Chemung March 13 1866

Mr Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir

Knowing that you are interested in and as likely to know as any one I would like to have your opinion about the probability of the Towanda and Ithica Rail Road runing by way of Chemung Village and up Wynkoop Creek instead of going by way of Waverly and up Shepard Creek. I understand that you are in favour of the Wynkoop Creek route it is the opinion of many acquainted with both routes that the Wynkoop Creek is the best: and I think the inhabitants of this Valley would give the entire right of way free of Charge, and furnish at the track (free) all the Croſs ties needed to build the road and boards and post to fence it.

So far as I have talked with them they feel Just as I do about it. and I will give 1000 ties or more if required delivered at the track and 10 000 ft of fencing with a Corresponding number of post

If you think a gaurantee of the right of way with the ties and fencing as within mentioned would influence the road in coming this way (up Wynkoop Creek) we will call a meeting and apoint a Committee to investigate and see if such gaurantee can not be secured hoping that you will reply favourably and at your earliest convenience I remain

Yours Respecttifully B C Monroe
Chemung Chemung Co NY

B. C. Monroe
Chemung
Mar 13, 66

[Mar 14. 1866]

[illegible]

The Committee on Buildings respectfully submit the following Report.

At the earliest moment convenient after their appointment two of their number in company with an experienced Architect visited some of the most noted Collegiate buildings in this and neighboring States; they also consulted & corresponded with several gentlemen in different parts of the Country who ~~could~~ were presumed to have valuable ~~Ideas~~ Experience ~~bearing~~ upon University architecture. As the result of these investigations the Committee have agreed upon the following fundamental ideas regarding the buildings for the Cornell University.

First. _ ~~that~~ as regards style & material _ that while they should be tasteful substantial & architecturally correct; they

3/14/1866

Should be free from extravagance and from all architectural features not having a basis of useful purpose

Second - as to disposition of buildings - that the mistake be avoided of connecting all in a single large and pretentious edifice; - but that hazard be diminished and convenience as well as architectural effect increased by erecting separate buildings each for its own specific purpose - It is believed that such buildings can be so grouped as to present an appearance far more impressive than any single structure which it is within our power to build

Third - as to the progress of the work - that however complete the plans which may be adopted - the buildings be erected from time to time - to meet the ~~needs~~ growth of the University - and that only so much be done now as may be demanded by the undoubted wants of the University on beginning

3/14/1866

its operations ~~As to buildings required~~ the Committee are of opinion that those ~~required~~ buildings required by the University in its full scope are mainly as follows —

Dormitories
Lecture & Recitation Rooms
Laboratories
Library
Museum
Public Hall or Chapel
~~Professors Houses~~
Farm Buildings
Workshops
Professors Houses
& probably eventually an Observatory

As to the first of these classes the Dormitories. the Committee generally admit their necessity reluctantly. Experience has shown that better discipline can be maintained without them — that students separated from each other and brought in small groups under the restraints of lodging with quiet families — are generally more easily managed than when brought together in large numbers under a single roof — but the

3/14/1866

circumstances of this case have left the Committee no choice. The University property is so remote from the village of Ithaca and at such a distance above it, that some provision must be made for the lodging of students upon the University grounds. Moreover, in an institution where the experiment is to be fully tried of allowing young men to engage in agricultural & mechanical pursuits in connection with their studies, it seems a necessity that they should be lodged where they can easily pass from one sort of labor to the other.

As to the construction of Dormitories the Committee are agreed substantially upon the division of rooms adopted at Yale College. They have investigated the more recent buildings at Harvard College but find them not sufficiently economical of space; the arrangement of rooms at Vassar College they find too complicated, — the arrangement at Hobart College they believe unfavorable to the maintenance of

3/14/1866

discipline.

The modification of the Yale plan wh. has been submitted to the architects as a basis ~~for their dormitory plans~~ it also provides ~~for~~ ~~accom~~ ample accomodations for students rooming together in couples under what is known as the "Chum" system. ~~It provides~~ accomodating as many as may a study with adjoining bedroom. Could desire It is believed that health & orderly habits are promoted by separating the room in wh. the student studies from that in wh. he sleeps.

The subject of ventilation heating & has also been investigated ~~examined~~ ~~investigated~~ ~~& examined~~ ~~by the~~ ~~attempted~~ ~~and~~ Members of the Committee have examined with expensive the apparatus in use for the purpose at Vassar College ~~and~~ at the Inebriate Asylum ~~at~~ Binghampton & at some other large institutions in neighboring states ~~They~~ ~~are~~ But the Committee are unanimous of the opinion that no such ~~expensive~~ methods should be tried. They are always exceedingly expensive ~~(that at~~ and rarely accomplish their purpose. The Committee believe that a far better system is to ~~place~~

provides more effectually than any other plan for ~~the precaution~~ against too much intercourse between students during the hours of study. The numerous halls, having few students (or accomodate in ~~a group~~ each ~~hall~~ sixty) ~~& by a modification~~ in a manner to be alluded to hereafter the students are to be separated at the small numbers for more than they are at Yale

6

have open fires 3/14/1866

~~a small open grate~~ in each study room and to make it ~~the~~ fundamental requirement in all dormitory plans that there be always a plentiful admission of free light and at need of air through windows – in short – that every study be warmed + ventilated by an open fire place or grate – and that no sleeping room be constructed without at least one window. The Committee believe that this simple care will do far more for warmth & ventilation than the most expensive apparatus depending upon the shifting of the winds and ~~the~~ forethought of ~~attendo~~ servants in ~~different~~ distant parts of ~~the~~ a building

They are unanimous of the opinion that the system of warming by open fire places has the advantage of making the students rooms more attractive which is one great point gained in College discipline.

The Committee therefore recommend the erection of two dormitories upon this plan for about ~~120~~ sixty students each to ~~provide for~~ be ready at the

7

3/14/1866

organization Departments, &
~~beginning~~ of ~~Classes in the~~ &
Classes in the University—

~~Two build~~ the ~~dormitories~~ buildgs to be so constructed also that if the Institution ~~to~~ is ever ~~found~~ able to do away with the dormitory system—the Students rooms can be laid together into ~~lecture~~ rooms for recitation lectures & general College purposes

As to Lecture and Recitation Rooms ~~that in general style~~ the Committee believe that those necessary for general purposes can best be placed in a central division of ~~the~~ each Dormitory building. They are thus easy of access—& have the additional advantage of separating the Students in one division of a dormitory from those in the other—

The mode of doing this will be seen ~~upon~~ upon examination of the ground plan accompanying this report.

As to size they should be ~~such as~~ of such dimensions as to accommodate different Classes—~~this believe~~ ranging from

8

3/14/1866

200 students down to 20 or thirty
As to ~~finish~~ style
The Committee think that their model ~~in this respect~~ is furnished ~~in the Lecture~~ + at the New University of Rochester. They should be plain - well lighted & ventilated. ~~and without No paint should be used~~ As to finish. The committee are in favor of using our own native woods simply oiled ~~polished~~ rubbed - and not besmeared with paint.

As to Heating ~~+ Ventilation~~ the Lecture + Recitat rooms the Committee recommend furnaces - as to ventilation they are not yet agreed upon a plan. + ~~shall~~ shall ask further time to consider

As to Laboratories
The University will undoubtedly ~~have~~ at an early period be obliged to erect a separate building on a large scale - Into the ~~Laborat~~ department of Chemistry nearly all the ~~chf~~ branches of the University converge. It is common to the departments of Agriculture - Mechanic Arts - Mining - Civil Engineering & ~~the~~ general science - The institution must possess one of the largest & best - & if possible the largest & best laboratory in the country. ~~but~~ It should be constructed under the guidance

3/14/1866

of the head of the Department of Chemistry. But for the present the Committee do not recommend any separate Laboratory building - It is believed that temporary accomodations can be furnished in the basements of the Dormitories, or in some of the Lecture rooms until it be more clearly seen what are to be the demands of the Chemical Department

As to Library a building is clearly necessary. - and on a large scale. Without ~~A~~ large & well selected Library the Cornell University can never take any high rank among the the institutions of the Country - nor can it attract to itself the best men for instructors

With such a Library & with provision enabling it to ~~aid~~ keep pace with the advance~~ment~~ of Science the University ~~can~~ has a powerful centre of attraction for all men of thought & education who are not tied down to cities - and has the means not ~~solely~~ only of popularizing knowl-

3/14/1866

ledge but of increasing it.

Eventually there must be a large thoroughly fitted building for library purposes - but at present - it is believed that our building can be made to ~~answer the purpose~~ suffice for the library and for ~~another necessary~~ the museum.

That the museum is not [illegible], necessary than the library - ~~[illegible]~~ will be seen by any one who considers the scope of the proposed institution. In it must be gathered collections ~~to show what~~ of ~~Agricultural~~ implements - - of grains of grasses, and of various natural & artificial products bearing upon the department of Agriculture -

There too should be the collection of models & machines bearing upon the Department of the Mechanic Arts.

The University must also have place for her noble collection in Geology - for collections in Mineralogy - Zoology Botany ~~Entomology~~ great space

11

3/14/1866

will eventually be required for these but at first they can be accommodated ~~under~~ in one building ~~roof~~ with the Library.

But this one building should be so constructed that when the Library is removed to a separate building it may be well fitted for its purpose as a Museum. To that end the Committee have submitted ~~the following plan~~ to the architects a ~~plan~~ sketch whose main features are as follows

The Museum & Library building should be a ~~single~~ simple oblong structure about 80 ft in length by 40 in breadth (or perhaps 100 x 50). It should be in its interior all thrown into one great room without division walls. It should be surrounded by at least two & probably three very broad galleries – arranged on ~~same~~ general plan ~~with~~ similar to that adopted in ~~of~~ the Historical Society in N.Y. or the Agricultural Museum in Albany. On the ~~first~~ different galleries ~~main floor~~ the different departments of the Museum

3/14/1866

could be ~~[illegible]~~ deposited & classified - on ~~one of these~~ the main floor could be temporarily placed the Library.

The Committee recommend that the ~~bad~~ interior fitting of this building be made as nearly fire-proof as possible. It is believed that this can be done without any ~~very~~ ~~very great~~ expense not warranted by the great necessity of the case. ~~For the other~~

This building the Committee ~~but~~ recommend ~~either~~ ~~[illegible]~~ to be erected at the same time with the dormitories.

The Library building to be ultimately erected should correspond in size & general appearance ~~both~~ & fire proof character with the museum building.

The Public Hall or Chapel will also be eventually required. It should have one division ~~to accommodate~~ say a first floor to accommodate meetings of the students - it would also be of great use to have a large Public Hall above

13

3/14/1866

— so large that the people of the State could be invited here for & then to come to the periodical Examination, Commencements & several public Exercises — but this is not an immediate need — the Committee ~~would~~ therefore recommend that while plans for such a building be considered its erection be deferred

As to Farm Buildings

— there are some farm houses already upon different parts of the property — which are likely to be very useful. What more are required cannot be determined except with the ~~co~~ aid [illegible] of the Institution & the Coöperation of a Professor of Agriculture

As to Workshops — a building already exists — which it is believed can be obtained here will answer a temporary purpose — The Committee recommend that no ~~plan~~ fully [illegible] be adopted before the ~~selection of~~ plan of Instruction in Science as applied to Industry be more fully dev

No ~~[illegible]~~ workshops be erected

14

3/14/1866

As to Professors houses – the Committee are agreed that provision must be made ~~near the Uni~~ upon the grounds for at least four.

~~The Com~~ It is believed that they can be made to return a fair interest upon their ~~outlay~~ expense. It is also believed that in organizing the institution they will prove immediately worth more than their cost. If in calling Professors we are able to offer a neat & comfortable house ~~a much less salary~~ ~~will~~ – not far from ~~the~~ the fields of labor – a much ~~less~~ smaller salary will offer suffice than when these gentlemen are asked to leave comfortable homes to rent houses, from 1 or 2 to 3 m ill constructed inconvenient & ~~which will~~ ve distant from the Institution.

~~Professors houses such~~ The Committee are aware of at least one very strong example directly bearing [illegible]

~~As to~~ Such houses should be ~~so~~ comfortably & well built & in style such as to form part of the general

3/14/1866

Plan, should and come in as a feature of the grouping

As to an Observatory building although the Committee have examined some of the principal ~~a~~ structures in this country they are not ~~prepared to offer anything~~ ~~at present having~~ ~~as~~ have ~~they~~ made ~~any~~ no suggestion to architects in this respect - & ~~therefore~~ and are not prepared to offer anything at present. ~~beyond the hope that at no distant day an of them may stand~~ They would however express the hope that at no distant day an observatory may be erected & equipped in such a manner as to contribute greatly to the advance of Science and to give a world wide name & fame to the Cornell University.

Science money

~~As to~~ In carrying out the plans above suggested the Committee have ~~consulted four~~ ~~had communication~~ & received communications from four different architects - and each of them ~~has~~ prepared plans & elevations with more or less

16

3/14/1866

adaptation to the requirements laid down.

~~The response to the call of the Committee by architects of high reputation has not been so general as was expected and wished.~~

Of all the plans ~~thus presented~~ the most satisfactory are those ~~presented~~ presented by Messrs Brown & Nichols, of Albany. ~~The Committee have~~ They are in many respects highly satisfactory - but the Committee have not yet accepted them for the reason that ~~they feel that there~~ perhaps more competition is desirable. The response by architects to the call of the Com. has not been so general as was anticipated and desired. The Committee would therefore recommend that the sum of 500 dollars be placed at their disposal ~~if on further consultation it shall~~ to be used either as prizes or in direct compensation ~~to induce~~ in order to obtain more plans and thus give the Com a wider range for choice.

With such means at their disposal the Committee

17

3/14/1866

can rapidly come to a decision and they have no doubt that within thirty days they can obtain plans & elevations entirely satisfactory

As regards the material to be used in the buildings the Board will remember that a Resolution was passed at the last meeting declaring that Stone should be used. The Committee do not as yet see any reason for differing with the majority of the Trustees. In buildings like these which are to be regarded as "public buildings" — the seat of probably the greatest educational institution of the greatest Commonwealth in the Union it seems appropriate that the material should be of the most noble and the most enduring. The Committee are still therefore in favor of using Stone — but they ask to be allowed to reexamine the question in regard to economy & in regard to the character of the Stone at our command. If so allowed they will at an early day make a more thorough examination than

3/14/1866

they have not been enabled to go into the whole question between stone & brick and will agree to recommend brick only in case it be found that the stone at our command is not only more expensive but decidedly inferior to brick on architectural grounds.

~~And the Committee would ask that~~

The Committee having been also entrusted with the location of the buildings have taken into consideration the preparation and laying out of the grounds so far as may be necessary to the effective use of the buildings contemplated. Some of their number have given much thought to the subject & have examined the work done upon the grounds of several institutions.

The Committee would recommend that they be empowered to select some competent person at a monthly salary to be agreed upon by the Executive Committee to make a survey of so much of the grounds as may be necessary, and to superintend the grading and general arrangement of the grounds immediately about the buildings.

18C 14. 3/14/1866

The laying out of the Univers. farm in general the Committee would not recommend at present. They believe that in this the concurrence of a probably Professor of Agriculture is necessary.

As to the time ~~& expense~~ required for the completion of the works &c. so far as may be necessary for commencing instruction in the University the Com. are satisfied ~~feel~~ that they can have the buildings above specified ready by the time required in the Law. Aug 67 —

exp. As to the expense they have ~~made no exact estimate but~~ are satisfied that by spreading the payments over the time occupied in completing the work and one year ~~[illegible]~~ afterward they shall be able to build ~~do~~ all that is immediately necessary ~~without drawing upon the principal of the University fund~~ with the ~~money arising from~~ interest of the Cornell fund — without touching the principal.) To sum up therefore The Com. recommend the immediate ~~build~~ commencement erection of two

[illegible]

15

3/14/1866

buildings for dormitories & Lecture Rooms — Of a building to serve as Museum & Library — and of Professors Houses not less than two nor more than four in number.

They also recommend ~~that appointment~~ they be allowed to appoint a Supt. of Grounds at a monthly salary to be fixed by the Executive Committee

And that to procure plans the sum not exceeding ___ dollars be placed at their disposal

They also recommend that they be allowed to appoint a ~~Supt~~ Landscape Gardener at a monthly salary to be fixed by the Executive Committee And that they be allowed discretion as to the supply of brick or stone for the building.

~~They also~~ In conclusion it should be stated that it has recently been intimated that

They also ask that they may be allowed to ~~[illegible]~~

Andw. D. White Willm Kelly
Abram B. Weaver
E. Cornell

Ithaca Mar 14. 66

Hon E. Cornell

Dr Sir —

Our Liberal Christian church has for a few Sabbaths held its meetings in Your Hall. Mr Finch says he thinks we cannot have it for less than $15 a day —. Mr Randolph says it burns at night between 4 & 500 feet of gas which at 5^{50} per M. would be 2^{75} That a ton of coal lasts about 6 days which would not exceed $2. more — So that the actual cost besides janitor would not summer & winter

~~not~~ exceed $5. day and night — Our organization is poor — and cannot pay now over $7. a sabbath — and we shall from economical reasons be compelled to return to the town Hall — We have a sabbath school now numbering about 30 scholars and we hope to do good in places other churches do not now reach — If the matter is under your control and you think we can have the hall for the above sum we will remain — otherwise we shall be compelled reluctantly to change our place of worship — an early answer will oblige

Respy Yours
Alfred Nelly