

Louisiana State University,

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 22^d, 1871.

71/
Hon. Ezra Cornell,

Ithaca, New York. 3

Dear Sir:

I am greatly indebted to you for your very interesting & instructive ~~letter~~ letter of 30th ult., with accompanying documents.

I have no doubt you are right in saying that there has been great abuse of the "Land Grants", as managers of the States; and very probably the Em^l Gov^t can dispose of the public lands to greater advantage than the States.

All I want is the adoption of that plan which will be most beneficial to educational interests; and as I understand you to be warmly in favor of the Em^l Gov^t extending aid to the States for such purposes, will you devise some plan by which that can be best done, the Government retaining & selling the lands, and paying the proceeds to the States to be used for higher education?

You are best able, for many reasons, to draw up such a bill; and coming from you,

{also

who have some ^{more} in collegiate or University educa-
-tion than any one in America, it would,
I dare say, be well received, not only by Congress,
but by our whole people.

Our Southern ^{States}, need great assistance,
to support respectably their higher schools
of learning; and considering the apathy of
the people generally to that interest, and the poverty
of the State governments, I see but little hope
for us, unless the Genl Govt comes promptly
to our relief. And may you tell us how that can
best be done.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Yours obtl Servt,

J. F. Mayo,

Prof of Logic & Math.

Prof D. H. Bayne
Nov 22 71

Albany Dec 11th 1871
Mr Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir

Your favor of 28th
Nov came duly to hand, in which you inform
me that you will instruct Mr. Wood to deliver
to me the Small Lathe spoken of in previous
letters. -

After waiting several days to give time
for your instructions to reach Mr Wood I called
on him in relation to it, and was informed
by him that he had not heard from you about
it, or had no instructions to deliver it to me.

Supposing that ⁱⁿ the multiplicity of your cares
you had perhaps overlooked it I now take the
liberty of asking your attention to it - though
I regret to trouble you about it again -

With Much Respect

Yours Truly
Wm J. Emery



New York Dec 11 1871

Gov Enn Camer
Arlington House
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir -

I enclose the Map
which Knight sent me of the Harbor
at New Bayfield & of some land
around the shore, with his letter
accompanying - I think it would be
wise for our party to buy some
of the land at what they would be
willing for farm - & to do it soon if
you think so make such selections
as you think wise and authorize Knight
to buy - making such arrangements about
pay as you please - Will May be in
you, my reply - Assume that my wife joins us
in what we do,

- Patrick who has been there this fall
was here to day and says there cannot
be no mistake in sand around that
Bay - There will certainly be large
developments there - I might want
an interest in them - purchases he
should have it - but that could be
arranged - Will you write me at
Genoa - Michigan if any thing
has turned up - I shall be there 10 days
Please save these notes
Hattie & return to me -

Yours truly
H. H. Hager

The Cornell University.

President's Rooms.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec 13 1871

My dear friend

Frederick tells us that
you have the draft of a bill
looking to the ratification of your
Contract with this State by Con-
gress.

I wish that you would
hold on a little about that
until we can confer upon it.

It seems to me far more
likely to do harm than good
- just at present - when
every scandal is ready to
raise a cry in order to stop on

drawn cries against himself
Fred decidedly agrees with
me that it is best to wait
a little.

Sam is probably to be here
tomorrow. He asks to begin his
College evidently. I have some
ideas on the subject - that I would
like to submit to you & him - from
my pen.

Very truly & warmly satisfying
& slowly - except my bank account.

The Agricult. Proprs have
presented an admirable report
with maps & plans. Regarding them -
depl.

Mr Candler seems turning
out - excellently

Yrs truly

Wm D. Wheeler

Hon E. C. Corcoran

Neillsville Wis.

Dec. 14 '1871

E. Cornell Esq.

Dear Sir;

We have a logging Road cut through a forty acre tract of yours in this (Clark) County, and we would like to buy it for the pine timber there is upon it. The land is described as being the S.E. 1/4 of the N.E. 1/4 of Section No. 27. Township No. 27 north of Range No. One (1) West - We will pay you 15 dollars an acre for it Cash. It is worth more to us than any one else, and if you conclude to accept our offer, send deed to us by Express, with Instructions to Collect on delivery. Make deed out in name of James Hewitt & O. S. Woods

Yours Truly
Hewitt & Woods

The Cornell University.

President's Rooms.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec 16th 1871

My dear Mr Cornell

Would it not be
worth while for you to go to the War
Dept. and see if we cannot secure
here one of the stations for meteorologi-
cal observations. It seems to me just
the sort of thing that ought to be placed
here

I trust that Morris will not
forget to select out a goodly number
of models of Agricultural implements
of which doubtless there are many in
the collection.

I had intended to remain over
until next week in order to see you
but learning that you are not to be here
shall probably go to Syracuse tonight.
The term is ending very early.

factarily

Let us hear from you at ^{some} convenient
where I shall be making those ~~periodical~~
visit - tho. I may go to N.Y. for a day
or two

Very truly yrs

And D. W. Webb.

Wm. S. Converse

Mr White directed this
to you here. I opened it
and, ~~that~~ ink has consolidated
since you left.

The girls want your pass
to go to NY on Friday.
I hope you will come
home before that time.

In haste Yours
Mary A. Cornell

1871
Lakeville, Cal. Dec. 17th
Mr. Frank Cornell

Dear Sir, How is your
Kansas fever? Does it rage as
bad as it did when we were
at Ashburn? Mine has cooled
off lately. I don't believe I
want a great deal of a country
where even the buffalo freeze.
I am afraid if we were there
now our dugout would be
snowed under. Why don't you
come to this country. We have
the climate if nothing else.
We have had some frost but
not sufficient to spoil the roses
or grapes. What do you think of
that? fine grapes on the vine yet

Don't you wish you was here
to help eat them! I do. How
long did you stop in Denver?
When we reached Cheyenne the
eastward train was nine hours
behind time on account of snow
but they opened the track so
we had no detention. We reached
home the 17th all safe & found
all well. The baby Frank had
grown finely but did not know
us. Steve will go east in the
spring, but I do not know
what I shall do. Those mules
I was talking about went to
Nevada to winter, if they do not
all freeze & starve I can have
an interest in them in the
spring if I want it.

I have got a big tract of land
in Humboldt Co. Cal. & am
putting 2000 sheep on it. I

sent away 1300 yesterday to
go there. & am going to start
out tomorrow to get enough to
make up the 2000. There is no
use in talking. I shall have
to stay where the winters are
more mild than they are east.
Why can't you take your wife
& children & come to Cal. in the
spring, & see the country, you
will never regret it I think.

Mrs. Daniels wishes to be
remembered to your wife &
says she would be very glad
to see her here. Truly yours
S. Daniels.

P.S. The horses were all saved
from the Chicago fire. Our
friends were all burned out
but their lot is more valuable
for business than with their
residence on it & the most of

- Their insurance was good
so they really do not lose
much -

of family
Dec 17/71

December 18th 1871.

Dear Sir:

Your earnest Consideration is invited to the questions involved in the renewal of the St. Croix Land Grant. The third year has come around during which this measure has been before Congress - whilst meantime new grants have been made, others renewed and extended, lines changed &c the renewal of the St. Croix grant upon which the Northwestern portion of the State has depended to secure its development, has been pushed aside and in various ways denied by Congress.

Whenever it has been before Congress a very active earnest and effective opposition has encountered it, stopped its progress and driven it back to its original status. That opposition has unquestionably come from the bondholders, and other interested parties, of the railroad from St. Paul to Duluth. A railroad from Hudson to Superior and Boyfield would be lateral to that road and removed only a few miles from it on the same line and hence would involve sharp competition for the business, or, there can be arrived at easily, the reasons which influence those interested in the Lake Superior

and Mississippi R.R. to oppose the renewal of the St. Louis Grant.

It is also well known that, that road has very close relations to other important interests in the Country that wield a powerful influence in Congress which have contributed largely to protect the bondholders of the St. Paul and Duluth Road.

Recently some conferences have been held with the parties who have so successfully opposed the renewal, and general agreements resulted, that if the State of Wisconsin would consent to change the line, to the Valley of the Chippewa River to build a road from the vicinity of Wabashaw to the south shore of Lake Superior in the vicinity of Bayfield and to rent in the Wisconsin Central or Northern Pacific Railway the portion of the Grant on their lines between Superior and Bayfield or Ashland, the opposition would be withdrawn and substantial efforts be made to carry the measure through Congress. With it in that condition before Congress there would seem to be no reason why the Grant would not be renewed to the State.

The Delegation in Congress from Wisconsin consider that to some extent they are instructed by the Legislature upon this subject and it is desirable that it should give some expression at the earliest day practicable, with reference to the proposed change of line.

The reasons that you are asked to make this change of the line are:

First - Experience has shown that there has been in the past sufficient opposition to prevent the renewal for the old line and owing to the sentiment of the Country upon the subject of land grants, as well as from some other causes, a more effective opposition can and will be made now to the renewal, than at any time within the past two years.

Second - The opposition heretofore existing will aid the passage of the measure by changing the line as above indicated.

Third. The interests on the Chippewa line can command a very strong support for the measure, not heretofore given it, from different parts of the Country.

Fourth. The interests of the State will be best
suberved by the Change, and it will be purely
a Wisconsin interest.

The Conviction is quite general that the measure
will be defeated if pressed for the old line, and
there is a strong and well grounded hope of passing
it if the line is changed as proposed, so you are
earnestly urged to candidly inquire into the matter and
if you can conclude that it will be best to make
the change, to adopt a Memorial to Congress requesting it.

Geo. C. Senter " "

L. C. Stanley - " "

John H. Knight Bayfield Wis

James Edwards
Superior Wis

(Copy)

Freeville & Etta Thompson Co New York
Dec 19 87

Mr Joseph Roddoway
Albany

I had the pleasure of
meeting you at our Store and Mills,
last Railroad year when you called
to see my brother Mr. L. Wood. I had the
fortune, good or bad, or it shall prove,
to be kicked out of Mr Burts favorite
in the Directorship of the Ithaca & Cattaraugus
Railroad: because I was determined
with the Hon P. A. McGraw, ^{of McGrawville,} and Hon
E. S. Esty of Ithaca, and others who
shared my fate to have our road built
an honest Railroad, not in the interest of the
Speculators and Sharps, Burth: Recently
because I have with Hon E. S. Esty, Ever
advocated the building this road in the
interest of the Mcland Company, building
this section, and the Great South-West

Even before Mr Burt came in to
tattle it into his abortive Scheme, because
he thought it would be a splendid
Chance to carry out his nefarious ~~Scheme~~
plans. — Singularly Enough. How E. Cornell
and O. B. Curran of Ithaca, & H. P. Goodrich
of Calland seem to believe in Burt, not
another believer has he in this part of the
world, except or those ~~three~~ three persons,
through their personal influence, secure a few
adherents to Burt against the rankest, hottest
public opinion, specimens of which I send
you herewith. Mention the Midland
Railroad approaches Calland from the East, even
New York & meet our road via Selkirk
; and another building the Cincinnatus
and McGrawville; and a third one even
in prospect — the air Line via Hancock
and McGrawville — On it way northward,
one of its fingers is thrown out via Homer
from this common point to Auburn, North
or via Freeville, South Lansing & Genoa
to Cayuga or Auburn: Toward the South
= West it seeks or the Littleton has often told

me personally, identifying with the
~~Utica~~ Utica Ithaca & Elmira Railroad
Company to Ithaca. Puysegys, Spencer Van
Ettenville, Horseheads, Chemung & Pittsburgh
& the valley of the Ohio. Ithaca, now in control
of the W. I & E. Co., does not, never did, &
never can derive the high local line
via her University Puysegys & Van Ettenville;
while Mr Lilljohn (just or much as does
the megaphone Bunt) does derive the
very high line; and why? Because
the Milledune has purchased from Mr
Chas P. Wood of Auburn the entire Mun-
dock line and its franchises, with from
Auburn to Genoa with Lansing, the University
at Ithaca Puysegys, Spencer, \$150,000 to \$200,000
in right of way paid for grading done
&c, and every foot of which Mr Lilljohn
opposes me, the Milledune will at the earliest
moment occupy - Mr Bunt's W. I & E Enterprise
is by every valley East ^{from} of Calland headed off
by the Milledune: from Ithaca to Spencer Mr
Lilljohn owns the very base of Mr Bunt's
pretensions - the Murdock line, which Mr

Settlephu says is the most vague assumption
of Bunt's not in the market, and not possible
for Bunt to obtain ~~the~~ ^{the} by diplomacy
or theft. Even Mr Settlephu says, "Bunt is
an Enigma to me. Lett you should not get
the right end of the Midland story through
the Mroca Cattand directors in the W. I.
& E who hold their place by, & do the
building of the Bunt. I beg to say to you
that the Midland Co want the entire W. I. & E
road from Cattand to Forehead, at any
~~any~~ price, even a loss, and that of not
long which a disinterested party will say that
the condition of their work, the value of their
franchises, the cash & land stock, actually
put in the imaginary stock as profits -
and the short term & all - term of issue of
Mortgage Bonds, then the W. I. & E. to be
fairly worth to the Midland. The Midland
desire to keep back this heavy bonded
debt from the public, and offer to carry
\$50,000. or £100,000, a ~~for~~ many of these mat-
gag bonds now out & being negotiated, as
shall be necessary to carry the W. I. & E. to
decent completion - while they offer to provide

the W. I & E. Co. with cash, with which
to meet all such interest on mortgage
Bonds, or shall be permitted to be ~~carried~~
carried by them at their market value
by actual cash payments for taxes &
used for enough to pay such interest.

It would seem to me that no argument
need be drawn to show the contrast between
Bent's absolute speculation & the absolute
sum of the principal in his Estimation on
one hand, as compared with the ill-land
plan of cancelling one half ^{over} of the
of these mortgage Bonds, & then offer of
business to the W. I & E. Co.

I submit begging you to excuse my
length & my (Yrs)

Yours very truly
Signed - (O. W. E. Wood)

The Arlington.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Decr 19- 1871

My Dear Mary Ann

Your note attached to Mr. White's letter came to hand this eve asking me to send pass to girls. I fear it will be too late for them. Prof Morris got a letter from his wife saying Mary had been to see her and she thus learned that the girls were going to spy this week. I at once telegraphed you Monday if I should send "Eric's Pass" and rec'd no reply from you. If you had answered the despatch, I would have sent it in time. I still hope it may be in time but fear not. I expect to leave for N.Y. tomorrow night and be home Saturday. Dwight went to Phil^a this eve and will go home tomorrow

McGraw not here he will be home this week direct from Mich -

The question about land grant is transferred for the present to Wis Legislature to get resolution of instruction to members here. Knight Getty, & Edwards left today for that field of action. Gov Round will go tomorrow, Congress will adjourn Thursday even to 8th Jan^y -

Prof Morris was sick three days with pleurisy. He has been at work Monday & today and with my help has got 500 Models selected. We want to get 500 more, and I think Court will let us have one thousand, although 500 is at many as they propose to let other Colleges have. I have been laboring with Court & Printing Co. since I have been here to get an error corrected in our contract for Printing Patent Office drawings. If I succeed as I

hope to it will save \$15.00 for the Photo-Lith. Co. The error occurred through the sickness, excitement and carelessness of Rooker a year ago. It was a misfortune that I could not have been here at that time - The Photo-Lith. Co is gaining largely in private custom by reason of having this Patent Office work, so it works well as an advertisement for us and pays better - The prospects of that Co are brightening, and it is destined to assume great importance in the printing world -

I have called on & spent an evening with my 3rd or 4th Cousin Monroe member of Congress from Oberlin Ohio. I like both him and his wife, the greatest fault is that he is a Baptist, but that fault he inherited: I have been so busy I have not called on either of our senators yet, and only been twice up to the Representatives Hall,

I wanted to run down to Richmond but have not seen a span moment to do so. by the by they had 4 to 6 in of snow at R and good sleighing for a day when it was nearly like summer here. Today we have had 2 inches of snow here. I hear from Lewis Co. N.Y. they have 5 feet snow on the level - snow is a mighty uncertain thing =

The Arlington is a first class house but the cooking is not as good as it was at the Delavan when we boarded there - The Elder Russell is not here yet, the younger is mine host of the Arlington.

I have not called on the Priest yet though I saw him one day at the Arlington -

Yours Affectionably

Erna Cornell

Can Claim Dec 22^d 1871
How Ezra Cornell,
Dear Sir.

(5 PM)

Your telegram of the
20th was just rec'd (5 PM) also your letter
of 17th & Dwight's of 18th both from Wash-
ington. Dwight says in his letter of 18th
"we shall start for home in a day or two"
So I could not answer your telegram at
Washington.

I have carefully read your & Mr Dwight's
letters & fully endorse what you say, & wish
to do, if it can be carried out. We have a
very delicate matter to handle in that
St Cox Grant. in our Legislature - for
many of the members will go to Madison
pledged to go for its renewal, on local
matters & interests. Others will go for it as
being for the best interests of the State at
large to wit: that it may be utilized for
the benefit of the State.

I have been looking over the matter in all its bearings for some time past. I am satisfied that the St Croix Valley will have a good deal of strength of their own. They will have also the La Crosse influence & (a certain outside influence from Minn-
-dota) in our Legislature this winter. They have recalled H. D. Barron (5th Auditor) from Washington & elected him Member from Rock Co. on this issue. They have been marshalling their forces for months & yrs for years. & will, I am afraid, cripple us in the Legislature. if we attempt to get a resolution through that shall throw them out entirely.

A few days since at an "Old Settlers Party" at Chippewa Falls. I met most of the leaders of this "renewal" movement from Hudson. H. H. Taylor. Editor of paper. Judge Humphrey. Dr Hoyt. Senator Powell. J. C. Henning. Senator Lusk & others. & this matter was brought up - indeed, I should not have

gone up to the Falls but for this. They pro-
posed that we join & try for the removal of the
old Grant & for the new Grant for our Valley
Road." I said they would go in on this
basis & do all they could &c. I said to them
there was one way that we could join-
tent: Let them bond their Road entirely a
few miles only, say make Lake Orest-
Orillas a point. then we would in-
tersect them by bonding slightly west-
with our line - & make a Commutative
some 75 miles from here & then give
the balance of the Land from this point
northwesterly to the Lake & the Company that
would take hold & build it.

I enclose you a map showing the
Land Grants as they now exist. You
will see that portion of unappropriated
Lands lying between the St Croix Grant
& the Cent. M's Grant. runs out or ter-
minates near where we should intersect.
into the St Croix. South of that point

we could not use or make available
that portion of the St. Croix Grant. as it
is too far west for our line (Lands granted
to R. N. must be along the line) another
thing. the Grant until we get up towards
this point is not of so much value. the
principal value of the Grant being about
N. 1/4 of S. 36. just about where we
should begin to reach it with our line.
So that if we should get the whole
thing cancelled & transferred we should
only reach a portion of the Lands. - from
Hudson North to S. 36. the Lands
had been pretty well taken before the Grant
was given. - so that we should not lose
much. our gain much. I have written
& told gentlemen at Hudson that I will
be over there on Monday (25th) & see them
on this point. I will notify you at once
of result. It seems to me that we should not get
up a fight in our Legislature on this matter
as we want all the strength there is there.

12/22/1871

There are parties who hold this franchise
& grant what there is of it. That we can
probably make an arrangement with
by which we can be assured either of
the building of the North End of the Road
or the transfer of the grant on that por-
-tion to us. & I shall try & find these parties
on Monday at Hudson & see what can
be done.

I believe that the Hudson & Superior
portion of the St Croix Grant will be
killed entirely this winter by the same
influence that has defeated it before -
But it may be that the Hudson & Ashland
portion (of which they have built 20 miles
to Richmond) may stand, & that we may
on this make our compromise. One thing is
certain if we can get this through over
Line. Wabashaw to Ashland will be the main
line & the road to Hudson from our intersec-
-tion the branch -

Truly
Yours
J. C. Robinson

Hydracum
Dec. 23^d 87

My dear Sir

If you are to be
at Ottawa during the coming
week please let me know
by telegraph up to what day
I can find you there.

If possible I will come
down before going to G.
wh. I expect will be toward
end of week

Very truly yours

Thos. D. White

Hon. E. Corbett