

To George Harrington<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

We need "lease" papers immediately, as the parties who own ~~the~~ Building<sup>a</sup> seem to desire it before we put our shafting up,<sup>3</sup> which approaches completion.

Please embody following in Lease That:—

We shall have the right to run nights—

Shall have the right to use the power nights by paying for its cost.

We shall Have<sup>a</sup> any amount of power we desire above the four horse power which is included in the rental, by pay one hundred and fifty dollars per horse power per year. The total amount of power shall not exceed 10 horse =

That he will heat the shop by steam

That he shall belt on our main shaft at his own expense

That he shall keep the belt and pulleys that run the main shaft in order—

That we shall not be limited as to the amount of machinery used in the room<sup>b</sup>

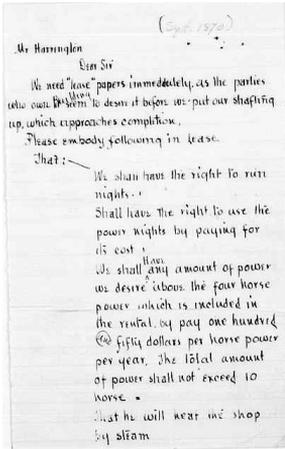
The rent is One Thousand dollars per year for the room, which includes four full horse power payable monthly in advance = Commencing Oct 1st 1870—

I Think it advisable to lease one year with the privelege of 2 or 3 as you think best = I Please have Lease made out and sent to

T A Edison Care Ritchie and Boyden<sup>4</sup> No 15 Railroad Ave Newark N Jersey

Please write and Let me know what bills you have received.<sup>5</sup> One machine is in the freight house now = The reason that I write instead of coming to see you is that I am working a night gang ~~on~~ men on the perforator which I hope to have done by tuesday evening or wednesday 10 oclock = ~~I~~ cannot have all the keys in but will have as many as possible = I am compelled to stay here and watch men and give instructions— Mr Hyde<sup>6</sup> is attending to the Belts pulleys, shafts and Carpenter work all right— I may possible come in to see you tomorrow at 11.30. = Yours Respy

T A Edison



ALS, NjWOE, DF (*TAEM* 12:47). <sup>a</sup>Interlined above. <sup>b</sup>Followed by a line drawn across the page.

1. George Harrington (1815<sup>2</sup>–1892) had been a clerk in the U.S. Treasury Department during the Polk administration (1845–1849). He became chief clerk under Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase and was appointed assistant secretary of the treasury in 1861. From 1865 to 1869 he served as U.S. minister to Switzerland. While in Europe, he observed government-controlled telegraphy, and upon his return home he became interested in the commercial possibilities of automatic telegraphy. *NCAB*, 12:337; Quad. 72.10, pp. 1–5 (*TAEM* 9:149–51).

2. This date is indicated by Edison's noting that the rent is to be "payable monthly in advance = Commencing Oct 1st 1870."

3. Edison and Harrington leased space from Ezra and Roscoe Gould in their factory building at the corner of Green St. and Railroad Ave. in Newark. One of Newark's leading tool and machinery manufacturers, E. & R. J. Gould produced machine tools, woodworking machinery, steam engines, and fire-fighting apparatus. "Shafting" refers to the system of overhead shafts, pulleys, and belts used to transmit power to the machines on the floor. Holbrook 1870, 889; idem 1871, 300, 891; Ford 1874, 73–74.

4. E. A. Ritchie and G. Boyden manufactured padlocks at 15 Railroad Ave., which was also the location of the Newark Telegraph Works.

5. There are bills and correspondence regarding machinery for the shop addressed to Harrington and dated 27 September 1870. DF (*TAEM* 12:45–46).

6. Andrew Hyde.