr Gilson containing $20. and one a few a few days later of last M[illegible] were rec'd. I employed a man 3 days at boring holes East of this and in the mean time wrote to Mr Beach to know if he would furnish money to employ more men so that I could set up poles. He replied that men were at work who were used to the business. and thought I had ~~not~~ better not employ any more, as it would take all the money he could spare to keep them going. The man that I employed bored about 50 holes between Dr & Texas at places where poles had fallen. He used an auger and it worked well in this soil. Your men arrived at this place yesterday (Monday April 30) They were only attempting to get the Line to work until they should get to Wayne, and then were to return & make thorough work. It is one week today since they left Toledo: and they have set up a good many poles since they commenced. But yet the Line has worked but one day during that time: From 9 o'clock yesterday morning until 5 in the afternoon we had a good circuit to Toledo. Since then none at all. This

together with our experience for the last 6 months proves the necessity of repairing this old Line in the most thorough and substantial manner before it can be relied upon 2 hours at a time for business. I was out with your men. (Mr Lapler & 2 others) yesterday P.M. and believe them to be better calculated to do some good, than any hands that have been on this part of the Line at least: and if they can be kept here a few weeks they will regenerate the dilapidated old concern. I hope they will stay until that is accomplished. I am pleased that you still keep the House Co. at bay, and hope you will always be able to do so.

In relation to the balance due me, I should be in no immediate want of it, except that if I should quit telegraphing I might find it necessary to go to some other section of the Country and should need it. I do not wish to abandon the business at present if I can make decent wages: but 20 dollars per month is not enough: I can & must do better. But I will write again soon. and remain Respectfully Yours

S. A. Storey

E. Connell

S. A. Storey Alby 11/1855

Lafayette May 1. 85

E. Cornell Esq
Albion
Mich

Dear Sir,

Messrs the Best of the Gramercy Bank is not satisfied with your note if date altered by me.

When I wrote you first in regard to the Gramercy Bank letting us have the money you dated your note Apl 4th when I presented the note & Stock at the Bank. They wished me to draw but little at a time when I needed it very much as they were hard up. I agreed to do so & gave them checks for the amt drawn agreeing to give them your note when the $400 had been drawn allowing them interest on the several amts up to the time of the whole amt being drawn which appeared satisfactory to them. They called me in today as I was passing & wanted to arrange matters by taking the note as dated which would only give us the whole amt for 2 months, wishing to have the money as long as possible & as per my agreement with them

I declined doing it. They said if any change made in note by other than the party giving it made it valueless I remarked that they had $6000. to secure the payment of the $400, also that no other Banker of our city would question for one moment the propriety of my altering it from April to May— I stopped in at the Lafayette Bank & asked them in regard to it, they said they said it should not be objectionable to any one that they would be perfectly satisfied— The fact is the Brat (Mrs. C.) is afraid you are not good for $400,— all my transactions had been with the Cash— until today, I enclose you a note drawn up by them for you to sign & return to me.— I have drawn $300, from them, which I will credit in my April report & the other hundred less the interest in my May report or as you may direct, did you get my letter directed to Chicago & forwarded to Albion.— I have again repaired Perry with crossing, Insurance.— When can I see you— Yours. A. C. Haas.