

Albany May 28, 1873

Ms. Ezra Cornell

My dear Sir,

I hope the speech  
of Prof. White, in refutation of the charges  
made by Mr. McQuinn will be published  
in pamphlet form. It seems to me  
very desirable that it be published in that  
shape, by which means it will be  
more likely to be preserved for reference  
which will enable it to reach a  
class of readers by whom it would  
not be read in the newspapers.

Very truly yours  
Anna J. Parker

Zanesville, Ohio.

May 28<sup>th</sup> 1843.

Hon. Ezra Cornell,  
Utica, New York.

My Dear Sir:

I see by the Times that  
Gov. Seymour, Messrs Van Buren  
and Wheeler have been appointed  
the committee, &c -

If I can be of any assistance  
in gathering together material for  
the committee, or in any way, I  
hope you will have no hesitancy  
in calling upon me,

My observation here, is,  
that your prompt demand  
for the examination, and the  
other circumstances of the time  
- such as the objections made

to the resolutions offered by  
your son, have entirely satisfied  
the people that - those charges  
were all spite-work, and I  
had hoped that - the investigation  
would be deemed unnecessary,  
by all parties, for, however,  
satisfactory the result of  
such will be to you, it  
cannot - but - be attended  
with considerable loss of  
time, and be more or less  
slow and tedious;

Again let me urge, that,  
if I can be of aid, that you  
write me,

With great respect,  
I am, very truly yours,  
Chas. Hildvate Blair.

(((Sodus Point & Southern Rail Road)))

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

Stephen D. Williams.  
President.

Newark, Wayne Co. New York May 31 1873.

The Hon. <sup>ble</sup> Ezra Cornell

My Dear Sir

You know I was with you in the Senate during the passage of the acts in relation to the Cornell University - founding that institution bearing your name, and certain other acts in regard to its endowment -

This must be my excuse for saying to you that I believe the imputations recently made by Mr. McQuire and reiterated by some papers, charging bad faith in the management of the affairs of that institution and reflecting upon yourself, to be wholly unfounded and untrue; and I believe the closer the investigation the more clearly will shine out your integrity and your large hearted benevolence - and the brighter will your name and fame be to this and succeeding generations (for this institution will make you so famed for all succeeding generations) -

I have said as much as this to gentlemen whom I have met and conversed with on the subject - and who have appreciated your efforts - and my position by being among those who passed the acts founding the institution. make it, it seems to me, ~~appropriate~~ allowable for me to say this to you  
Remains your truly Stephen D. Williams

MSS.  
Kc 6 (64)

**Cornell University,**

Ithaca, N. Y., June 2 1899.

His Excellency

Horatio Seymour

Dear Govr

As chairman  
of the Commission appointed by  
Governor Dix to investigate the  
charges of fraud and corruption  
made against me in the Legislature  
of New York in reference <sup>to</sup> my  
management of the College Land  
Scrap and the endowment of  
Cornell University, I desire to  
express a wish that the com-  
mission will publish a card  
inviting information from all  
persons who possess ~~any~~ any knowl-  
<sup>or have any accusations to make</sup>  
edge on the subject, so that ~~you~~  
<sup>they may be called as witnesses & that you</sup>  
may give the fullest range to  
your inquiry, and make the  
investigation as searching and

and thorough as possible,

The people of deserve to know  
the truth, and I desire that  
they should, and your com-  
mission has no taste for "white  
washing" =

May I ask also that as little  
time be lost as possible, con-  
sistent with thorough work, be-  
fore the investigation takes  
place,

Yours Respectfully  
Ezra Cornell

MSS.

Kc8 (65)

Copy

Ithaca June 2. 1873

His Excellency Horatio Seymour

Dear Gov. As Chairman of the Commission appointed by Gov. Dix to investigate the charges of fraud and corruption made against me in the Legislature of New York in reference to my management of the College Land scrip and the Endowments of Cornell University. I desire to express a wish that the Commission will publish a card inviting information from all persons who possess any knowledge on the subject or have any accusations to make so that they may be called as witnesses and that you may give the fullest range to your inquiry, and make the investigation as searching and thorough as possible.

The people desire to know the truth, and I desire that they should, and your Commission has no taste for "Whitewashing"

May I ask also that as little time be lost as possible, consistent with thorough work before the investigation takes place

Yours Respectfully  
Ezra Cornell

1  
Elk Mtn, New Asheville N.C. Jan 27  
Hon Ezra Conwell 113

Dear Sir

I did not immediately reply to your favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> ult. hoping that pleasant weather would soon enable me to advise a winter visit to our Mountain country, but it is still unpleasant as it has been since the middle of Dec<sup>r</sup>, cold rains + winds with snow + then one or two inches of snow, twice Mercury has fallen to 6° below zero, the roads are almost impassible, much of the time the mails have to be packed on horseback - Taking in consideration the comparatively little to be seen in winter, the bad stage roads in getting here, the inclement weather + log cabin after getting here, compels me to advise a delay in your visit until next summer - More than ever do we feel the need of a Rail Road + just now we seem less likely to get one soon than we did two years ago, some months since the Southern Security Co through its agents bot the Road at Shepp's sale, it made a connecting link between their roads north + south which Mr Tho Scott has for some time wanted, through some legal technicality it had to be resold, but before this could be done Gov Caldwell enjoined the sale, professedly on a of the States interest in said Road, but really in the interest of the Virginia R R King, Mahone - + we of the west feel that he has sold us out, his own party express the greatest indignation at his conduct + in State politics it looks as though

There could no longer<sup>2</sup> be harmony between the East & West, indeed the subject of forming a new State out of Western N.C. & Eastern Tenn is being strongly agitated - I send with this some papers that will fully explain our Rail Road troubles, - You will see that Mr Hiram Sibley of Rochester N.Y. holds \$240,000. of our R.R bonds - - -

Gen. Geo. L. Clingman & other Mineralogists are assisting in getting up a collection of Minerals for the University - During the past three years numerous Mica Mines have been opened in Mitchell, Macony & Buncombe Counties, nearly all have paid well for working, the first to engage in the enterprise were two young men from Pa they opened the first mine three years ago & since then, with a working capital of \$1000, have cleared over \$200,000 - notwithstanding the great audit now taken out the price is double what it was one year ago - I enclose some small specimens from a mine which I have lately found on this mountain, the vein appears to be two miles long, I have not gone deep enough to know positively about its richness, but so far the indications are unusually favorable, in a few days I shall be able to decide about its value & if all right shall try to get a long lease on <sup>the</sup> mineral interest of the property, the only thing in the way are the mortgages falling due next summer, \$2000, over these mortgages would buy the entire property at this time -

Mica seems to have been formed in the interior of the earth & thrown up by volcanic action, the rock, (binders as they are called) always being edge wise the flat side pressing against the white flint in which the Mica is imbedded or pocketed, outside the slate binders comes solid Grant rock, the enclosed diagram, (or rather figure) will explain it all, <sup>the</sup> vein of flint is

6/2/1893

Usually from 4 to 8 feet wide, but their depth no one can tell, they have been worked in some instances to the depth of 150 ft, the flint growing harder & the mica correspondingly better as they go down lower & lower - the mica is first found just below the soil, imbedded in a brown, hard clay, as you go down this clay gets harder & lighter in color until it becomes as white as chalk but full of grit: (small particles of flint) at a depth of about 20 ft it becomes so hard & firm as to make blasting necessary, in fact it is now solid flint; merchantable glap or mica is never found till this solid flint is reached, it is irregular in form & varies in thickness from 1 to 20 inches, & the same in length & width, it can be split up almost as thin as gold leaf, the enclosed stained piece was taken out of the clay 3 feet below the surface, the clear piece was 2 feet lower down when the clay was much harder & lighter in color, 5 ft is as deep as I have gone, in each of the three openings that I have made, it is perfectly white at 5 ft, I have found some mica that measures  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches each way - these veins always run north east & south west, never north & south, east & west, or north west & south east - My theory in regard to the formation of mica & mica bearing rock & its upheaval by volcanic force, should only be taken for what it is worth as it is simply a conclusion that I came to, perhaps for want of a practical & theoretical knowledge of mineralogy, for I have never read a work on that subject, if I ever had an opportunity did not embrace it & am consequently thoroughly ignorant on the subject

Some years since Mr Milton Pendland, a large land holder in Mitchell Co, had his attention drawn to several excavations that had evidently been made years ago, he wanted to know & thought it possible that it was for lime these pits were first opened, he got Gen Clingman to look at them, he traced them over a section of country eight miles wide & thirty miles long, his first impression was that the Spaniards had during their occupation of this country dug there for silver, but close examination shows positively that these excavations were made by miners in search of Mica, where ever you find one of these pits there you find a vein of Mica, the implements found in them is positive proof that they were worked by a people who understood the mechanical arts, they worked them just so far as they could peck out the rock, throw back the earth that has been accumulating, maybe for centuries & you come to the flint with impressions made by the points of their picks as perfect as you could wish, but here they always stopped just where when the flint was too hard to ~~hard~~ to be longer worked without some explosive substance, just at the point where the mica gets perfectly clear & firm, & how shall we account for this? there can be but one solution for this question & that is, that these mines were worked before the discovery of gun powder, or at least by a people unacquainted with it, it could not have been the Spaniards for Europeans had used it for a century & a half prior to their first visiting this country, so we must

6/2/1873

Conclude that it was a race that occupied this country before the one found here by Europeans, the evidences being conclusive that they were much farther advanced in the arts & sciences than the Indians, in Mitchell & Yancy Counties, every few days something is unearthed to confirm this idea - in one instance they had evidently worked down till the flint got so hard as to prevent their going deeper, they then followed the vein horizontally till at last it caved in & there was everything as they left it, a quantity of Mica trimmed to a uniform size, about 2 x 10 inches & split in thin sheets, a peck so corroded as to make <sup>it</sup> impossible to decide of what metal it was made & yet it was perfect in form & <sup>not</sup> much harder than clay - here is something for the Historian to ponder over, - In this & the Counties west of here there are no evidences of the mines ever having been worked & they are found by the "blossom" or conglomerate rock on the surface, - Mitchell & Yancy Co's has more \$ in them than all the rest of western N.C. put together & Mica bro't it there, five Mines have been opened within ten miles of here this winter, all having bright prospects, - I am not sure whether the enclosed specimens are Soda or Pot-ash, I presume Prof Caldwell could soon tell - I will close as I have already written too lengthy on a subject in which you may feel no interest, hoping to hear from you often & soon, I am

Very Respectfully Yours,  
W. J. Cornell

Hyvaceur

June 2<sup>nd</sup> / 873

My dear Mr Russell

I go west this  
evening and wish to leave  
some last words.

First. There  
are sundry letters in your box  
on my table wh. I wish you  
would answer.

Second. I wish to  
be "kept posted" constantly  
regarding the Commission of  
Investigation and its intentions  
as to sitting. Therefore ask Mr  
Russell to telegraph me without  
fail. on Wednesday P.M. or  
Thursday A.M. at Industrial  
University - Champaign, Illinois  
what the latest news is on  
that and any other interesting

University matter. Do not fail to do this. I feel very uneasy at leaving those now, - but my engagement and the hope of getting useful information at Champaign & the State St. Coll of Michigan force me to go.

Monday. Please see my Arnold and have the three or four men who ought to drill & who are in training for boat race secured. I will go through the formalities if any are required - at my return.

I remain

Very truly yours  
A. D. White  
Prof. Russell  
U. P. C.

P.S. How don't fail to have that telegram sent me & at Industrial University -  
Champaign  
(near Urbana)  
Illinois.

Wednesday after. to Thursday P.M. I want to know whether anything has been heard from them, & if so, when they are to arrive. If necessary I will hurry back from any point to visit them.

I expect to be at Sherman House Chicago on Tuesday night. & shall be glad to hear from the Council there. You had better take charge of my letter during my absence. & if there is

1/1/506

Anything very important

!Telegraph no 2.

~~Can~~

A. D. White  
Jan 2. 1873

Copy

Ithaca June 3. 1873

Ernest von Blumenthal Esq Secy

My Dear Sir

Your very kind and much  
esteemed favor of 23<sup>rd</sup> May, came  
to hand in my absence from home  
enclosing a copy of the proceedings  
of the Executive Board of the  
United German American Society,  
with resolutions of sympathy and  
confidence. Such evidence of  
approval by the enlightened body  
of my fellow Citizens <sup>as this</sup> ~~through~~ your  
Executive Board represents, is ample  
reward for the little I have been  
able to accomplish for the cause  
of Education, and relieves the  
pain caused by the sting of slander.

You will please express to  
the distinguished Gentlemen of your  
Executive Board, and accept

for your self my sincere thanks,  
With Confidence in truth

I remain

Ever Cornell

Albion June 4<sup>th</sup> 1873

Dear Ezra

There is a project started here to give more accommodation to the invalid and visiting public and I was requested to write you in regard to it. The plan as near as I can understand it is to form a stock Co. with a capital of \$100,000 to improve the spring property, by building bath house and rooms at the springs, and a Hotel here on main street for the visiting public, as we have no good one in town. The council are ready to open streets out to the springs direct, and the R. R. Co. will stop their trains there if requested.

Warner offers to put in his half for \$2000, and take \$1000 in stock. The plans for hotel & bath house are being drawn up now, and I am informed that I and A. M. Fitch will be selected to visit you with these plans and form a basis to work upon. They will not require you to put your interest in if you do not desire to, but to give your assent to the project and assist what you can.

I intended to visit Ithaca this season, but did not plan to come so soon. They wish to know when you can give a days attention to this matter, and we will put in an appearance, all well as usual.

Truly yours M. B. Wood

Established 1856.

Office of **H. C. PUTNAM,**  
REAL ESTATE AGENT,

PINE LANDS A SPECIALTY.

ALSO GEN. AGENT CORNELL UNIVERSITY LANDS.

Ten Years' Experience in U. S.  
Land Office.

San Claire, Wis., June 6<sup>th</sup> 1873

~~Ed Cornell Esq.~~

I notice the remarks of Mr Linn  
of Schuyler Co N.Y. in the N.Y. Legislature with  
reference to the ag Col Sear of N.Y.  
Sale of Lands by Hon Ezra Cornell & Co, but  
we in Wisconsin think that Mr Cornell has  
done well by said Sear's land when  
compared with the ag Col Sear of this  
state. We was entitled to 240,000 acres  
by the act of 1862, & had the right to select  
the land within his boundaries. The land  
was selected & approved by the State Dec 17  
1863. Some 3 or 4 years before the Cornell  
lands were selected. In the same country  
& of course in 1863 the opportunities for selecting  
good lands was much better than in 1867.  
The Commissioners of School Lands for Wisconsin  
consisting of State Treasurer, Secy of State & Atty  
Genl. employed the best men they could find  
to select this 240,000 acres - at a large expense

Established 1856.

6/6/1873

Office of H. C. PUTNAM,  
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Ten Years' Experience in U. S.  
Land Office.

San Claire, Wis., ..... 187

to the state (some 25,000 or 30,000)  
of this and some 100,000 acres were sold  
at 125 per acre. the best lands at that &  
the balance 50,000 acres of the poorer  
lands are still on hand & are offered  
at 125 on 10 years term at 7 per cent.  
state pays no taxes, &c &c

Mr. Deuell.

would it not be well to publish  
something like above. show people facts & figures  
a comparative statement might be gotten up  
showing the proceeds of sales of lands in all the  
states - how Wis had a chance to have had the  
best lands here & paid for it, but you will  
so dont look well beside your  
sincerely H. C. P.

Albany Jan 7, 1873

Dear Sir

I have written to Messrs  
Dr. Busen and Wheeler  
to meet me at Albany on  
Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> at  
Carpenter Hall - I trust you  
would be there at that time  
so we should decide upon  
some plan of action in  
reference to the Cornell Uni-  
versity manifestation. I have

Written to Mr Mc Guire to  
meet us at that time. I  
do not think we shall  
detain you more than  
one day & it is not  
probable we shall do  
more than decide upon  
a course of investigation.  
I wish you would let us  
know by telegraph if you  
can go to Albany. I did not  
hear from Messrs Wheeler &  
Sam Bowen until yesterday

truly yours &

Walter Seymour

Hon Ezra Cornell  
Ithaca

June 16. 1873 Counsel present  
Ezra Cornell sworn in his own behalf  
By me Jewell

Ques Please state the history of the stocks in  
the Western Union Tel Co held by Samuel Marsh  
late Special Receiver in this action

Ans The delivery of that stock was made by me to  
Nath<sup>l</sup> Marsh Rec<sup>r</sup> of the N.Y. & W. Tel Co as a  
substitute for stock of the E. & W. Tel Co  
pursuant to an agreement made the 31 May 1852  
between the N.Y. & W. Union Tel Co of the first part  
myself of the second part and the N.Y. & W. Tel  
Co of the third part, a copy of which I now  
produce - The stock of the E. & W. Tel Co was  
delivered as security for the performance of  
that contract on the part of myself and the  
N.Y. & W. Tel Co and was receipted for to me  
by Mr. Nath<sup>l</sup> Marsh as Sec<sup>y</sup> of the said Tel Co in  
writing by an instrument annexed that agree-  
ment a copy of which I also produce  
There were 120 shares of the Western Union  
Tel Co transferred to Nathaniel Marsh Rec<sup>r</sup>  
&c in substitution for the shares mentioned in  
the said agreement and receipted - I have read  
the deposition of Mr. John F. Marsh taken in this  
proceeding, hereto annexed, and believe the two  
certificates, each for 60 shares of the stock of  
the W. U. Tel Co mentioned by him in the latter  
part of his said deposition, to be the same

shares delivered by me to Nathaniel Marsh  
Rever & Co as aforesaid -

There has never been any hindrance  
interruption or disturbance in the use  
of or enjoyment of the system of Tel-  
egraphing mentioned in the Covenants  
to be performed and kept under said  
agreement on the part of the deponent  
and the N.Y. & W.U. Tel. Co. -

The patents in use for the purpose of  
telegraphing at the time of said agreement  
was made, and all patents then existing re-  
lating to the system or business of telegraphing  
have long since expired.

No patents have been granted to deponent  
nor to the N.Y. & W.U. Tel. Co., nor have any  
such been acquired, for improvements, nor  
for original inventions since the said  
agreement was made.

Adjourned to July 8. 2 P.M.

Purdell

Albany June 18. 1872

Hon. Ezra Cornell

My Dear Sir,

I suppose Mr Van Buren  
is now at Ithaca & am told he intends to  
remain there till after commencement  
for the purpose of making himself thoroughly  
acquainted with the affairs of the University,  
as the Committee will rely on him alone  
to report upon that part of the investigation.

Under these circumstances, I take  
the liberty, as you counsel, of suggesting  
the great importance of his being  
fully informed and impressed as to all  
that relates to "agriculture and the  
mechanic arts". It is evident that

His enemies often immorally mean to  
attack it in that quarter & we can-  
not overestimate the value of the  
opinion that Mr V.B. shall form  
in regard to these departments.  
I feel sure Mr V.B. will fully  
appreciate the personal attention  
that may be shown him,  
& the pains that may be  
taken to give him full  
information in regard to  
everything connected with  
the subject of his visit.

It is evident from articles  
occasionally appearing in certain  
papers, that there will be  
a persistent effort made to  
affect unfavorably the report  
to be made, especially

in regard to the departments of agriculture  
to the mechanic arts being "the leading  
object" of the institution & that point  
cannot be too carefully guarded.

I am very truly

Yours as ever

Amos J. Parker

Ms. I fear I may not be able to attend the  
annual meeting of the Trustees, as I shall  
perhaps be before the Canal Board which will  
be here on the same day.

G. L. Austin  
June 1873

Cambridge, June 18th. 1873.

Hon. Ezra Cornell,

My dear Sir: -

I have this day sent to President White a transcribed copy of the Synopsis of the series of Art lectures, in accordance with his expressed desire to yourself: and which, you were so kind as to forward to me.

I thank you for your ready attention to the subject proposed: and feel assured that if you should discern any merit or prospective importance and be able to be derived from such a course, you would not be slow to make it manifest. The motto

is public education seem to be frightened by the very mention of art, - as if it were an intolerable bug-bear. I am directing all my efforts to the end of its universal adoption in our several colleges. Artists by the score have expounded to me their wonder that it has never been made a study. However, the matter has never been pushed. It will not work itself. Some one must labor earnestly, lovingly and devotedly in the cause. I am a firm believer in the old Italian saying that "Better the artist-man better the artisan."

It does seem to me, - judging from European precedent - that if one of our leading colleges were to treat the matter with that favor that is its due: should

permit a regular art-course to be organized, - combining instruction in the Theory, Phases, History and Utility of art, also in its relation to Industrial or Mechanical Interests - other institutions would follow, to say nothing of the immense amount of benefit to be derived.

The subject is being introduced slowly into Harvard College. Lectures on "Italian art" have been delivered: the attendance has been very large, and the results satisfactory. But, unfortunately, as in many other respects, there is no regular fund established for the purpose. Those who have attended the lectures have been obliged to pay extra fees: and thus a large number have been unable to attend the course at

all. But, my dear Sir, a man does not care to pursue such a course, unless the College is with him. There will always be those who can never discern any good in an experiment; and they are the ones who spoil or delay the best efforts.

I have written to you as to a personal friend. I love my subject; and I honor the man who has so liberally founded an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.

With sincere respect

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours &c.

Geo. R. Austin

Memo entered June 28<sup>th</sup> 1873  
S R Weston Esq  
To Geo Burnham & Sons Sr

June 28 No 5000 Passed Bonds

@ 25- 133-00

New payment.

George Burnham & Sons