

(Tel.)

New York, May 21, 1859.

W. H. ABEL to W. H. WISSEWELL, Sec. N. S. Co.

Your despatch of 16th received. You mistake our ground. We complain that you will not transmit messages in the order in which they are tendered at your office. Will you agree to do so, and let the Associated Press take their chance on the only true telegraphic principle—first come, first served. Answer, please answer.

W. H. ABEL, *Secretary, pro tem.*

(Tel.)

Boston, May 21, 1859.

To JAMES C. COGSWELL, Esq.,

President of the N. S. Telegraph Co.,

Sir,—Your letter of the 10th instant to Peter Cooper, Esq., President of the American and the Newfoundland Telegraph Companies, with enclosed copies, is received; and, so far as the contents thereof relate to matters between your Company and the American, I am instructed by their Directors to say, "That they very much regret the events which have recently occurred to disturb the harmony hitherto existing between said companies—a harmony, the preservation of which, in their business relations, is necessary, not only for their own comfort and success, but indispensable in the performance of their duties to the public. That you have been annoyed by the telegrams, copies of which you sent us, we can readily understand, but you will do our company the justice to believe that they have neither been parties to these discourtesies, nor, until the receipt of your letter, were they aware of their existence; and, although they are well calculated to produce the asperity of feeling which seems to exist between your company and the newspaper press agent here, yet we cannot believe that your sense of right will make us responsible for the acts of a party over whom we have no control. Furthermore, the business interests of our respective companies are so connected and blended, especially in respect to the transmission of the foreign news despatch, that what is injurious and detrimental to one equally affects both. By the adoption, however, of a simple rule, it seems to us that all difficulties between ourselves or with the public may be at once disposed of. The rule with us, and we believe with all the telegraph companies in this country, is this, that "The first come, first served." This is the only fair and practicable rule that can be adopted, giving satisfaction to the public; whenever it has been departed from trouble has as surely followed. In the strife for precedence let superior activity, as in everything else, have its reward. In this view may we not hope you will readily concur, and your company at once return to this practical rule?"

These differences, we think you will agree with us in saying, should not exist, and, if not at once ended by the above suggestions, we should be happy to meet you at Boston, New York, or elsewhere, that we may confer together on a subject, the speedy adjustment of which is so im-