Baltimore, Aug 17, 1841

My Dear Mary Jones & Children,

I have been engaged all of this day at drawing which you will gladly except as an excuse for the lion's share of one of my "long yarns." I have merely laid my work aside to inform you of the fact that we are happy at the same time to be able to inform you that I continue to enjoy the best of health, much better in fact than I had dared to hope for, for I had feared the effects of the sun at this season of the year, but I experience no inconvenience from its heated rays although they are hot down up on us with a power that would do credit to the horse power engine. You will not be disappointed to hear me say the praises of the "Sunny South," a phrase that is incorporeal by the hand's daughter of the praise at the dawn of the new born day, a phrase that has rose from the bosom of the poet, a phrase that has risen from the hospice of the contractor, and a phrase that is visible in the last lingering ray of light that cloaks the groovy mountaintop or graces the evening cloud with gold. But is there ought but happiness, you will require in a land whose fields are lying by tomorow? Oh! Praise God that it turns so, Ha Ha!

I must think of some at this moment the condition of human misery. Yet it is the gloom dealer who has just sold you. Don't expect him and is leaving him for an offering, to deliver him to the interior purchaser. As he taken to a strange land, where home and children are no more seen for ever. Yet, this "Sunny South" this land of promise, is cursed with human slavery, the soul of man is made an article of merchandise, by his fellow man, and can such a land be happy? No, Bushwicks, do not,
dwell in any land that is bound by the lightning curse of slavery. My dear sir, I am convinced that our humble lot is the dwelling place of more happiness; in one day than falls to the lot of many human beings in this portion of our beloved land of liberty during a long life. I did not think when I reached up my pen nearly to inform you of my health or in a few hurried lines that my mind would recur to the word "but as it has, let me indulge in one reflection more, it is of a political nature which, but may be more the less profitable to contemplate. I allude to designs of the Democratic Party in the nomination and support of Mr. Polk for the presidency of the United States. Ah! What is it? "Palo and Texas" are inscribed on these banners, the interpretation of which is, I am persuaded, slavery. The declared object of that party is to annex Texas to this union for the supposed purpose of protecting and strengthening slavery. And surely and boldly at the sentiment is abased by the south. It will be induced by many of the north, and will they not be guilty of violating the chains of slavery? Slavery as it is grafted in the states by the Constitution is bad enough and must be endured until it is removed by the force of enlightened public opinion acting upon the householders, but for the sake of humanity let it not be extended. In the election of Henry Clay slavery is made no worse than the nominin in the election of Joel P. Poff. It will be extended and just beyond the reach of the present generation to remove. Alas Christians, judge between these two.

Monday morning Feb 19. My dear sir, above you will find a few hurried lines which I ran off for you last evening after I got through my dressing. I will now close the letter by a few more lines in the way of news and then start it off to both you.
I have got the Pike nearly all of it 97 miles left to come of which I expect to have up by Wednesday and shall be glad when the job is done. I have worked very hard this past week but it seems the harder I work the better my health. I do more work myself than the other men that Prof. Morse has allotted to the Telegraph put together and one of them at least no as much pay as I do and the others men f. $1.850 & 3.200 per day.

The 10th of this month you recollect. I had 3 months salary due. Well Prof. Morse returned from New York last Friday, but for me to come over to his room and paid me the whole $186.67 without a word about the loss time from being at home, my thing looks well in regard to the telegraph line between this and Washington is being worked on now with a battery of 10 cells only, say 20 cells or so, when it was first started, this is the result of improving we have made and many more will be made, this reduces the expense of keeping it in operation very much.

I expect to go East soon to take charge of constructing a line between New York and Boston. Can't tell how soon I shall go. If you write towright to run you any direct live wire I direct you to send to some other point. I am expecting to hear from you this day. I shall go to the post office to day in expectation of finding a letter.

I have sent some letters to Boston and will reprint them on the subject soon. Breakfast is ready and I must bid you good.

Yours affectionately,
E. Cornell

M. A. C.