

E W Chester

Feb 18 1862

Office of Chesters & Kennaday,

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,

E. W. CHESTER,
GEO. F. CHESTER,
JOHN R. KENNADAY. }

TRINITY BUILDING, 111 Broadway,

New York, Feb. 25. 1862.

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir,

I send yours of 19th for
which thanks.

Since then Mr. van Buren, the Father
of Geo's second Lieut. - introduced by
Geo. into the service - an educated talent-
ful young lawyer - one of the best offi-
cers in the Regt & whose was taken on
acc't of his superior fitness for the regular
corps - you see him spoken of in a letter
in the Tribune this morning with com-
mendation - as I was saying, his
father knowing all about the condi-
tion of the Regt, has seen the Adj't
Genl. Hillhouse & the Gov. on the sub-
ject. Genl. Hillhouse, after hearing
his acc't of the condition of the Regt & the
bad management of the French field

officers - said (being in haste to get out of town,) "well who are you in favor of for the Lt Colonelcy?" "Of Capt. Chester, decidedly, the best officer in the Regt." "So am I, (said Genl H.) & so are you perfectly." He advised him to see the Gov - which he did, talked with him & his aid, of the importance of having a good American officer in the Lt Colonelcy, & left it under advisement. I believe I have told you what the Gov. said to me some time since.

The poor Lt Col. (De Montiel) lost his life in endeavoring to maintain his own reputation & that of his Regt. For a while the Col. & others prejudiced George against him, but he found they were all wrong & refused to join with them in what he regarded a cruel prosecution of a man who knew more than any of them, tho' probably of an unfortunate temperament. Young Ben Bowen

when acting as the aid of Genl Foster on the battle field saw him & spoke with him in the midst of the battle. He felt gratified afterwards that he did.

I want you to understand this, that George does not ask for this office. He has in fact presumptively forbid my urging his name - say he works for the Regt & not for himself - personally is willing the Major should be promoted & to let things work themselves clear, tho' he knows the Major, as every one acquainted with the Regt does, to be utterly incompetent even for his present place. But it would be unwise to promote him - disastrous to the Regt. The soldiers need a man in at least the 2^d place in whom they can confide as an American. The Regt being mostly American - only 80 Frenchmen - ought to have the largest portion of the Field officers & staff Amer-

ican - Now they are all French to the great disgust of the Americans. The Col. I presume, will favor none but such as will be entirely subservient to him. He knows George to be the most competent man in the Regt - said to me in speaking of his superiority, that there were very few men like him & was unbounded in his praise. Yet as Geo. has acted independently in regard to the Lt Col. and other things - although obliged to treat him with courtesy & with confidence to the extent of putting the whole regt into his hands when absent & leaving him to remedy difficulties which he has not the tact to overcome - yet Geo. has no confidence that he would care to see him in any higher position. George says with competent field officers he would ask nothing better than his Company. It is pleasant to have a company of men attached to him, & to feel that they are better cared for than any other company in the Regt. Yet George's

25 Feb'y 62

Cornell Esq
Dear Sir I am
under renewed obligat-
ion to you for the
Report of the Board
of officers in relation
to the Volunteer Mi-
litia for the National
Defense transmitted
to me by mail
All right side up
in Comp Co (and
great rejoicing over
the late brilliant
Victory of our northern
army, if they could
have caught the
cowards & their Fleet
and Old A Wise I would
have been still more
Rejoiced

J. Robertson
25 Feb. 1862

I am much pleased
with the opinion
of Pres Lincoln and
Sigs Stanton viz
that the Rebels in
the seceded States
setting up claims
under the Fugitive
Slave law should
be heard or known
in law until pardoned
the gallows being
the only true par-
doning power they
probably will not
petition sd power

Respectfully Yours

J. Robertson

Courtland Feb 26, 1862
Dear Alouse

We are still here 2 P.M. with
a snow storm commencing, that
may again block the road be-
fore we can get away. if not
the prospect is fair for our
getting away this evening. We
have had three sweet calls, the
first yesterday from Miss Mary
Ballard, the second yesterday P.M.
from Mr Ballard, and the third this
forenoon from Mrs Ballard.
And we shall return them all
at wholesale. as soon as I get this
written by calling at Mr Ballard's
and perhaps remain until car-
time this evening =

This delay in getting to Albany will
prevent my getting back to attend

the sale of Walbridge's Mill.

I had intended to bid off the Mill at \$8,000, or up for the benefit of Judge Walbridge and have an understanding with Judge Dana to take a mortgage on the Mill for the amount of his and Southworth's present Mortgage on which the present sale is made.

You can bid it off if the sale takes place, at as little above Dana's Mortgage as possible.

When I bid it off before I had an understanding with Schuyler that the amt over Dana's Mortgage which I bid should be paid in those telegraph bonds =

If it is bid up above Dana's Mortgage it will be for the benefit of 2nd Mortgage held by Ivis & Wilcox =

With the above suggestions you must exercise your best judgment and do the best you can.

It may be as well for them to
postpone the sale until the
Legislature adjourns -

Write me if you buy any
ship -

Yours Respectfully
E. Cornell

A. B. Cornell &
J. M. Mason

New York July 26th 1862

Hon E Cornell

Sir I want to call your attention to a matter which interests me and many others in the same business. Mr A B Barber has been our Harbor Master for the last six years and has been faithful and served us well in all respects. Now I want you should see the Governor and do all you can to get him reappointed as I understand you have an interest in the Lake now it will be for your interest as well as mine to have him remain in office.

I understand there is a new man ~~that~~ wants the office a young Lawyer from Syracuse. Now such a man would ruin us we have our Birthe and Drinks located on the Piers and if a new man gets this office he may move us all and cost us more money than we can make in a whole season.

I hope you will attend to this and you will much oblige. I shall give Mr Barber a letter to you and hope you will assist him. I am yours truly

Thomas Kirtball

Cortland Village
Feb 21, 1852

My dear Sir,

Would you be so kind as, immediately on receipt of this, to go into the State Library & ascertain from the Censuses which you could undoubtedly find there, the number of sheep in this state for as many years back of 1840, as can be ascertained.

I have the number for 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, & none earlier or later.

I impose this trouble on you, my friend, because I know your business like promptitude, & because I believe you will gladly oblige me.

I suppose the printing

of my paper on Sheep
will commence at once
if it has not already commen-
ced. —

Our rail road has been
blocked for 2 or 3 days, but
will be open I suppose this
afternoon. —

Respectfully
Your friend

H. Emory S. Randall

How. E. Cornell

Please send me amount of
our population in 1845, &
1855 — & in 1860 if it is
get-at-a-ble!

On the whole send
it also for 1830, 1835 —

1830 = 1,366,267
547,041
1,913,508

1820 = 944,262
428,552
1,372,812

1810 = 959,049

1855 = 3,466,212

1791 = 340,120 of which 21,324 Slaves

1790 = 318,796

1850 = 3,097,394

1840 = 1,683,068
745,853
2,428,921

1800 = 565,437

1815 = 2,604,495

Speedsville July 27. 1862

Hon E. Cornell

I See you have been Elected
President of the State Agricultural Society I
am now fearfull Tompkins Co will loose one of
its Main Supporters having been promoted I Saw
Something in a paper about Statistics of Towns or
School districts Calling for Volunteers

Friend Cornell

how Can I Serve your agricultural interest in
my locality.

I am situated in the Extreme South East
Corner of the Town of Caroline & the same locality in
the County as you know 16 Miles from Athens
but I might do something to help along with
the Great interest of your Societies. I am personally
acquainted with Lyman T. Sumner of the Senate

Yours
D. L. Bush

E. W. Chester
27 Feb 1862

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TRINITY BUILDING, 111 Broadway,

New York, Feb. 27. 1862

My Dear Cornell -

A note from G. F. C. dated 25th says that he has had a pleasant interview with their General (Hatch) & that among other things he said he would write to Gov. Meagan that the interests of the Regt require that an immediate appointment to the vacancy be made.

In a letter of 26th he says he had just been informed by two or three officers that he was to be Lt Col. a rumor which he had traced to Capt. Willard who had been to Albany to get the place for himself. He says

"Although I feel a little regret at the prospect of losing my favorite rank & position, (that of a Captain,) I hope

that the rumor will prove true. I may be of some service to this poor, abused Regt. I am aware however that the position will not, in the present state of things, be quite as happy & comfortable as that I occupy at present. There will be thorns enough to compensate for the increase of rank.

I am not so sure however of the appointment as to feel at all disappointed if it does not come. The only real anxiety I have about the matter is lest I shall be lied about too strongly by my ^{unimpeachable} ~~unimpeachable~~ rivals. There is nothing that they would not say & do, if they thought they could defeat me. The billard party is the only one in the field & that consists of himself & probably the two field officers. I am not sure however as to the position of the field officers. They would probably prefer a stranger to either of the Capts. I understand that they favor St Victor

by gaining the Adjutant, a Belgian Frenchman - rather the best of the Frenchmen in the Regt. I am sure that the interests of the Regt require that no Frenchman shall be appointed. The heartless atheistic ways of these men has had its natural result - the men dislike them. There is scarcely a corporal's guard of Frenchmen left in the Regt - i.e. in the ranks.

"I have been congratulated by several officers upon my prospects. It is supposed that by my appointment the country will be saved a Count Martial, (always expensive,) & will get rid of two officers who have cost it hundreds of ~~dollars~~ thousands of ~~dollars~~ expense already - viz. the Col. & the Major."

This is the first time George has seemed particularly desirous of the appointment. His last letter insisted that I should not press him for the place or even propose

him. But myself & others who felt
for the men of the Regt deemed it
all important to them. The man like
him - & would go through any thing
with him because he has the repu-
tation of taking care of those under
his command. One thing is certain
if the Regt is thrown into George's hands
the plunder of the Govt & of the men
will be ended.

Geo's letter was written in haste
in the midst of a terrible gale which
seemed likely every minute to
blow down his tent.

I think you may without improp-
riety show this to Adjt Genl Niel-
sen who is Geo's friend -

Truly Yours

E. W. Chester

The Regt is about to get rid of its
non-surgical French uniform which
Geo. has always disliked - & if the French
men could go with it it would be a
capital thing for the service. There is no
difficulty between the Col. & Major & Geo. on
perfectly courteous terms - but they probably
know that if he is permitted he will have power to stop

entirely absent

104 State St.

Albany Feb. 27 1862

Hon E. Cornell

Dear Sir, The accompanying Petitions for the introduction of Homoeopathic Treatment into Bellevue Hospital in N. York City, have been sent to me from the several counties as they are endorsed.

If you have no objection, I will be very much obliged if you will present them to the Assembly. Perhaps the effect will be better if they are not all presented on the same day.

Very truly

Your Obedt Servt

George D. Paige

Hon. Ezra Cornell

Ithaca Feb. 27 1862

Dear Sir Will you allow me to trouble you with some of my own private business I will pay all trouble & expenses you may be at.

Enclosed is a deed to A. S. Cleveland Esq who is attending law lectures in Albany, I wish to have it tendered to him and a demand made of Eight hundred Sixty four ⁴⁷/₁₀₀ dollars, \$864.47 ~~if~~ which is the amt. due on the 3rd of March according to a statement enclosed. If he pays you give him the deed; if not please return it to me with his answer and say to him I was under a misapprehension about the Contract. Judge Dana told me after seeing it that it was a sealed instrument judging from the reading of it but he supposed he had only seen a copy & the seals were left off, whereas he had ~~only~~ seen the original and there are no seals on it.

Consequently it is necessary to close it immediately as the 1st payment will be outlawed 1st of April or the portion of it not paid.

Contract on interest from 1 st of April 1855	\$675.00
rec ^d July 20 1856	- \$100.
deduct interest then due	62.28
	<u>57.72</u>
add interest to 3 March 1862	249.69
	637.28
deduct amt. p ^d Smith June 1861	22.50
for boarding my son - say	<u>227.19</u>
	864.47

I am authorized to give a deed by virtue of a suit in partition and sale made by direction of of the Court & confirmed by it
Your attention to this will much oblige

Your O^bl. Servant
W. P. Luce

The amt. p^d Smith I put down from recollection I think it right but if it is not will make it so, it cannot vary more than a dollar I think

Fairfax Seminary Hospital
Near Alexandria Va. March 25th 1863

Dear Uncle

I rec^d your
last letter in due season
But I have not been able to
answer it until now.

I came to this Hospital the 26th
February and have been confined
to my bed ever since I have
been very dangerously sick and
am just recovering I have had
the Bronchitis and I am to
be Discharged the Doctor
makes out my papers to day
and I shall go home as soon
as I get able which I think
I shall be in a week or two.

This is a first rate Hosp^l
it is 2 miles west of Alexandria
it has very nice grounds and

a view of Washington
Alexandria the Potomac
and Maryland.

There is a Battle expected
on the Rapahannock soon
they are sending away all
soldiers who will not like to
be able to Return to duty in
thirty days.

well I am tired and must
close N.B. I do not think you
had better write to me here
again as the Doctor talks of sending
me home as soon as my papers
get back from Washington
which will be in 4 or 5 days.

Yours Respectfully
W. Irving Wood

Hon. Ezra Cornell

C. M. Storm
27th Feb 62

Newfield Feb 27th 1862

Mr Cornell

Dear Sir— Your line
addressed to me from Ithaca before you
left for Albany is as yet unanswered.
At the time of receiving it, I expected to see
you before you left. Circumstances ~~presented~~
since which time I have been absent from
home a good part of the time.

Upon my return the last week, on
looking over some numbers of the Co.

Paper rec^d while absent, I found a com-
munication from you in which you say
that men have been engaged in Newfield
and other towns to take the agricultural
Statistics for the present year.

I suppose I was referred to for Newfield.
By not having replied to your letter, asking
such aid, I would perhaps lead you to
assume that I had consented to again
take such Statistics for this town.

but I am so situated, this winter, that it would not be convenient for me to do so, nor could I do it without sacrifice such as I do not feel to make. You will please excuse me for not having written to you before. — While upon this subject I would like to make some inquiries in reference to the use made of the statistics taken last year, before the Board of Supervisors. In giving out the blanks I assured those who kindly consented to assist me, that the taking of the statistics had nothing to do with taxation, either in town or county — that the object was only that of obtaining accurate information as to our agricultural resources, which information was not to be used either to our advantage or disadvantage primarily, — merely adding to our stock of knowledge by correcting errors which were supposed to have been made in the taking of the U. S. Census.

While the whole amt of money raised in the county last year was less than the year before, Newfield had to raise some \$300.00 more,

which result was brought about by a change in the equalization of the several towns.

Upon the authority of the Supervisor of this town I am told that in effecting such change McConnell came before the Board with the ag. statistics taken in the several towns, & that they were used as something of a basis upon which to form a such equalization — if not exactly a basis, yet were used to influence such Board in coming to a conclusion as to the comparative wealth & resources of the several towns. —

Nifty & crafty as ~~are~~ the democratic party ever is, they seek to make political capital out of it & charge upon us the consequences of additional tax to this town.

Of course, sensible minds are not affected by such charge, for, responsibility can only rest with those who have a voice in the matter, or, in other words, with a member of the Board. The minutes show that our Supervisor not only voted for the bill, as it now stands, but, also voted down the only minority report presented.

It seems to me to be very bad taste ^{if not dangerous} for Democrats to send a Supervisor to vote (without protest) for a bill to effect a change in the equalization of the County, whereby additional taxes are added to our ~~town~~ town & then hold outside influences responsible for the result. If the representation made, that those statistics were used in such manner, is true, it seems to me very unjust from the fact that ⁱⁿ other towns, the returns were not only imperfect, but, from some very able districts entirely wanting. I believe them to be, in the main, entirely reliable from our town. From one or two dists they might have been given quite as full as the facts would allow - possibly, slightly exaggerated, but, on the whole, as correct as could have been taken. They who assisted were careful, prudent men, & could have had no motive to give otherwise than truthful returns. Had the other towns been as completely accurate as Kenfield, I would have had no objection to using them as a basis in making up the equalization for the County - as it is, I would consider it very unfair to Kenfield at least, that they should be referred to at all in any such connection. If you will give me the extent to which they were used you will much oblige me, for I am not willing that political capital should be made out of it, either to your disadvantage, or that of the party, to which we both belong.

Yours truly Leell Star

Oreago Feb 28th 1862

H. & Cornish Paid State Ag Fee -

Dr Sir. on my return from New York
I find a letter from B. P. Johnson Secy
Saying he wished me as V. P. of the Soc
& select 3 persons in each Co. to attend to
some duties hereafter & now that you &
I are in the same District I want
to have you attend to this duty for
me if you can, & am willing to do so.
I am going to be very busy, taking acct
of stock, & do not very well know how
to attend to it. & if you will do it, I
will be much obliged. If I can assist
you I shall be happy to try. But I
think you can arrange for our District
Hoping to hear from you soon
on the subject I am
Yours Respectfully
I. I. Chatfield
V. P. State Ag Soc

Albany Feb 28, 1862
Dear Glouco

Who is Scov, S. Garfield?
of Newfield

He writes to Truman
for an appointment as ^{Notary}
and encloses a letter from
Truman Bro^r as endorser,
I dont remember fully
about him but it seems to
me he is a little fishy -

I found on my return a
package from you with
notes to close trade with
Capt Wilcox, I have done
nothing with them underst-
anding you that the thing
had fallen through -

Did you buy any sheep
at Morrills Sale, & how
many & what price?

I don't get any money
or word of any kind from
Rochester. Have you heard
any thing from Elwood
since you sent the package
of boards?

Yours Respectfully
E. Cornell

A.P.C.

E. Cornell
Feb 28/62

Deliver House

Albany Feb 28, 1862

My Dear Sir

Returning to Albany from home, after a blockade of 50 hours by snow on the road. I found your several letters, one of which enclosing a line from Mr Taubman.

I embraced the opportunity this P.M. to see the Govr and fortunately found him alone and in good humor. I sat down and had a long talk with him respecting George. He approached the subject cautiously at first, enquiring what I knew of Geo how long I had known him &c &c.

My answers seemed to be satisfactory to him =

When I expressed a conviction that Geo was an Officer who deserved promotion when opportunity offered, he said he had seen Geo and liked his appearance, and asked if I thought he would make a good Lieut. Col. I answered "yes I have no doubt of it," The Gov^t replied "I believe I'll try him" -

The Gov^t mentioned the name of a person who I have forgotten that he said had been strongly urged upon him for the post of Lieut Col, who he said he should have appointed if he had not seen him, but on seeing him he was so impressed with his unfitness that he stopped short, with his intended appointment.

To sum up, The Gov^t talked freely on the subject, and expressed so freely and freely

that I have no doubt that George will get the appointment of Lieut Col of his Regiment. The weather is getting cold to night,

What about our relation telegraphically with the "Erie Railway", The review of the N.Y. & E. R.R. Co has not passed any vote for more than a year, The new Co continues to use our wires, I think it is time for us to begin to look at the thing and see what our position is, The "Erie Railway" has a bill now pending in Assembly confirmatory of their succession to the rights &c of the old Co - does our position give us any interest in the premises?

Yours Respectfully,
E. M. Chester Esq. E. Cornell

P. S. I cannot assent
to the trade with Mileap & Osburn
as they understood the prop-
osition from you, and I
lose what the Oil Company
Owes me = E. Q

Feb 28, 1872
71

Hon^{ble}

Egva Cunnell

Dear

I observe in
our Senate on 27th instant, (Thursday)
a Bill concerning the "Liability
of Husband & Wife" was ordered
to a 3^d reading. If not too much
trouble, I wish you would send
me soon a copy -

Have you heard yet from
Utaca, as to which of the
Blunt lots that were sold
for taxes, were occupied
or Enclosed - You mean time
I wish you would get the
Comptroller to defer giving
the deed, until you can
ascertain - Also also
find name & residence of the
purchaser, & if within your
way to communicate with

(the purchaser)
know just a what terms
they can be got back -
Probably the purchaser is
some one at Worcester - or
Albany -

Yours respectfully
F. W. Phillips

Garrison's Station
Hudson R R
Feb 28/62

I am not sure but that there
is a bill in assembly to amend
law of husband & wife - if so
please send me a copy of that
also -

also any bill of general
interest from time to time I
will thank you for a copy -

Delivan House

Albany ^{Feb 27} 27, 1862

Dear Sir

Your favor of 26th came
to hand to day. Geo was here
yesterday. I saw him a few
moments. He informed me that
he should leave that evening
for Conn -

Ramsdell was here but
stopped at Congress Hall &
did not get your package
which came to Delivan &
I now have it - I saw him
several days since & talked about
the Telegraph he talked friendly
said he would look into the matter
and would see you, I will return
his package to you -

I can only consent to trade the
Oil property for Brooklyn in the
basis of the Oil Company paying
my account as they do other

parties whom they owe—

I have no objection to
adjusting your share in the
division of the lot—

If that suits your view,
I will write Wilcox—

Yours Respectfully
E. Correll

E. W. Chester Esq
My

Ithaca 1 Mar 62

Hon Elected

Dear Sir

I take leave
to ask your usual prompt &
energetic action in behalf of
the appointment of Lieut. W O
Myckoff of Company A in the
32nd Regiment of N Y Volunteers
to the Captaincy of that Company
I thought at the time of its
organization that he was the
right man for it, & if the
Company had known him
then as now they would have
elected him, & if they were then
allowed to select their leader
much more competent are
they after a years experience
& acquaintance to do so & I
think Myckoff would be

their unanimous choice
- I know his habits to be
thoroughly temperate, he
is man of nerve & courage &
of commanding personal
appearance & I understand
he has exerted every nerve
to qualify himself for duty
in theory & practice & if I
did not believe the interest
of the service required his
appointment I would not
ask it. I suppose Colonel
Matheson desires it, & as
you know I have invested
about \$350 in that Company
I may be excused for taking

some interest in their having
a good Captain who has
shown himself fit for the
Station & who has acquired
the good will of the men
not by pandering to their
vices, but by a dignified
faithful discharge of
his own duty & attending
also to the real wants
of the soldiers

Moreover Wyckoff
is a Patriot in the
noblest sense

Probably any suggestion
on the subject is needless
but I feel too much interested
in the success of our arms to be
silent. Yours Truly
Geo D Peen

What would you think of suggesting to Congress or the Com. on Tariffs to put an Excise duty on all Petroleum Oil; there is no article that will bear it so well it, flows from the earth in rivers as it were and an Excise duty of 10 to 15 ¢ pr. Gallon would never be felt by the consumers & would work no injury to the manufacturers. The light would then be ~~more~~ than double as cheap as any light the public ever had till this oil was discovered and another reason for putting on such a duty the South will be very large Consumers when the war is at an end as it is more favorable for their Climate

than Candles. The duty should be on Petroleum
oil and not on Coal oil Cannot you suggest
this to the Com, having the matter in charge
it being a new article it may be overlooked

Geo. C. Curtis
Mar 1, 1862

TO DETECT EXPLOSIVE COAL OIL.—At a time like this, when so many accidents are occurring by the careless use of explosive coal oil, the following receipt for ascertaining whether or not the article is explosive, may not be out of place: Pour a small quantity into a saucer and bring a lighted match slowly down to it.— If explosive, the oil will blaze and flash up almost like powder; if not explosive, it will not burn at all. The latter only is safe for use. The very light coal and rock oils should be used with great caution for burning in lamps, as they are much more volatile, and equally as dangerous as the old explosive lamp mixtures of alcohol and turpentine. The burning oils which are most commonly used now are of a much lower specific gravity than those that were in common use about eighteen months ago.— They are quite cheap, clear, free from the fetid smell of old coal oils, and not so liable to smoke; but one pint of the old brandy-colored oil gave as much light as a quart of the clear light oil.

Utica March 1st / 12
Hon E. Cornell

Dear Sir

Yours of the 16th ult came to hand, I was glad to hear from you & to learn that the Legislature had under consideration a plan to reach the personal property in this State that has heretofore escaped taxation, I hope it will not adjourn without passing a law that will effectually reach it.

I recollect that some six or eight years ago our Assessors had difficulty in determining in regard to the personal property of the N.Y. Central Rail Road that was usually kept in this City in the shape of rolling stock &c but I think the Legislature afterwards passed a law that the Real Estate of all such Corporations

Should be apayed in the ^{General} towns
in the State and the personal
property or Capital after deducting
the said Apayments in the General
Towns, should be apayed at the
place where they transacted their
Principal business; I would like
to know if the N.Y. Central pay
taxes in Albany on their twenty
four millions of Capital after
deducting for the Real Estate
apayed to them in the General towns
where their Roads are located
So also the Erie & other Rail Roads
I think there is a Law excluding
Rail Roads & other Corporations from
taxation on their Capital that do
not earn a Certain percentage.

Would it not be right that the
N.Y. Central should at least pay
taxes on their Capital after having
got released from the State taxes

on the property they carry
and having all the other
privileges from the State & people
which they have obtained & enjoy.

Being fully aware that
in your present position with
your disposition to do all you
can for the public welfare
Your time is fully & more than
all occupied I feel quite reluct-
ant in making any suggestions
that will add to your burdens
and yet as the suggestions I would
make, have been on my mind
for some time I will make
them & leave them with you to
do with them as you think
best. It is in regard to the
Petroleum oils that are now
being manufactured & thrown
into market at so light a
density as to make them as

dangerous as Camphene
has heretofore been numerous
accidents have come to my
observation many of them very
serious causing the loss of
Life The particular cases I
will not here mention.

Owing to there being no demand
for the Naptha Benzole the
manufactures work it all in
and are now putting into market
an article that ranges in density
as high as 48 to 50 & 55 I have
tried several lots that has been
selling in this market this winter
and found none of it less than
49° Beaume This oil is now
being offered in this market as
low as 24 cents per gallon by the
Barrel Consumers are getting
to be afraid of it & are enquiring
for the Scarlet Bacoed Coal Oil
but I doubt if any of the Coal
oil Companies will be able

5/ in future to manufacture
Coal oil to compete with
the Petroleum oils, I am
quite certain the Breckinridge Co
will never start their works -
again. I would suggest
that the Legislature should
prohibit the sale of any Coal
or Petroleum Oils in this State
at a higher degree of density
than 42° Baumé at this
density the article will be
safe it will burn much longer
and produce a much stronger
light & the Consumers can ~~and~~
well afford to pay the increased
price which the manufacturer
would be obliged to charge to
make up for the exclusion of
the dangerous portions, the Naphtha
and Benzole, so long as there
is no demand for that article,

6/ But I think the time will soon come when there will be a demand for all the kerosene or Benzole at prices that will pay as well as to work it into the oil. I enclose a notice cut from a Buffalo paper. You will readily see that the plan suggested for discovering the explosiveness of the oil is impracticable & that there is no remedy but to prohibit its being manufactured & sold in the market at over a specified density. Such a law is necessary to protect the dealers as well as consumers and can work no injury to the producer & manufacturer if moved put all the manufacturers on a par. The Insurance Companies in New York City have had a meeting the past Winter & fixed extra hazardous rates on all property they

7/ Insure where it is kept but should the Legislature pass the law I have suggested the Insurance Companies could be easily satisfied that oil of the density I have suggested is not extra hazardous & thereby a great saving would accrue to the dealer. This is a new article & as yet but little understood by the Public.

The N.Y. Alb & Buffalo Tel co, have this day declared an extra div of 5 per cent. I think when you get up the New Company they will not be able to make Extra Dividends. I could get the stock of a New Company all taken in two weeks in small amts. all by business men who would furnish business for the Line. What say you to a Line of the kind to charge one cent a word for all Communications, I suppose you are now too much engaged to think or ^{fit} give it any attention. I have not heard any

8/ thing from Catons Lines since you
gave me the Statement last
fall When you get any further
information I should like to
have it, I am expecting to
get a Div on the Stock I hold of
the Ohio, Ind, & Ill co, this spring
With regards to Mrs. Cornell
Yours Respectfully
Geo Curtis

If the Manufacturers of the
Petroleum Oils should be obliged
to take out the Benzole there be
no more demand than at present
the price ^{of it} may run down so
low that it could be made prof-
-itable to use it in connexion with
your Coal oil by working it in
with the heavy oil which you
have heretofore had to throw
away. →

Delivan House

Albany Mar 2, 1862

Dear Mourso

Your favor 27th Feb is at hand, and I like your sheep operations very well except, the counter Order to Crocker, I should still like to get 25 of the choice of the Mitchell flock, and do the best we could for room for the present,

H. S. Randall writes me about a ram, of which he says he has the refusal "which though of moderate size shreds over 20 lbs wool, He has on ordinary keep shreds between 20 + 21 lbs,

I have seen two crops of his lambs, on some ewes that averaged $4\frac{3}{4}$ lbs, They will average 4 lbs of

Wool more a head than their
dams at least, indeed I think
they will average 6 lbs a piece
of washed wool, and they are grately
lower rounded & more compact
than their dams—

Randall proposes to buy him
and wants me to send 25 or 50
of our best ewes to him =

In relation to snow we had
a loomsome time of 50 hours
at Courtland, leaving then Wednes-
day evening, and reaching Albany
Thursday & still without much snow

P. A. Hopkins of Binghamton
writes me that he owes \$450.
on a mortgage on his house &
lot at Bw. which is due the
4th March inst, and the holder
of the mortgage won't wait longer
for his money. I have promised
to help him pay it, I want
you therefore to go on to

Binghamton and pay the mortgage
and take an assignment of it
for me, and have it duly recorded
& C. & C. And while there settle
up Benjamin's bill, or let him
have money enough to do it

What he owes Hopkins for board
which he (B) says will be \$39. It
may suit Hopkins to indorse an
year interest on the mortgage
and you can pay him the balance

After B's school is out he
wants to go to his friends to make
a visit. You may let him have
\$50. for this purpose beside, enough
to pay up at Binghamton, I don't
know how much it will take
to pay his small bills, but not more
I see by reference to his letter that
he will want \$12⁵⁰ to pay his bills, &
a few more =

Pleasant day, & war news expected
A. B. C.
Young Respectfully
E. Cornell

P. S. I want the Statistics
of our Ship building at Itasca.

Beers promised it to me, but
did not furnish it.

We may want a fleet of
gun boats built then soon

E.C.

Correll
Mch 2/2

Delwan House

Albany March 2, 1862

My Dear Sir

Your favor of Feb 27th
is at hand.

The Capt Willard that
you mention is the person
I referred to in my last whose
name I did not recollect.

The Govr said he should have
appointed Capt Willard to the
vacant office, if he had not
seen him, but at sight he
was so impressed with his un-
fitness that he at once chan-
ged his mind.

The Capt, probably understood
the Govr as readily as the Govr
did him, and hence inferred
that Capt Chester would get the
appointment,

I have no doubt that you
will rec^d the appointment
and should deem it impolitic
for me to press the subject
further with the Governor -

Yours Respectfully
Tim Haste

E. Cornell

G. W. Chester Esq
N.Y.

Hon Ezra Cornell
Albany, NY -

Thrace Mich 5/12

My Dear Sir -

There seems to be quite a feeling in our community in relation to the subject matter of the enclosed communication -

I enclose a letter to the Governor which you will please use when you deem it most desirable -

Please accept my thanks for documents with which you have been so kind as to favor me -

Our tickets are running for Corporation officers - Election tomorrow - Both claim to be Union - So you see that open discussion or intensely Democratic nominations are not in vogue among us - Since the Army is marching on -

Nothing new of special importance
Very truly yours
Cornwall, City

Ithaca, Tompkins Co, N.Y.

March 3rd 1862,

Hon. Ezra Cornell. Dear Sir,

You are probably aware
that the practice of Medicine
is not over flattering in the amount
of pecuniary success it gives to the
great mass of its votaries. This & the
number ^{of medical men} in our town, induces me to wish
to make some change to my advantage.
And I have been thinking that could I
get some employment in the State
Agricultural Society it would be
suited to my tastes, and useful
to both the Society & myself. My ar-
ticle in the Patent Report of 1860, shows
what I can do in that line; and my
own acquaintance with you also.

I know not how preparing the Report
he may be; or what opportunities &
plan I can have said.

If no better, it has occurred to me
that the Mass, agricultural Statis-
tics, Geological elements, & resources of the

County of Suffolk, be reported
as was the case with Onondaga
County by Col Sedgwick in 1859.

Corraferies - extending the Patrol
Office Report article of 1860;

Orchard Houses & their plans &
results.

Dissemination of Houses, in this class
of new grapes & plants would make
a long & good article for the
Report, very much needed now.

Such are some of my plans in
part. And could I execute them
at a fair compensation, not unreasonable
to the cost of the Society, I should
be glad.

Perhaps you have others better, that
you could suggest. Yours &c J. F. Parker

J. F. Parker
3. Mar 1862

Ithaca March 3. 1842.

Dear A. Cornell - Chyotiao Si - After considering the draft of the Bill, which you read to me, yesterday before you left. I was anxious to see you, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, I did not.

But I will say a word or two.

That if our flats or marshes could be drained, it would be a great pecuniary interest to the taxable inhabitants of this village - at least it would be worth, or a saving of $\approx$ \$1000. a year in taxes for repairing streets &c. - I speak not at random - but the sober truth.

For the last twenty five years upwards, our Corporation has expended not less than \$3000. a year, and sometimes more for highways or Street purposes -

It has been from year to year for the last 34 years one continual coating of gravel upon the streets; and it must be continued ad infinitum or to the end; until we can drain the flats - even if we should the drainage out the old village; after a year or two, they would become saturated with water from the flats that we should have to repeat the process, to make them tolerable - This I think you now understand pretty well -

I speak from 34 years residence in the village - and have not been an idle spectator during the time.

It is of the first importance to us, to drain these flats - And I can assure you, I saw nothing in your bill, that was objectionable - but might be of great good to the village - Therefore hope you will bring up, the question in the Legislature.

and this will bring out discussion at home as well
as at the Capitol. This is just what we want.

Believe ^{me} any plan that will drain our
flats or reflect, is a grand desideratum.

I tried & sick of the idea of draining the
flats by covering "Jack's Riff" - some 30 miles
below Monterey - &c. - Some 12 or 15
years ago, this was the topic, and all the hope
was to succeed - But time has shown, and
exploded this great "scheme" - For the water
has risen, in 34 years past, been as high
upon our flats, as it has been for the last five
or six months.

Hence something ought to be done -

I have thought best to throw out these few hints
- whether they will amount to anything or not
I don't know - If they do not, no one will be
harmred - for they cost nothing -

Perhaps it is of no use to urge this matter
at all - you may think it unwise to
agitate it - be it so - I shall be satisfied -

But I believe agitation will do no harm -

Unless something is done we are to remain
"in statu quo" -

all need - nothing new -

Respectfully believe me to be your friend
Saml. Love

S. Love
3 Mar 1862

Cortland Village
~~Let~~ March 3d.
Private 1862.

My dear Sir,

I have this moment
Rec'd yours of 28th ult.

I told you that two
or three persons & myself wanted
to hire one of Hammond's
stock pens - each paying
\$2. a head for his use to
each cow - the same I am
which Mr H. receives at home.
You said you would join us.

But Hammond declines
to let the pen we wanted
go so far from home. He
asks \$1500. for him - & the
pen is now 6 yrs. old.

I have been a steady
teacher for some of his

rams which other
persons have used, which
can be got hold of without
paying such an abominable
price.

I have found a four
year old bird by Hammond,
which weighs but about
140 lbs. in full fleece, &
he shears a few ounces over
or under 20 lbs. of wool - I
forget which. I never saw
looser or thicker wool on
a ram. He quite equals Hammond's
stock rams in this particular. #

I have seen two crops
of his lambs - got on ewes
running from 4½ to 5 lbs. The
owner said. (They did not
look to me over 4½) -

The ewes are not low
or compact sheep. The
get of the ram ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~them~~ ^{quite fat}
are as low & compact a
lot as I ever saw, & I
would venture \$500. that
they will average plump
one pound of wool more
than the dams. Indeed
they look like 6 lb. sheep.

I now saw so good
a crop, & the moment my
eye glanced on them, I saw
the ram was one of those
matchless stock getters which
occasionally come along. -

I would rather own
the ram, & keep his services to
myself - but I am ashamed
to pay the price, & submit

And he is now compact than either of them.

to the other conditions required,
without part of the pay back --

But I would not be bothered
with taking in small parcels
of swcs. In short, I wish to
reserv him to two or three persons
& to choose those persons.

You gave me authority to
act for you in respect to Hammond's
saw -- but as this is not the same
animal (though bred by H.) I choose
to again consult you & give you 9th
option.

My opinion that to you & me
this crop will be invaluable. --

If you put in 50 swcs I shall
let in 50 more & that is all, besides
my own. --

Yours truly

Wm J. Randall

Wm E. Cornell. Mar 3-62
H. J. Randall

P. A. Hopkins
Mar 4. 62

Binghamton Mar 4 1862
Hon. E. Cornell
Sir

I have just returned from a trip to the Celebrated Oil regions of Penn^a. I was induced to make the trip by a friend who was going, thinking it might result in some benefit to our business. But was disappointed as the distance renders it impossible to compete with similar shops in Erie & Dunkirk. But I unwittingly stumbled upon a small telegraph speculation. I found that the whole Oil Region centered at Titusville some 85 miles from Ind Communication, and found that the place was constantly thronged with men speculating in oil from every loyal State in

What shape is the wire in what size when is it?
Bing is well & nearly thing & has heard of a J. P.

in the Union, some on their own account, more as agents for heavy firms in Syracuse Boston New York, Cleveland Pittsburgh, Canada Chicago.

Places in Iowa &c. I had not been there 24 hours before I had seen many of these men as well as all the resident firms & refiners in the place & talked the matter up. All caught eagerly at the idea & I arranged to call a meeting and advertise the matter in the Village paper. & take subscriptions. How much I can get out of them is uncertain. Oil is down to the lowest figure, the roads are getting very bad for getting out oil. & matters look dull compared with what they have been doing. Had I have gone there two months

ago. I think I could have easily raised three thousand dollars for 35 miles without being bound to very strict specifications in building. 11 miles will be on the Philadelphia & Erie R.R. which was formerly the old Sunbury & Erie. I was not able to get at the amount of Capital used there during the last year. But I judge that a million bbls of the Crude Oil has passed through Titusville within the last year. and \$2. per bbl is the lowest it has been sold delivered at the R.R. this winter on good sleighing. Our thinks of it has cost \$4. per bbl at the R.R. so you can make your figures for your self. One well has run 200 bbls per day for six months & that is not half of the whole quantity. Three or four dollars per day will pay for operating & repairs &

Please give me your advice & also a chance to make
a little money if possible for business is dragging here
your
Gladstone

and a handsome dividend.
I think the business consequent
upon shipping the oil to & getting
it loaded onto the cars would
make this line a paying concern
saying nothing of business to
my & other places off the line.
Now as we have a quantity
of old wire in your hands -
Could I not have it at fair
rates to put up there & thus
convert it into something
available in the end, either
stock or cash - or would
it not be a good investment
to put it up & own the thing
ourselves. What is the wire
worth - & what are your views -
The people then will undoubtedly
have a line in some way very
soon. I think with the wire and
a thousand in cash I could put
it to work in six weeks as the ground
would not be fit before that time -

Confidential

Postscript 2^d

It was intended, I understood, to have my paper on Sheep printed soon so that copies of it could be distributed by the Legislature; & that it could go into the hands of the people in the winter, when they have time to give attention to such matters.

Mr Johnson wrote me that Van Benthuysen would commence printing it & would send me proofs as soon as he got through with a legislative document then on hand.

I have heard nothing from it yet. Perhaps it is going along

But I know how State
printers do such things so
well as also to know, that
the least impediment might
delay it for weeks or months,
unless a little wholesome
influence is exerted.

I have dropped a line
to Johnson on the subject to
day, & you had not better
let either him or Benthampe
know I have written you, for
they might take offence thereat,
^{much of age & infirmity}
but if you will speak to
both of them on the subject,
as if on your own motion, your
position as a member and
as President of the Society will
render your voice potent.

As President, it is your
business, & they can't complain
of your interference. Van Benthamp
is a very obliging fellow to
his friends: & he will know
enough to be especially anxious
to gratify you.

If the paper is worth
anything it ought to be
printed and distributed at
a period of the year, when it
will be of use. —

You will do me a
great favor if you can see
Van B. soon. Please tell me
the result

Yours friend

A. S. Randlett

How E. Cornell Over

I have another anxiety
on the subject. I am now
at home & staying at
home, so as to read the
proof sheets as fast as
sent. It will be less
convenient to be to tied
up some weeks since —
I sh^d. It go to print without
my reading the proofs

It would be a mere
blotch of errors. —

Aust Mar 11. 62, saying I will
send 25 or 50 ewes. & pay what
you say is fair & equitable not
exceeding \$2. per head EC

1862
Cortland Killap
March 5.

My dear Sir,
I have yours of
March 1st. —

I do not know the partic-
ular name of Merino which you
mention, but I saw Franklin sheep
a year or two ago ^{at Northville} & saw his rams. —

They were good sheep for
the country, & I think good
shearers, — but his rams lacked
fashion, & they lacked any such
weight of fleece, as Hammond's
rams. They were to the highest
style of Merino what the same
kind of men's cattle — "bought out
of old Eng — somebody's herd"
are to your improved Short Horns.

Merino never did & never
would breed from such a Merino

came as the Morino men
like. He sacrificed everything
that stood in the way of business.

Let these remarks rest
between ourselves. Other men would
feel perhaps that I had no right
to, let us judgment, on their
sheep — nor should I have
done so if you had not
expressly asked the question. —

12 lbs. of brook-washed
wool is not the thing now days.

By the by, I was mistaken
in telling you that the ram I
expect to have, sheared 22 lbs. of
unwashed wool. It was, I learn
from a letter recd? last evening
a trifle under 21 lbs. This
ram now weighs 132 lbs. !!!

What a proportion of wool to meat!

I got a letter from
Hammond, last evening, giving
his entire pedigree on the side
of the sire. He is every way from
the richest blood. H. says I
cannot get as good a sheep
in N. England for the price.

The price I would as lief
tell you as not, but to keep
my brother, & a thousand men
about me from knowing, I
retain the right to say, "I'll
tell nobody the price!" — It
cost far more than I ever paid
before. I consider it, indeed,
a ridiculous one. Still I think
it best to own the ram. In
fact I would own him if I
knew he would die after one

careous thing — But we
have no choice but to do this
country — & if I should mention
the price & then afterwards one
of my horses should break
his leg, the good old people
would say: "well, I expected
this when Randall saw me
on sheep."

After grave reflection, I
have determined to buy him
"anyway"

Yours truly

Henry J. Randall

How E. Cornell.

Henry J. Randall
March 6th
Marine Room

Postscript.

There is a special reason why I do not wish my contemplated purchase of this animal to be known to any one besides yourself for the present. — I will tell you the reasons, when we meet.

I suppose you have got my letter in regard to statistics. —

American Telegraph Company,

OFFICE, No. 145 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK.

March 5. " 1862

E. Cornell Esq

My Dear Sir

I met today Messrs
Hunk & Livingston of the Am. Tel. Company
They regard the amendment of yours to the
Tel Law as particularly unfriendly &
as originating in the efforts of F. O. Smith
& others to lay block mail upon them
& the Telegraph interests generally

I Explained to them your object
& assured them you did not aim a
blow at them

I hope you will so manage the
amendment as to have it result in
a failure to become a Law. It will be
impossible for us to escape censure from
not only the American Company who
will be first injured by the effect of the
Amendment but from all our associates
in the confederation

You are in a situation to do
the American Company a very great favor
and place us all under great obligation

the practical results of which will be
to incline the sympathies of all with you
in the controversy with the Buffalo Company
which cannot fail to influence a favorable
settlement with them.

I recommend you to so manage
as not to withdraw suddenly from the
attempt but to control the matter so
as to have it defeated when brought
to a vote or fail for want of time.

Please let me hear from you
direct care of "Willard's Hotel" Washington
Yours Truly

Hiram Sibley

H. Sibley
5. 11. 1862

Attaca March 5, 1862
Hon. A. Cornell -

My Dear Sir
- I have taken the liberty
to appoint you as attorney
for John Baird of Caroline
to draw from the United
States Agent for Paying
Pensions at Albany - Thos. W.
Alcott Esq. \$48. for Mrs
Baird Pension for 6 months
who was blown most
all to pieces at Black Rock
in the War of 1812.

These papers are right.
Be so kind as to refer to

the Bank will get a
certificate for the amount
in my name & the
amount you have to pay
for Proof &c. and then
enclose the Bank draft
or certificate, take out
portage & to me and
much oblige your friend
- I have ^{Paid} Mr. Baird for his
Pension -

all well.

We were beaten on the
Corporation - Slouso says
Whiskey & Secker beat us.

The early thing is selling
Whiskey. But our Board of

Agree, by our last
granted insure
Resented

I understand that the
Board will see a hal
there is in the law.

- If executed, would
close up every grogshop
in town -

I enclose your
reply

Saml. Luc

Danby March 5th 1862

Wm E Cornell. Sir enclosed you will find some Pension papers
for Dinah Mount an old Pension Lady (86 years old) of our town. Will
you attend to it for her & send a certificate or draft as you think best.
Payable to her order, and retain for your services to compensate you

Yours truly

L. C. Beers

PS They have the Justices name certified to by the
County Clerk here, & for that reason I have not sent certificate.

L. C. Burns
Mar 15 1882

Please Direct the Letter to
L. C. Burns
Danby
Tompkins Co
N. Y.

E Cornell President of
the State Agricultural
Society. Sir I should
like to hear from you
L C Burns