Jacksonville
July 15th 1866

Dr Brother

Mr Mattison has just returned from Newland and says he has got the refusal for 2 Wks of a small lot of very fine peaches Viz.
"Hales Early." He says they are two Wks earlier than any other variety in this section and a very superior Peach.

Do you know any thing about them? and shall We order set out some of them, they cost $5. per hundred. Mr says Judge Wells sold them last summer for 60¢ a piece all Nell

Yours Respectfully
J. H. Connell

E. B Cornell
Feb 15. 66

Ithaca 15 Feb 66

Dear Brother

Yours of the 8th came duely to hand Mrs Gile is much pleased that she can have the hall, In speaking of the Cascadilla place I wanted to know if I should give a bill for the ballance of the cut stone as the man who is cutting them wishes to be getting them out this winter while he is not hurried with other work

John Ellis has got 40,000 feet of pine lumber, inch inch & half & two inch and he says a good lot which he wants 25.00 per M I think he will take less he will deliver it here had we ~~not~~ better look at it and it will bear inspection any time he is in no hurry for

the Money would like to
hall it down by Weighing which
is now pretty good

What will you take for the
property when Mr Lucas is
William will have to get
some place when his time is
out when he is, as Morrison
wants $300 a year for it; they
are doing a fine business and
would like to stay untill the
Expiration of Seymour & Johnsons
lease which I believe is three
years I dont know what the
boys will do they cant find
any place yet; perhaps you
can suggest something
Morrison offers to sell 20 feet
of the north End of the
premises when the boys are
for $150 per foot

Yours &c E.B. Cornell

Ithaca Feby 16- 1866

Hon. E. Cornell

Dear Sir:

The Davis dwelling-house and Green House attached took fire last night from a defective flue and burned down. In your absence and that of A. B. I have assumed to investigate the question of Insurance & to try to save the $800 to which you are equitably entitled. The facts as stated by Cook are these: he had an Insurance of $1000 in the Central Ins. Co of N.Y. of which Lucas is agent for $500 on the dwelling; $300 on the Green House attached, and $200 on the plants in it. Before selling to you the Policy was about to expire & he had it renewed by Lucas but not actually paying the premium — Lucas

trusting him for it. afterwards & before paying the premium he sold to you. After that he called on Lucas & paid the premium & while doing so asked for a memorandum of the payment - saying that he had sold to you, that he had agreed with you to assign you the policy and wanted a mem. of the amount in order to have you repay the premium to him to which Lucas assented & made the memorandum of amount which Cook has. The policy never was assigned in writing nor was the written consent of the agent given.

You will see there is here a fair chance for a technical defence but I have seen Lucas, whose memory nearly agrees with Cook's. They are now together at my request and Lucas is making up a memorandum to send to the Company which he promises to give me a copy of. I have not investigated any of the questions involved but am simply trying to get as favorable a statement of the facts before the Company as possible. If the Co. is fair and respectable they will not stand out on technicalities.

If you have any suggestions or directions to give I will be governed by them. In the mean time $800 is worth a little trouble to try to save.

Yrs Truly

D. M. Finch

STATE OF NEW YORK.

Senate Chamber.

ALBANY, Feb. 16th 1866

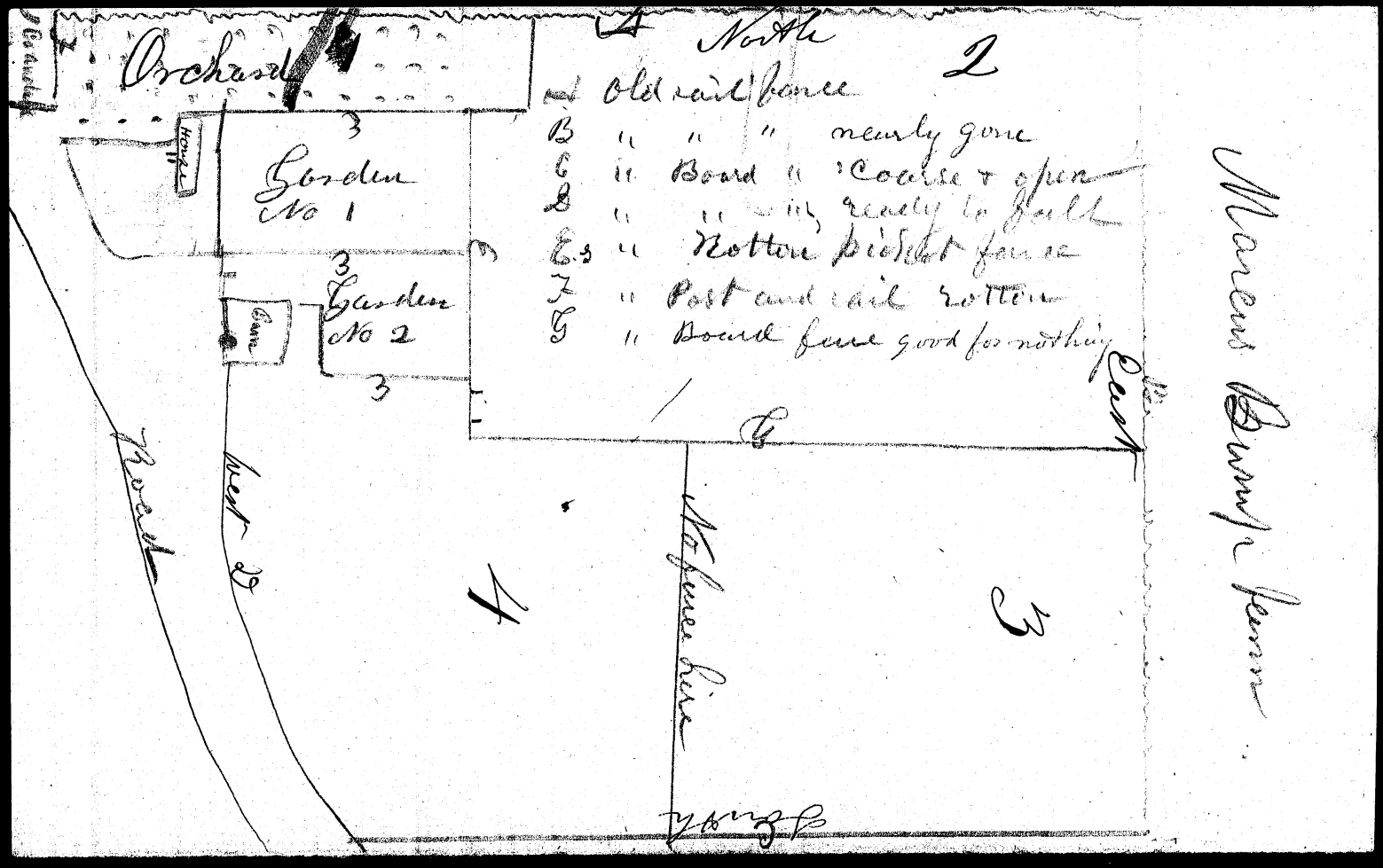
Hon E. Cornell

Dear Sir

Will you be so Kind as to meet the Finance Committee at the Senate Library Room

Yours Truly

W. L. Sessions


Orchard
Garden No 1
Garden No 2
House
Barn
North
A Old rail fence
B " " " nearly gone
C " Board " Coarse & open
D " " " ready to fall
E " Rotten Picket fence
F " Post and rail rotten
G " Board fence good for nothing
East
Road
West
Wire fence
Young
4
3
Warners Bunyer Farm

Ithaca Feby 17th 1866

Hon Ezra Cornell
Senate Chamber
Albany NY

Dr Sir – Yours 14th Inst
What is known as the "Ithaca
Canal Line" – Consists of Thomas
Kimball Agt & South St NY (who has
been there for just 30 years)
Mr Kimball conducts a line of
N Y freights from NY to Ithaca
and intermediate points –
He advertises having Seven of navigation
from day below – boats mostly belonging
to Ithaca parties to take his
freight – any information you may
desire further than above – Mr
Kimball no doubt would be pleased
to furnish –
Very Respectfully Yours Wm W Esty

Ithaca Feb 18th 1866

Hon Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir Miss Eunice informs me that you desire me to superintend the purchasing of materials for fencing the lot she occupies and also the fencing of the same I will do so to the best of my ability but would like to know how you would prefer to have it fenced I enclose a diagram of the place and will describe the condition of each fence and name the material of which it is made

A is an old rail fence between your lot and Widow Anza Gage

B is also a rail fence between your lot and Marcus Burnap's fence

These two fences would make a good fence if your half on the north side that would have

over

East side without any fence
I think there could be found
posts and boards enough sawed
from C. D. & E to make a fence
good enough for this vacancy
Then there would be your 1/2 of
C Road fence D and middle
fence E that rough boards
and posts would do well
enough but would have to be
got new The Garden fences E. E.
E E are worthless and will have
to be new The short fence F between
your lot and James Crandells
(the man who worked with you
for Hosea Crumb) is a post and
rail fence somewhat cantled
over I do not know but this
fence might be righted up
so as to stand a while as it is
G is an old board fence between
the meadow 3 & plow lot 4 and
pasture 2

We can get no timber for
posts here that will last more
than 8 or 10 years Our best timber
are red beach hemlock or soft maple
I think I can get white Cedar
at about twice the cost of red
beach Hemlock boards will
cost $10 per thousand I have made
no estimate of the amount it
will require to build the fence
but will do so if you desire it
before I purchase
Accept my thanks for the
Almanac & Documents

Yours Truly
J. W. Dedmarter

P.S. Eunice says she has examined
the old Bible and does not
find the names you required
dont recollect

JWD

Athens Pa Feby 19th 1866

Hon Ezra Cornell

Dr. Sir I do not know the provisions of your Railroad law. but would suggest that if not contained in it you should get the Authority to allow you to cross any Railroad in your State at grade or otherwise. as the State Line is South of the Erie Road. also allowing you to extend your Road across said line if necessary with the consent of this State

I wish you would send me copy of your genral R.R. law. also your State Engineer and Canal Auditor's report for 1865.- I have the Canal Commissioners Report

I hope you may be able to put your road in motion very soon. Let your Engineers make a thorough examination of all the routes from your place here. The money spent in thorough examinations by good Engineers is well spent. We of course shall favor the shortest route of lowest grades to the Lakes. We have no idea of being twisted out of line to serve any locality. and will not do it. The road first built to us will no doubt obtain advantages. I wish your Road had been called the "Ithaca and Athens" or "Ithaca and Waverly" "Ithaca and Athens" is the proper name

We will give you all the influence we can. if you give us the most direct line and easiest grades. and trust to the future. I am glad to hear that all obstacles to your Ship Canal seem to be removed. and hope you may succeed with it to your full satisfaction. if successful you make Ithaca a great inland city.

I would urge strongly upon you the passage of the Chenango bill. and would suggest you make the appropriations equal to the first which will fully complete it. We must know whether the Canal is to be completed or not to enable us to adapt ourselves to it. In case it is not to be done. we must take steps to insure a supply of water from the Chemung. This can only be done by stopping the diversion by your State of water at Corning for your Chemung Canal. For this diversion at Corning we had hoped to be compensated by an equal amount from the Susquehanna River via the Chenango Extention at this place

Yours truly
C. F. Walker

Genl. J. F. Carey
19th Feb 66

2/19/1866

Delavan House
Monday Morning
9 A.M.

Ezra Cornell Esqr

Dear Sir— We go to Troy this morning— I will come to your house tomorrow. We will stay at Troy until Wednesday—

Truly Yours &c
J. F. Carey

Ezra Cornell Esqr
Present

Office from Rochester, Feb. 19th

To State Agricultural Society —

Dear Sir, I send herewith herewith a Landscape Plan and Practical for proposed Agricultural College drawn by myself which you directed me to attend to which have some explanatory notes; with my permission I will discuss them when I see you — I have learnt here of determined methods of education for the young here — who are to have the benefits of a solid practical education.

Mr. Gray charges me with his compliments and invitation that you spend Saturday & Sunday, the 24 & 25th with him at the State Asylum

to see her Sanitary Commissioners & Commissioners — I also shall be very glad to discuss some weighty Hospital questions and have your opinion on certain measures which may if deemed practicable be brought before the Legislature at Albany.

Very respectfully,

D. L. Dix.

E. B. Cornell
19 Feb 66

Ithaca Feb 19/66

Dear Brother

I dont know but you will think I am troubling you with a great many letters but Mr Daverson wished me to write you and let you know of some of the particulars of his misfortune, the night that he was burned out was a very cold one thermometer at zero his first object on discovering the house on fire was to try and put out which he failed to do for the want of water he then turned his attention to saving his furniture and clothing which they saved the most of, all this time they were but partially dressed having on no shoes or stockings, no one came to their assistance and by the time they got ready to take care of

them dilboes, they began to cast about for their shoes & clothes but could not find them and started off to the neighbours bare foted and consequently froze their feet and legs nearly to their knees and both Davis and his wife are in a bad condition it is feared that Mrs D will loose her feet altogether

There has been Subscription circulated for their releef precursor by which they have raised some $200. The fire originated in the green house attached to the house, from some of the flues Davis having made up a strong fire on going to bed

Please say to Mary Ann that the furs were received at Easton on our arrival there having been forwarded from here

Yours &c E.B. Cornell

Albany Feb 20. 66

Dear Brother

Your favor of the 15th
is at hand. referring to
Peach trees. I think we
had better set out a
few more, enough
at any rate to fill
vacancies in ground
set last Spring —

We should set a thousand
or More Apple trees in
the Spring —

All well —

Yours

E Cornell

J H C

1/1/1-

S Cornell
Albany July 11
1866

Hon Ezra Cornell

48. E. 20th St. New York
Feby 20th 1866

Hon Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir.

I am informed by Mr. Walker of Utica that the Trustees of the Agricultural College which you have so munificently endowed, desire me to paint a full length portrait of you for them. — I need not say it will give me great pleasure to do so. — What arrangement about the sittings will it be most agreeable to you

to make.— ? Perhaps you will visit New York and can give me sittings in my own Studio where I have the finest possible light, having made an attic in my house for the purpose. — Or would you prefer to sit in Albany.— I feel a strong interest in the proposed picture and shall like to make it as perfect as my powers will allow.— When you can find leisure from the pressing duties of the Senate, please write to me on the subject and

greatly oblige.

Very respectfully Truly
Yours &c

D. Huntington

Ithaca Feby 21st 1866

Hon. E. Cornell.

I send you herewith Deed of the "Cornell Library" for you to execute as you requested when here last. It follows literally the first provisions of the act which I deemed it wise to insert at length. To enable it to be recorded here it should be acknowledged before a Judge of the Supreme Court - or if before a Justice of the Peace, Com'r of Deeds or Notary Public you should also get the Co. Clerk's certificate & Seal affixed. The acknowledgment is drawn - all but the date - on the last page. - It will require no stamp. The Department has decided that a Deed of Gift requires none & under the act there is a way of putting that question at rest

which I shall adopt on the return of the Deed.

When executed you can return the Deed to me with directions to deliver it to the Board & I will call the first meeting & do so. I dated it March 1st expecting to have the meeting then & the annual meetings on the same date thereafter.

I enclose also petitions to upset the act of last winter with reference to Game Laws which was at bottom a piece of private piqué & which disarranged the whole legislation on the subject. Before that we had Cayuga Lake protected. Now it is not & we are anxious to have the protection restored.

Please speak to Congdon about it & you will oblige us all much & do the Town service if you can get this bill through.

Lucas has made his statement & sent it to the Ins. Co. We shall get their answer soon. When I can see books I will attend to the right of way matter.

I will get to Albany to your Trustees meeting if I can but I am so driven that I hardly have time to eat and sleep.

Yours Truly

D. M. Dunch

D B Cornell
El. Feb 67

Belvidere Feb 21st 66

Dear Brother

Yours of 16th inst is at hand in answer to my enquiry about the price of those Lands &c. I have written to the Gentlemen to whom you refered at Eau Claire Wis. & also to Elijah C Chace of Kansas but I have recieved no answer as yet. I had about made up my mind & that I would go either to Wis. or Kansas and get a piece of wild land and thus make a home for my family but after mature reflection I have given up the idea for the reason that my health and constitution is too much impaired to endure the labours & privations necessary to such an undertaking. I have no no desire for great wealth or worldly honours, I only desire the comforts of a humble home where my children

can have the benefit of good schools
and I had hoped that it would be
a pleasure to you to assist me with
a small portion of your great wealth
to obtain a home here. — I have
given three of the best years of my
life to my country, and have returned
to my family war worn and broken
down in health & maimed for life.
for all of which I have received my
A pay and rations, a medal of honor
monthly
and a pension of six dollars pr month.
in addition to which I receive the
applause & congratulations of Loyal
& Patriotic men who stayed at home
But thank God poverty is neither
criminal nor disgraceful, and at
present I am able to earn my
daily bread & my children can
attend the free schools of our noble
state. — I have no fears of starvation
& shall not be compelled at present
to exchange the honors I have won
for bread & butter. — Yet I cannot
tell how soon I may be compeled to
ask it of the county.
I shall keep the medal for my
children who will probably prize
it more than I do.
If I had help to buy me a farm
here I have no doubt that I could
pay it back dollar for dollar, as the
boys grow up to help me. Yet I can
get along without it
The place I had rented for this
year has been sold (or bargained) and
this winter but from some cause
the trade was broken up and I was
told today by another man that he
is about to buy it and wants to get
immediate possession, but I have not
sold out my claim nor shall I do so,
I have no wheat for seed and I
have to pay for a building that
was accidentally burned on the
place I now occupy, which must

be settled by middle of march.
It will probably be not less than
$50. and I have no means to meet
those demands except I sell my
stock. — however I shall do what
seems to be right + for the best
as far as I can.
Had it not been for the damage
to my crops last year by the rain
in harvest + the early frost. I could
easily have met all my engagements.
My family are usually well. I had
a letter from Deborah last week
all well there

Yours Respectfully

G. B. Cornell

G Cornell
Albany N.J

Levittsville Feb 22nd 1866

Hon E Cornell

Dear Sir

I send you a petition for the "Ship Canal" by Mr Geo. Brown who goes to Albany to attend the Annual Session

I trust you will be able to make it go through the present session.

I have seen or heard nothing from you for a long time. Is he still in Albany?

Yours very truly

H B Lord

2/22/1866

Dear E. Cornell.

In one or two of your last letters you have asked me the worrying question as to the future of Cascadilla Place. I have thought it all over until certain views of the matter have impressed themselves deeply on my mind. And I now propose to give them for your careful consideration because they are not a hasty growth.

1. We cannot raise in the town of Ithaca $5000 more for Cascadilla Place. Those who have given have given as liberally as they should have done & very many perhaps more. Not more than one or two of them can be induced to add to his subscription. You will find this fact most certainly true. I have broached the subject to almost all and I know we can do no more in that direction. Those who did not subscribe in the first instance will not do so now. At the beginning the project was new & hopeful; now a general despair & doubt has settled on the People & I know you cannot raise $5000 more.

2. I think it is idle to rely on Miss Nivison. She has said, I am told, that if her position in the new Institution was rendered secure she could raise $20,000 towards its completion. At my suggestion Boardman asked what she required. He got no definite answer - really nothing but complaints. I doubt her ability

to fulfill what she has promised.

3. A prevalent & deep-seated idea that the plan entered upon will prove enormously expensive & then perhaps fail has fastened itself on the public. It will take $ 30,000 to finish the building: $ 20,000 more to furnish it, put in its necessary heating lighting & bathing apparatus; and $ 10,000 more at least for the grounds, bridges, Gymnasium &c. We must look these things in the face. We have not got & cannot get the funds. You ought not to & must not put another dollar into it. The University will absorb all you ought to be willing to give after the completion of your Library plans.

4. It is apparent now that there is danger, great danger of failure. Nothing can be done the coming year evidently. The question presses itself - what shall be done. I will tell you now what I propose.

Let us so arrange that all you have done for the Cornell Library - all that has been done for Cascadilla Place - shall go into and become part of the "Cornell University"

1. Let the subscribers to Cascadilla Place release to the University all their interests in the Institution. Let that building be modified

somewhat, completed at once, & the University may be organized & running in one year from to-day! Its basement & dining room arrangements will be just what you want. It can easily be made to answer all present purposes - and eventually - & with its convenient water power it will be just the place for your School of mechanics, mining and engineering

2. Take Giles' for your Presidents house; add his grounds to the University & buy a broad strip right through to the South including your Cook place, clearing off all buildings as fast as needful - temporarily perhaps using some for boarding horses - running a street North & South along the rear & making the lawn or campus on your Cook place. These grounds could be made a magnificent site for the University. So far as my father's place is concerned, he is now trying to sell it to individuals & I will guarantee that the University can have it at a lower price than he can to-day sell it for. No interests of his shall in any way be subserved by the adoption or rejection of this plan.

3. Then make the Cornell Library the Library of the Institution. It will then be near enough for all practical purposes - its Library will become at once available & will serve two

purposes instead of one: its large hall will do admirably for "Commencements" and exhibitions: the Law department could be organized in its upper rooms & the grand result can be accomplished of fusing into one magnificent whole all three of these separate enterprises.

Such an arrangement ensures prompt & immediate success; gives instant vitality to your institution; will enable you this year to organize your corps of instruction & get to work next year

Consider the question of cost. If you give the University 100 acres of land that is 10,000.
Your building will cost say 70,000
" Presidents House " 6.000
Cost to begin. 86,000

On the other hand the University can probably buy as follows

To finish Cascadilla Place		35,000
Of Giles for President	day	10,000
Cook place	"	8.000
Dwight	day	4.500
Godfrey Estate		1.000
Guestis	"	3.000

A. D. White
2-2-88

[2-22-1866]

Small houses in between &c. 10,000

$ 71,000

In other words I think the University can get its completed Building, Presidents House & grounds on this plan in one year for just about what the building alone will cost at Stall Creek, & be two or three years in process of completion.

In this arrangement one good substantial Library takes the place of two smaller ones; Everything is at once made useful and effectual.

But even if your judgment will not carry you as far as this at least I do think that Cascadilla Place should begin the University even if ultimately all the other buildings should be on the North side of the Creek. It would Even then, make a magnificent Medical Department or Mechanical & Agricultural school both of which are better to be somewhat separated from the main cluster.

I have no doubt that I can carry with me in favor of this plan every Trustee & Stockholder of both the Institutions affected if your judgment concurs.

One word more. I make these suggestions

simply as suggestions. I shall prove neither obstinate nor prejudiced because I have presented these views but I think they are worth serious reflection and should not be hastily rejected. At all events I can see no other future for Cascadilla Place.

Yours Truly

D. M. Amidon

1/1/1

Tribune office newyork Feb. 22 '66

Hon. Ezra Cornell.

Dr. Sir. I write in behalf of humanity & mercy. I want a law to prevent cruelty to animals upon rail roads, and consequently the use of a great deal of unwholesome meats.

I have known bullocks sold in newyork, & driven directly to the slaughter yards, which had not tasted food nor water after crossing the Mississippe at Quincy Ill. Five days of fasting & fever. Is such meat fit for human food?

It is a common practice on the Erie road, to run a train from Buffalo, to Bergen, 44 to 48 hours, and drovers are now calculating that they can do the same thing by way of Albany, in case of a short supply, or any detention on the

It shall not be lawful for any R R within the State of New York to confine within their Cars

central road. They will push the stock forward without unloading at Albany.

It is not uncommon that such over-driven cattle die on the passage. I have known five dead ones pulled from one car. The living ones were immediately butchered & sold for food.

We must have a law to prevents any rail road from keeping bullocks & sheep, over 24 hours upon cars without unloading: and from receiving & carrying any that had not rested 12 hours immediately previous.

You will do a favor to humanity. if you will get such a law enacted. Respectfully your friend.

Solon Robinson.

Ithaca. N.Y. Feby 23, 1866

Sir: In conversation with Finch yesterday in reference to Cascadilla Place & its prospects, I expressed my opinion that it was simply impossible to raise money here to complete it. Acting on this he stated to me the general features of a suggestion he presented to you touching a combination of the Library, the University & Cascadilla Place. I have after 24 hours consideration become thoroughly convinced that his plan, in whatever detail it may be adopted matters little, is the only feasible & safe one. Pardon me if I urge upon your consideration some of the

F. H. Selkreg
23 Feb 66

thoughts which occurred to me. Cascade Tunnel was commenced in the fall of 1864 & considerable work performed that year. It was pushed vigorously during 1865 & at the close of the Season had progressed 1/4 the 2d story. Now, how much faster could the tunnel be built. If no faster is there not great danger of a failure to reach the desired & necessary point by July 1867? Again, How are the professors & the accommodations with horses when all the available labor must be put upon the tunnel? And still further as a means of convenience to the Students, &

Economy in all its Departments
is it not desirable to place
the University on the East Hill
rather than further South as you
have?
There is no reasonable doubt that
the Subscribers to Barcaldine Place
would donate their Subscriptions
but even were it not so, is not
the work performed worth all
it has cost?

Under the proposed arrangements
there could be no doubt of
success, in point of time but in
my judgment none in reference
to the University itself.

What you views in reference to
the plans presented by the different
architects I have no means of know-

ing, but these were none which satisfied me, if not entirely satisfactory to the committee more time, valuable time must be wasted in procuring suitable ones, & when obtained contracts for materials must be made & you are well aware how tardy ~~as~~ large institutions like the University move especially in its commencement.

I pen these lines to urge upon your committee the adoption of some plan embracing the general theory of combining these institutions into one strong healthy one, rather than several divided & partially or entirely weak ones

Yours truly

J. H. Kellogg

D. B Connell
2 E. Feb 66

Belvidere Feb 23d. 66

Dear Brother

When I last wrote to you I supposed I had settled for the coming year and thus wrote to you. I rented a place owned by a widow woman. and a son-in-law of hers. who has lost his wife and is fishing for another daughter. and who wants the place. has been meddling with the matter until she has become dissatisfied and wants me to leave the place. She was to furnish all seed & tools and I was to do the work. and each have one half. — the fences & tools were to be put in good repair. — but now they will not thus repair them. and if I put in the crops they will be liable to be destroyed. and even should I

attempt to compel her to fulfill her part of the bargain it will end in a lawsuit which at best is bound to be a loseing go. She will pay me for what I have done if I will leave. Now there is a place of 77 acres about 100 rods from this that I can buy. I think very reasonable there is a tolerable good small house on it - and timber enough to furnish all the wood & fence posts needed on the place. - there is now 26 acres under the plow. and may be 20 acres more broke. - there is also a good small grainery and small stable on it and some 40 young apple trees. - now I can have the place for $2,500. - $250. down $750. next fall and 5 years time on the ballance at 6 per cent intrest. Now if you can help me to the money for the first two payments I can then get along with it and with my trade I feel sure of makeing money fast enough to pay the intrest and pay for the place in a few years. I have a job of work to do this comeing season to the amount of $240. which I can do besides working the place. and there will always be plenty of work to do. You wrote discouraging about helping me before next fall. but two hundred & fifty dollars is a small amount. and I firmly believe I can make enough more there to than here to pay 15 per cent on that amount. - If I can have that amt. by the first of May I can go on the place immediately and put in the crops as soon as spring opens. The weather is favorable now for an early spring. - I have my wood cut & hauled for next summer. The boys are going to school

and are learning rapidly.
our school closes next week. I had
a letter from Deborah yesterday.
all well there when she wrote.
we are also all well as usual.

Yours Respectfully,

D. B. Cornell

C Cornell
Ithaca N.Y.

J. H. Wade, President
Anson Stager, Gen'l Supt } Cleveland, O.

Geo. H. Mumford Vice Pres't
O. H. Palmer Sec & Treas'r } Rochester N.Y.

Western Union Telegraph Company

Rochester, N.Y. Feby 23 1866

Hon E Cornell
Albany N.Y.

Dear Sir

Your favor of 20th inst is received. I wrote to New York soon after you was here last with the purpose of approaching the Erie Railway Co on the subject of the Atl Telegraph Contract. Nothing definite resulted and I wrote again ~~a few days since~~ to Tillotson asking him to talk with Mr Wade and Col Stager and see if they could not narrow the matter down while they were in New York. Tillotson is anxious to have the W. U. Co control the line and will I think do all he can to aid in the matter. It is difficult to approach and treat with the Erie Railway Co. If it was an individual we had to deal with the matter could be more easily managed. When Mr Wade and Judge Palmer return I will bring the subject to their notice and try to forward the negociation ~~as~~ much as I can.

Yours Respectfully
D. N. McAlpine

R Balcom
Feb 24. 66

Binghamton Feby. 24, 1866.
Hon, Ezra Cornell,

Dear Sir: Some of your friends here, including myself desire information respecting the Western Union Telegraph company. I therefore enclose some questions which I hope you will answer as soon as you can conveniently. I do not suppose you can give me the precise figures, and all I desire is information that will be substantially correct.

It seems to me not only just but very important that the Legislature should authorise

the taxation of the franchises of the State banks, National banks will be taxed in some way if the Supreme Court of the United States should decide the share holders cannot be taxed under existing laws. I think there can be no doubt that Congress may authorise their taxation and that such authority will be conferred if existing laws should be held insufficient for that purpose. Hence the importance and necessity of a law to authorise the taxation of the franchises of State banks so there will be equality of taxation and to compel State banks to reorganise under the National currency act. It is settled that State banks cannot be taxed under existing laws if their capitols are invested in the bonds of the United States; and for this reason the Legislature should authorise the taxation of their franchises. The people are growing more and more sensitive on the question of taxation. They say banks of all kinds must & shall be taxed, and I say they are right though I am a stockholder in a bank.

I think the better opinion here is that the Legislature should not take any action in reference

to the Presidents Veto of the Freedmens Bureau bill, but wait for further developments at Washington - Hasty action might do great harm - I wish you would inform Hon, Milo B, Eldridge what my views are on this subject.

Very Respectfully Yours
Ransom Balcom

R. Balcol
24. Feb 66

1. What is the Capital of The Western Union Telegraph Co's;

2. Has the Company ~~issued~~ Stock for the full amount of the Capital ~~Stock~~, if not how much of it has not been issued's;

3. How much does the Company owe's;

4. For What was the debt contracted's;

5. When will the debt become due & how is it Secured's;

6. Is it probable that $3,000,000, of bonds of the Co, will be taken by creditors at 90 cents's;

over

7. How much money has the Co, now in the hands of the Treasurer?

8. Is it probable the Company will make dividends this year & next & if so When and what amount?

9. Can you give any other information respecting the condition of the Co, that would interest Stockholders, if you can will you communicate the same?

L. G. Quigley. J. C. Quigley.

Office of Quigley Brothers,
No. 26 Broad Street,
New York, Feby 26 1866

Hon Ezra Cornell
Albany
Dear Sir

I am so much delighted at the advance in your Tel Stock that I must to congratulate you on the prosperous I see in the future for your Co and the Stock, which is, I observe becoming better known in the Market, and consequently will be dealt in to a greater extent and I hope in time to see it back to near the old point I was not able to purchase the Stock and therefore am not benefited by the advance but on

C. M. Titus
26. Feb 66

Your account am very much pleased
the fact of the stock being so
dull and at so low a price
gave me a good deal of regret
because I know so well that
you desire the prosperity of your
projects which are so grand and
extensive and I think of full
the importance ~~of~~ to a mans feeling
of prosperity and success I know
it's power and I am sure you
will pardon me for expressing to you
the wish of continued success and
a long life

Yours Respty

C. M. Titus

N.Y. Tribune, Feb. 26, 1866.

Hon. Ezra Cornell –

Dear Sir: Before this will be handed to you it will have been read by my friend and colaborer on The Tribune, Mr. Beman Brockway, for the purpose of eliciting his opinion on the propriety of my applying to you for assistance in bringing into use and establishing in this Country under the protection of Letters Patent of a wonderful and entirely successful process, known as Photo-lithography. I send herewith Mr. Osborne's description of the use, value, and manner of obtaining the desired result of getting an accurate, sharp, and perfect transfer of ~~the~~ a engraving, Map, Manuscript, or printed Matter on a lithographic stone for the purpose of printing therefrom.

The importance of this discovery cannot be realized, fully, by any one who is not familiar, as I am, with the art and processes of printing, but any one can understand its value when he comprehends and knows a

part of its office. As an illustration. I will state that by this process you can have printed copies, accurate in every particular, size and color, so that you cannot tell the original from the copy, of a printed, pencil or ink drawn map, line engraving, wood cut, or book within 24 hours. Mr. Osborne has one map bound up with others done at Melbourne, Australia, in the Government Office for the Government, which was printed - officially done, I mean - in 2 hours and 7 minutes. The same map was put on stone in the ordinary way by the quickest and best artist the Government had, and who was a very clever and fast workman, to ascertain the difference of time and cost, in three ~~days~~ and one half days. At the time this test was made, Mr. Osborne put three additional like maps before his Camera, and finished them, ready for printing, in the same time and with the selected Map. So in fact he did in 2:7 what the artist, (his competitor) would have required 14 days to do, if he were able to keep steadily at work, which he probably could not have done, as he worked under great pressure.

Another remarkable fact connected with this test was, That Mr. Osborne's map was correct in every particular, while the artist's on revision was found to be incorrect in several cases. The Camera must and does render faithfully every line, word or figure placed before it. As a printer would say, "there is no need of proof reading." Again, the Camera enables you to enlarge or diminish any thing you wish to print, whether it be a map, a drawing, or the ~~form~~ size of the page and type of a book. Now I want to say a few words in reference to book printing, and Mr. Brockway will tell you that I am truthful, and ~~do~~ are likely to, and do know, the difficulty and the usual time required to put in type, read and correct, and print a book like the State Red Book—the Legislative Manual. Well, I say I can print that book in 24 hours! with this process under the following conditions: With an office, or printing establishment, which has ~~has so~~ presses and workmen enough to keep up with the Camera. Just consider this fact which is patent to every one, the Camera makes a photographic likeness of the object before it in a few seconds. Well, I put 1 to 12 or more pages of a

book before the camera, and I get a negative which goes through the preparatory process for printing my transfers, and while this is being done, I am making more negatives of the remaining pages. Before I have finished my Camera work, if the book is 400 or more pages, the presses will be printing sheets of the book, and you will recollect that it does not add to cost or difficulty, whether the book I do is plain letter press, or whether it is filled with elaborate and costly engravings. I can take, for instance, Audubon's Birds of America (uncolored), such a copy as is to be found in the State Library at Albany — such an one as I mean, was there when I lived in Albany, 28 years ago — and reproduce it in size and fac simile, or I can reduce it to a royal octavo size, faithful in every particular, at a cost so trifling as to place it within the reach of every school library, and in the closet of every workingman in America.

I could go on illustrating the importance and value of this discovery, as connected with printing of rare and costly books and engravings for a week, and in doing so would not make one statement which would lack proof of my truthfulness and the clearest evidence of demonstration. But I do not wish to occupy your time, until you feel inclined to give it, and desire further insight and knowledge of this New birth of the "Art preservative of the Arts," I will say in conclusion that I was induced to write to you upon this subject by the following circumstances: L. C. Woodruff, the President of a new brick making machine company, and who is also a paper maker and has made paper for us for 12 or more years, invited me to go and see a machine of the company's at Jersey City make brick. I went this morning, and while there Woodruff introduced me to Judge — of Batavia, I think. I have forgotten the

name of the Judge, but shall get it when I see Woodruff again. On our way over in the ferry boat I told the judge of this discovery, and that four persons, three connected with The Tribune - I being one - had bought a half right to the patent - that we purposed forming a company and commencing work as soon as possible - that we had at least six months' work waiting for us. Said the judge, I see the importance and benefit of the discovery. It will fill our houses and libraries with copies of the old, rare and costly books and pictures, and it will refine and educate our people. The discovery of printing has civilized and enriched the world to an untold extent, and now it is about to soften and refine us by making us and our children familiar with the Beautiful in Art. But you say you need money to work with. There is the trouble. If I had it nothing would give me more pleasure than to join with you in this enterprise. There are some men so noble, large hearted and wealthy that the amount you need would

be furnished the moment they comprehended the importance and value of the discovery. Go, for instance, to the Hon. Ezra Cornell, a rich man and one of God's noblemen, who has already given away hundreds of thousands of dollars to educate and enrich his Country and fellow men — a man whose name will be historical for his large hearted munificence. Go to him, and tell him what this process and discovery is, and I think that he will patiently and kindly listen to you, and will cheerfully join with you in the enterprise. By doing so he will ~~will~~ add another link, and in my mind as important, bright and beautiful as any already there, to the chain which shall connect him with the present to the future in the hearts and minds of his fellow human creatures. Peter Cooper has given us the Institute which bears his name as honorably as his son's blood does. Ezra Cornell has given us an University, now ask him to take Art to his heart — and beneath his fostering care, let

her go into the log cabin and soothe and refine the pioneer. She has heretofore been confined to the palace. She is God's sunlight and belongs alike to poor and rich. Now, Sir, I do not say that I have given the judge's exact words, but I do say that I have given their spirit.

When I returned to the office I found lying near my desk a copy of Harper's Weekly for March 3, in which I found a portrait and short biographical notice of your life. I read it, and thought the judge was right, and so I sat down and wrote this long letter. We want about $25,000 to establish and work this discovery. We have subscribed about $8,000. Now do you feel disposed to join us, if you are satisfied, by any test you may choose to put in operation, that the men already in are honest, worthy and good people, who have a valuable and important discovery calculated to benefit the country, and are capable of doing all I say it can do? If you are, then tell me whether you will come to New York for the purpose of satisfying yourself, or whether you desire that Mr. Osborne shall bring his proofs and work to Albany to be examined by and before any person or

persons you may select for your edification.

You will recollect that this is not an unfinished, undeveloped process. There is no money wanted to make this or that a little better. The thing is perfect, just as perfect as types are for the present process of printing, and I will say, and say it truthfully and knowingly that this discovery is fully as important to art as the discovery by Morse of the Magnetic telegraph has proved to be to Commerce.

Sir, I am, for the good you have already done my fellow man,
Your friend and obedient
Servant
Thomas N. Rooker.

P.S. When I say I can take a book like Audubon's Birds of America, I mean an uncolored copy – black and white – and reproduce it. Of course the Camera does not reproduce color, although it is quite easy, as easy as the old way, to produce Chromo (colored) printing from Stones which have been prepared by Mr. Osborne's process. He has two Specimens done in Berlin by his process to illustrate an elaborate report of a Government Commission sent to explore Japan, Siam, and China by the Prussian Government.