

102 Mad<sup>n</sup> Av Feb 12. 1872

My Dear Mary Ann

I leave NY this morning for Albany  
McGraw & Wife - Sage, wife & son goes Mr White  
goes up this P.M., and not sure yet whether  
A.B. can go or not. I saw Mr Henry Wells  
in W. He wants to get up a party to go to  
Jamaica leaving the last of this m<sup>o</sup> and  
returning for part of Apr<sup>l</sup>. He says Gov.  
Seward, son & wife, himself & wife, and wants  
Mr & Mrs White, and Mr & Mrs Cornell and  
daughters to make up the party.

What do you think of it, would you  
like to go? And could I get away 6  
weeks from business? I fear this Congress  
at business and a stage at Madison Wis  
will take all my time = I cannot tell  
yet whether I must return to Wash<sup>g</sup>  
fr A or go home first, untill Wednesday  
John reached Wash<sup>g</sup> Friday morning and  
returned Sat P. M. Yours Affectionately  
Ezra Cornell

Fair Gate, Orange County, N. J.  
February 12, 1872.

Hon. Erasmus Barks

New York. Dear Sir

I address you as a Trustee of the Cornell University, who has the cause of education at heart and request that you will look into the affairs of the Land Department. The same request has been several times made by me to Ezra Cornell and once especially to Andrew D. White and declined by each. You are aware that I have had the management of this business since the reorganization.

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Albany on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1865, a Resolution was passed asking me to "report what in my opinion would be the best method of managing and disposing of the Land Script," to which I replied on 8<sup>th</sup> May following in a report to Victor M. Rice, Secretary, giving confidential results of my own experience as an expert and dealer of 47 years.

This plan has been acted upon in the location of the scrip as far as I have been able to control it, and has met with the success then predicted. — That you may understand that this is not pretence on my part, I may be excused for stating some of the minute particulars. That the first 100,000 acres scrip placed in my hands by Ezra Cornell for

location, was intended to be located on farming lands connected with a plan to organize and induce emigrants to go out and settle them, and upon that basis I procured the passage of an Act in the Assembly of Wisconsin to exempt all the lands from taxation in that state for five years, that after further reflection and investigation I advised Mr. Cornell to locate, and did locate in his name, pine lands upon the head waters of Black River and of Chippewa River, giving him the full benefit of my organization, knowledge and experience as an expert, for the paltry sum of thirty cents an acre and paying all the expenses attendant upon the work, when I could have sold this knowledge to capitalists for 3 or 4 times the sum, and have had no further trouble with it, or have shared in the profits on the lands.

That Ezra Cornell adopted this advice in the Spring of 1866. - That in consequence I left my home here, and went with my family to Wisconsin the following summer to superintend the location of said scrip. That Mr. Cornell came there in August of that year at my solicitation and after a personal examination of the country, expressed himself satisfied with my acts and encouraged me to proceed. That I did so to the extent of 3190 pt Scrip of 160 acres each. That this occupied my whole time during the years 1866 and 1867.

That after my return home I devoted myself to drafting contracts, deeds & blanks, which have since been used in the business - making maps

preparing headings for entries - opening and writing up books to organize and simplify the business of the Land Department so as to make it plain, simple and intelligible to any person.

That on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1868 being at Ithaca with these books, by invitation of the Trustees to attend the opening and organization of the University, I found Mr. Council and Mr. White prostrated by sickness and greatly distressed for want of a financial head to conduct its business.

That at their solicitation I volunteered to assume its management until they could obtain the aid of some suitable person to conduct it.

That I devoted every moment of my time during the day and until late at night for six months to that object. That I organized all the departments - supervised the erection of the College buildings, contracted for materials, opened roads, built bridges, hired and paid workmen, organized the students labor corps, opened and wrote up the books with my own hands, being unable to procure skilled labor for that purpose, and for this six months personal application - paid my own expenses and gave my services ~~without~~ pay, for the cause of education. That in April 1869 I left Ithaca and came home bringing with me some of the Books of the Land Dept. to write and finish, and that in this labor and the general management of the business I was occupied until August 1871, during which time

I organized plans for selling the lands and advancing the prices - procured customers & made many advantageous sales & had many negotiations pending, some of which have since been consummated at \$10 per acre.

That in pursuance of this plan, in May and June 1869 I again went to Wisconsin, spending many weeks away from my family and completed arrangements for paying and compromising taxes upon University lands which had been sold for taxes & that in one negotiation alone I obtained a reduction of nearly 17,000 Dollars, by making a contract involving my personal responsibility to pay 52,500 dollars on or before the first day of the next October, that this was reported by me to Mr. Cornell, who delayed any action upon it until the whole amount was past due, leaving me no option to rescind the contract or to assume it for my own during that time.

That while I was in Ithaca in the winter of 1868 + 1869 I was approached by ~~three~~ of the Trustees who came separately and desired me to advise Mr. Cornell to sell 100,000 acres of the University lands to themselves and others for \$4 = an acre. That I declined to do this on the ground that the lands at that time were worth much more.

That I have at all times since steadily refused to advise such a sale. That during this period sales were made by me at larger prices. - and that through my efforts the price

2/12/1872

was advancing. That in Ezra Cornell's report to the Comptroller sworn to on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 1871 he represented that in December 1870 a sale of 150,000 acres was made to responsible parties at \$4<sup>00</sup> an acre on 10 years credit at 6 per cent interest & says I was induced to make the above sale by the urgent request of nearly all the Trustees of the Cornell University & of the Governor & Comptroller of the State, & in June 1871 he contracted 100,000 acres to like responsible parties at ~~\$5~~ an acre on 10 years credit & six per cent interest, & further that "some other sales made by agents of which I have not yet received the amount". In regard to which I wish to state

That the sale of 150,000 acres was made without my knowledge while I was acting as the Agent for these lands and keeping the books, - that the fact was carefully concealed from me, - that the sales was made at an under price to Trustees of the University - That the Trustees who signed the urgent request were solicited to do so. That the Governor & Comptroller were also solicited to sign & that the Comptroller says he did not sign it officially. That the usual mode of selling timber lands is for a cash payment down & remainder within a year (secured by a lien on the logs) with 10 per cent interest (legal in Wis) That my report of sales to Mr. Cornell at his request & enable him to make his report to the Comptroller was in his hands by

acknowledgment as early as 23<sup>d</sup> November. My sales were made in June & July 1871, at \$6 $\frac{1}{2}$  per acre, and it would not do to publish this along side of sales at \$4, as acc'd Trustees - by the urgent request of Trustees. It having been published in Wis. that Mr. Concell was selling his lands at 4.00 per acre, it was impossible for me to get more than \$6 $\frac{1}{2}$  although I had advanced price. Mr. Concell having repudiated his contract with me now endeavors to insinuate that I have conducted this business for my own benefit.

I have asked for investigation & I think that my past services entitle me to demand it, and I now request that you will do me the favor & move that a committee of Trustees be appointed to examine the Books for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of the matter.

I have not been paid for my services in locating and taking care of the Lands & attending to the general interests of the University in regard to them. I in Oct. last commenced a suit to recover the sums due me, which is now pending -

You are at liberty to make such use of this letter as you think proper in developing the truth.

Yours. Respectfully  
J. A. Woodward.

Albany Feb 12, 1872

My Dear Mary Ann

I am now satisfied that it is best for me to go back to Washington, and I wish you would meet me in N.Y. and go to Washington with me.

Sage and his wife will go and probably McEgrew and Wife but it is not certain that the latter will go. McEgrew may go directly west, and if he does his wife is yet to decide which way she will go -

You can go to N.Y. Tuesday night and be there in time to go to Washington with me Wednesday night.

I enclose you my pass, and a check for \$100, to take



with you, and a check  
for \$1000, for Frank to carry  
him along until I return.

You must instruct your  
girls so that they can  
run the house successfully  
until we get home -

Excuse haste

Yours Affectionately  
Erna Cornell

P.S. I have just returned with  
Thomas from spending the evening  
at Daniel Goulds, when we found  
them well, and spent a pleasant  
evening again I should be glad  
of your company, as they request  
after you and would enjoy a  
visit from you first rate  
Daniels father was then from  
Fall River and had seen Uncle  
Miller but a few days ago  
and said he was well and kept  
his usual coat going! E.C.

Elk Mountain Feb 12/92

Hon Esq Cornell

Dear Sir

I replied to your favor of the 14<sup>th</sup> ulto & described Elk Mountain etc. I have not heard from you since, but now write & enclose advertisements of lands soon to be sold so that any of the colonists or others of your acquaintances wishing to make investments in farming or lumber lands may have time to investigate the matter before the sale, I will say via explanation that Geo W Sweeper was the first Pres of the Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap & Charleston R Road, that he & one Gen M S Littlefield of N.C. managed to get possession of about \$9,000,000 of State R.R Bonds, then started work on the road & began appropriating the bonds & proceeds to their own interests here & in Florida, the State legislature two yrs since appointed & empowered J. W. Woodfin & R. W. Pulliam, to settle with Sweeper (Littlefield was made the 2<sup>d</sup> Pres of the Road) he owned a large amt of real estate in West N.C. which he assigned to Mess Woodfin & Pulliam & they now propose to sell more or less of it, the large tracts are all lumber lands, heavily timbered, will probably bring from 10<sup>cts</sup> to 25<sup>cts</sup> (cts) per acre. This ref to tracts # 9 & 10 & 14

Tracts #1, 2, 3 & 4, are splendid farming lands & must in time be very valuable, they will probably bring from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per acre if there should be any Northern buyers here, if not the price will be something as there is no money here to buy with if sold at all it must be to Northern people, -

I also know of several tracts of timber lands for sale on the French Broad River & its tributaries, price from 25¢ to 50¢ per acre, in tracts of from 100 to 2500 acres, all these lands have on them more or less cherry, Locust & black walnut which can now be put in market at a profit & when we get a R.R. must be very valuable. The French Broad River is as large or larger than the "Mohawk", between here & when it empties in the Tennessee River it is very rapid but for 40 miles above here a good size steam boat would find no obstructions, it has many tributaries coming down from the mountains, down which logs could be driven - I believe Northern capitalists can't make better investments any where than in these timber lands -

In speaking of a model farm I think I did not name such an institution located about 150 miles from here in the central part of the State, Guilford Co., it was started soon after the war closed, the Society of "Friends" (Quakers) of Philadelphia gave 300 acres of worn out cotton land & put a Penn Quaker farmer on it, placed \$10,000 to his credit & told him to

Show the N. Carol's how to farm with free labor,  
Mr Sampson, each year brings in 20 or 25 acres,  
at first he bought ~~feetings~~ but now makes all he  
uses & the farm is paying - he has built a good  
farm house & out buildings - he orders seeds and  
implements for all who desire, organizes farmers Clubs  
in every neighborhood for several Counties around  
him - in fact he has revolutionized farming in that  
part of the state, at the winter meeting of the  
state Ag<sup>l</sup> Society Mr Sampson said as high as  
1200 persons had visited the farm & registed in  
one month - Mr Battle, Pres<sup>t</sup> of the state Ag<sup>l</sup>  
society was among the visitors & said "we  
should have ~~had~~ <sup>such</sup> a farm in each Cong<sup>l</sup>  
district throughout the state" but we could  
devise no way of raising funds to accomplish  
such an undertaking -

Truly yours  
H. S. Cornell

Ferry N. J. Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 11

Ezra Cook

Dear Sir,

Ever since my  
recent visit to Ithaca I have  
been thinking of the many  
advantages I could enjoy  
in residing in your beautiful  
town for the coming ten years  
as I have four children still  
to educate. Will you help  
me to a decision by giving  
me some information on a

few points.

1<sup>st</sup> Could my two daughters be admitted at once into classes for which they were prepared boarding at home under my constant care & supervision. simply enter the college for recitation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Could I ~~could~~ get four acres of land on the hill near the college & at what price.

3<sup>rd</sup> Are there any places

in the adjoining hills to rent & at  
what price.

4<sup>th</sup> Are there any places to sell  
& at what price.

5<sup>th</sup> What is the cost of living. Do  
New York prices reach your  
market.

6<sup>th</sup> In about what could I build  
a cheap frame house. Please  
indicate size.



Miss Stanton Feb-13-72

If it will not be too much trouble  
I should be much obliged if  
you will answer these questions.

With kind regards for your wife  
Annette, & self

Yours resp<sup>t</sup>

Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

P.S. Please keep this strictly private as I  
do not want the newspapers to announce  
it, as they do everything concerning me.

Attnca Feb 14, 1872

My very dear Husband

I received your letters  
of invitation to accompany you to  
Washington, and also the telegram,  
I could not get my courage up to  
take a night ride alone, last evening  
but if I could have left this morning  
and joined you I should probably  
have gone, but perhaps it is all for  
the best, I do hope you will get home  
on Saturday, it seems an age since  
you left, I cannot think you will  
have any thing to keep you there after  
Congress adjourns, as I suppose it will  
over Washingtons birth day,

Did you notice that the Elkins  
check was dated the first of March,  
you not mentioning it in your letter  
made me think that you did not.  
I have been spending the day with our  
Mother she is very smart, I think her  
health is better than it has been for a  
long time

We have had very warm pleasant  
weather since you left the snow pretty  
much left, yesterday towards night  
it commenced raining and about  
midnight it turned to snow and  
is now very cold again,

I have not heard a word about how  
you succeeded at your meeting.

I have not much news and it is  
getting late and I will close with  
enclosing a letter to you from  
Wisconsin that you may wish to  
act upon soon.

I hope you will come home soon  
and not be obliged to go back to  
Washington again this winter

Ever Yours Affectionately

Mary A. Cornell

Syracuse Feb 17 1842  
Ezra Cornell Esq  
Ithaca N.Y.

Dear Sir. - I communicated  
with Mr White with a view of  
giving readings before the  
Young Gentlemen of Cornell:  
(He gave me the enclosed  
testimonial.) Would you be kind  
enough to let me know whether you  
would like to hear me do so?  
My terms at present are \$30.

faithfully yours  
W. Locke Richardson

New York

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> / 872

My dear Mr. Conwell

I send you a letter wh. explains itself.

As Mr. C. has been writing to so many parties of State Officials & Trustees

it occurs to me that he may try to prejudice persons in Washington

Let me hear from

you by this post

Wm. D. Whitney

Mr. E. Conwell

over

P.S. Please return letter  
to me soon. When  
are you to be here  
It is important to  
have a meeting of the  
Sage College Committee  
soon that we may know  
what to do for plans re.  
U.

# The Arlington.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb 20 - 1872

Dear Alouzo

Our bill passed the Senate last Friday by a good vote I think 31 to 7.

In the House we hope to get a vote on it soon, by taking the Senate bill from the Speakers table, The House Com<sup>t</sup> having agreed to report it, and are waiting for an opportunity. Still we are in doubt as to the position of Ketchum.

If he would unite with us and try to pass the bill, there would be no doubt of its passage with him indifferent & not voting I think we can pass it. But with his opposition we might fail, and probably should -

Wheeler also seems to be for us  
in a better way, He is chief of  
the N. Pacific RR Co., and  
says the N.P. Co has no objection  
to the passage of our bill - I am  
a better judge of human nature  
than to take that for fact.

If you could do any thing  
to insist those two men for  
our work it would make all  
safe and sure.

Gen. Brooks, assured me this mor-  
ning that he regarded it right  
to extend the time asked for  
to build this road, He voted  
an extension during the War  
and would again.

I am compelled to leave for  
home this evening to be home  
Wednesday night - I shall have  
time to stop in New York.

Yours Affectionably

Erva Cornell



Ithaca february the 22, 1842

Mrs Corbitt Ezra will you  
Please lend my Brother Simson  
\$35<sup>00</sup> dollars He has got to pay  
that to morrow or they will make him  
trouble he has got a note against  
George westbuck and he has disappointed  
my Brother he dont know what to  
do if you will please lend it to  
him and wait six months take his  
note please do if he dont pay it  
i will if i have to work out by the  
week to do it i think a great deal of  
my brother he has just started in the  
world he was married last fall  
please do and oblige one that used  
to work for you

Miss Mary Knott and know  
it is Mary Brown my  
Brother name is Simeon B Knott  
from Pontotocville chimney co

By  
Mr Carrall do Comodate him

yours ever from Mary Brown  
to Ezra Carrall

Shaca

March 7<sup>th</sup> / 1872

Hon Ezra Cornell.

Dear Sir.

We appeal once more to you and others interested in the affairs of the University, for immediate aid in the boating interest.

We still owe \$311.00 on the Boat-House built last season.

There is needed \$1200.00 or \$1500.00 for boats the coming season.

Now this whole amount cannot be raised among ourselves (the students) and that which is expected and promised from the students and people in town cannot be secured before the first of next term. The debt of \$311.00 must be paid soon. It is long past due. The builder, Mr. Boyce, holds a Mortgage

on the House and Boats and threatens  
to foreclose on the same in a few  
days Now in spite of all our  
efforts we have not succeeded  
in getting money, plenty of promises  
and subscriptions but - no ready cash

Pres. White promises \$100.00  
towards the payment of the debt -  
and now we appeal to you to  
know whether anything can be received  
from you.

If we do not get the  
amount necessary to take up this  
mortgage, and it is foreclosed  
we shall not raise a finger  
to save the couple ruin which it  
will bring upon the boating interest

Most - Respectfully  
Your Obedient - Servant -

A. C. Pike

Com. Cornell Navy



Washington, D.C. 7 March 1872.

To Hon Ezra Cornell.

Dear Sir.

I have your letter in the 4<sup>th</sup> no and note its contents with great interest. It puts this Department into possession of valuable information respecting your College. I take occasion to suggest that the Status of your Institution will give it much power and influence in shaping the progress of learning in this country. The tendency of my inclination is to give character and force to the Science of Agriculture, because I am convinced that it is yet imperfectly understood. I desire, too, that there should be Institutions of learning where a farmer may educate his son for the pursuit of his own business, and I believe that can not be done without ~~the~~ the introduction of the principle of compulsory labour: it is the only distinguishing quality of an agricultural College, and without it, agriculture can not be taught. A graduate of <sup>a</sup> purely literary college after an absence of four years returns to find nothing congenial upon his father's farm, he has been trained in a different <sup>path</sup> of life and he looks round to

to see how soon he may escape to some near Country Town  
where he may pursue his easy study to professional life, for  
which he may make a poor figure. But let the graduate  
return to the farm with the knowledge of the mechanical  
structure and practical use of the plow, with his thoughts  
turned upon his daily observation of the characteristics of  
the earth, how and why it is plowed - how seeds germinate  
etc and grow - what an interest he will manifest in  
the daily operations of his home - what an object of  
admiration he will be amongst his brothers and  
friends and how proud he will be to impart his  
knowledge to others and how soon he will become  
the distinguished man of his neighbourhood  
and thus effectually promote the interests of agricul-  
ture. I do wish, my dear Sir, with your enlarge-  
d head, and expansive views and character  
you could think thus, and give to Cornell  
University a right direction on this subject.

Thanking you kindly for your letter

I am My Respectfully  
Your Obedt  
J. B. Watts

New York March 12 1872

H. W. Sage  
March 12 1872

Gov E Corner

Washington

(Armed Forces) Dear Sir -

Your message just rec'd -  
I have little faith that the bill can  
be passed at this session - and, in fact,  
little care whether it is or not - I know  
what I have seen of the men in our dealing  
with and of their evident interest and  
purpose as connected with our I can  
see no prospect of such harmonious  
working in the future as will make  
the Coalition desirable - Men must be  
very near to saint who can work smoothly  
together when they have no interests in  
common - and all my reliance is left  
you to prove that arrangements based upon  
purely selfish interests can work smoothly -  
Now I have not seen any disposition on  
the part of Thompson & Deaks to perfect into

As each arrangement as they & I will know are  
fitted to the smooth working of interests after  
they become joint - but on the contrary  
a possible avoidance of the consideration  
of money, in which we are repeated to  
have a trace - Possibly your reference with  
them may be different - but I have no  
expectation that they want any thing of  
us now but our help to get what they  
want - & after that is obtained to Control  
us wholly in their own interest -  
Say this to you now so that you  
may understand my views - and why I take  
so little interest in the matter - That they will  
build this road to Bayfield - land grant or  
now, I have no doubt - That we have  
any thing to gain by all in case  
get out of arrangements with them -  
possibly besides - and for my own  
part I would rather Control wholly to our  
manage our own affairs in our own  
way than to, as I am sure we must be,  
wholly in their Control under the arrangements  
they have provided for us - I have not the  
least objection to your making known to them



3/12/1872  
My views upon this subject - for it will be  
only the frank expression of such views that  
will lead to the discussion, upon equal  
terms, of the questions which must follow  
the obtaining of the Land Grant - (should our  
bill pass) - You must not judge from what I  
have said that I lose sight of the value of  
the Grant - I know about that - But it has  
no attraction for me if I must receive it with terms  
& conditions which deprive me of independence in  
what follows - I would rather buy & pay for  
the few thousand acres which would fall to  
my share - and so avoid having my interest &  
conduct subject to interests hostile

- You see I write you so much more than mine  
in this matter that I do not desire to mar or discourage -  
Therefore my best wishes attend you for the victory you  
hope to win in passing the bill - And if the good  
after that can be made smooth for you joining  
Conflicts of interest I shall be glad to travel with  
you - If it cannot I shall want to be at  
Liberty Lake another -

Yours truly  
W. W. Sage

AMERICAN  
Photo Lithographic Co.  
OSBORNE'S PROCESS.  
New York  
OFFICE 103 Fulton St.  
WORKS  
34 Ave. & 10th St. Brooklyn.

Mar 12 — 1872

My Dear Mary Ann

When I got to N.Y. I found our people pretty much discouraged about the passage of the St Croix bill, Thompson who left his Bank at St Paul to be absent 2 weeks had been at Washington 8 weeks & had to go home, Drake also from St Paul, had a fire in his machine shop and burned up 4 of his locomotives but he went back Saturday night to Washington Sage could not leave some special business at home, Mr Graw was in Michigan, Dwight could not leave, and I found that it was indispensable for me to take hold again and help as best all we had done, and we may do so every way -

I therefore could not keep out of  
the fight. I begin by getting a letter  
in Tribune of this morning, the  
Times will have an article to-  
morrow morning. I go to  
Washington tonight. I should  
have gone last night, but I  
had a severe headache and de-  
cided to wait till tonight - and  
will do the best I can. Expect  
to get the bill voted on next  
Thursday. Shall be home  
Saturday -

I enclose a check for \$1200,  
say to Frank. I expect a draft  
to be sent about this time  
for the bill of pipe for heating  
in New House. Let him  
pay it.

I stay at A.B.C. Ellen is  
not well, has had a fever

her face looks like erysip-  
-els, rest as all well  
I shall dine with them  
at 6 P.M. and take the  
slupee at 9 P.M. at Jersey City,  
Affectionately,  
Esra Cornell