

" *Resolved*, Second, that the object of the above resolution is solely to secure to the public at large the benefit of the steamer's news in advance of speculators, in accordance with section 12, chapter 265, of the laws of the State of New York, 71st session, passed April 12, 1848, as follows :—' It shall likewise be the duty of every such owner or association to transmit all despatches in the order in which they are received, under the like, one hundred dollars to be received with costs of suit by the person or persons whose despatch is postponed out of its regular order as herein prescribed ; provided, however, that arrangements may be made with the proprietors or publishers of newspapers for the transmission, for the purpose of publication, of intelligence of a general and public interest, of its regular order.' "

The Directors instruct me to request that you will direct their agent to be received at the office at Halifax, in order that these resolutions may be carried into effect. We assure you that we entertain the most kindly feeling towards your company, and regret that it has become necessary to adopt any regulations in order to protect the public interests.

W. H. ABEL, *Sec. pro tem*, *Am. Tel. Co.*

(Tel.)

HALIFAX, May 16, 1859.

W. H. WISWELL to W. H. ABEL.

Your request is a very singular one. Would you permit an agent of ours to sit in your chief office to superintend and report upon your proceedings? We think not; and we must decline your request as unreasonable.

W. H. WISWELL, *Sec. N. S. Tel. Co.*

(Tel.)

NEW YORK, May 17, 1859

W. H. ABEL to W. H. WISWELL, *Sec'y N. S. Tel. Co.*

Your despatch of 16th inst. is received. By the laws of this State and the settled practice of telegraph companies, the press are fairly entitled to the preference in obtaining the steamer's news, in order that speculators may not operate at the expense of the public. It is alleged, and you do not deny, that you have agreed to give a preference in the transmission of the foreign news to a private party; this arrangement is not only unreasonable but unjust, and it is rendered particularly objectionable at this time, by the excited and interesting state of foreign affairs. If this company should transmit such a despatch in advance of the public news it would become a participator in the wrong, hence the request was made to be allowed to place a tried and faithful agent in your office to see that public news are first despatched over your lines before private despatches are allowed to be transmitted. This request, so far from being unreasonable, is only the reasonable and natu-

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