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Ocean telegraphy

Cyrus West Field

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

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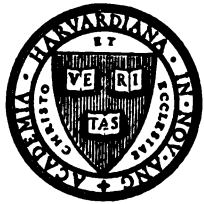
Rev Saml W. Woods. D.D. LL.D.

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OCEAN TELEGRAPHY:
THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

NEW YORK, MARCH 10, 1879.

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The Graduate School
of
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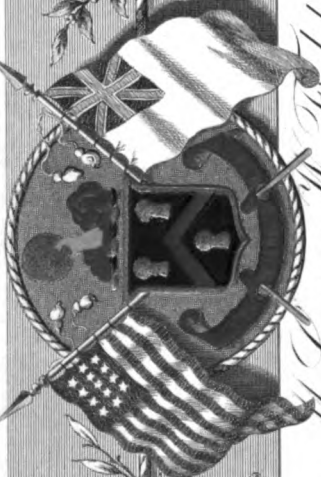
Mr. Cyrus W. Field,
 requests the pleasure of
 Rev Samuel S. Good's
 company, Monday evening,
 March tenth from nine to twelve,
 Brewery Park, No. 40, No. 1,
 February twenty fourth, 1879.



AMERICA

MARCH 10TH 1879

AMERICA



EUROPE

MARCH 10TH 1854

ASIA



De. et. Co. Albany N. Y.

THE FIRST VOYAGE

TO THE NORTH POLE

BY DR. J. H. COOPER

THE FIRST VOYAGE

TO THE NORTH POLE

AN OCEAN CADET

NEW YORK, MARCH 10, 1870

PRINTED BY G. W. WOODS



OCEAN TELEGRAPHY:

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE ORGANIZATION OF

THE FIRST COMPANY

EVER FORMED TO LAY

AN OCEAN CABLE.

NEW YORK: MARCH 10, 1879.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

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June 26, 1924

An occasion so full of interest as that which commemorated the birth of Ocean Telegraphy, and which revived so many reminiscences of its early history, deserves some record or memorial by which its associations may be preserved. In accordance with this suggestion and request from many quarters, the following has been prepared chiefly from the reports which appeared in the papers of the city of New York.

TIME flies so fast, drifting us away from great events ; and changes succeed each other so rapidly, the miracles of yesterday becoming the familiar facts of to-day ; that we are apt to forget the origin of the new creations, even while enjoying their magnificent results. It is only once in a while, when some anniversary comes round, in the hours of a birthday or a festival, that we pause a little, and look back at the past, and see the long distance that has been traversed, even since we have been upon the stage. The lifetime of one generation is reckoned at thirty years. It is indeed a "little span," but that span has measured a cycle in the progress of the world. So sudden and stupendous have the changes been, that what even the most visionary did not dream of has come to pass. It is good for us now and then to retrace our steps ; to go back to the beginnings of things ; to "remember the days of darkness," which were many ; the days of disaster and defeat ; and to mark by what "labor and toil and pain" the final success was achieved. "Other men have labored, and we are entered into their labors." The knowledge and the practical mastery over nature, which are our rich inheritance, were obtained for us by the discoveries of others, wrought out in secret, after many disappointments and long delay. It may teach us the "patience of hope," to consider how repeated failures taught the way of success, and defeat ended in victory.

Among the wonderful achievements of our age, perhaps none strikes the imagination more, and marks a greater change in human affairs, than the discovery of the science and art of Submarine Telegraphy, whereby human intelligence may be flashed across the ocean in an instant of time. Thereby the dominion of man over nature is indefinitely extended; the waters which encircle the land do not form "a bound which he cannot pass," for the same swift airy messenger which flies over the mountains, dives under the sea, and man talks to man from distant shores. The Hemispheres, divided by great oceans, are brought nigh unto each other; far-separated nations come "within speaking distance"; and in the possibility of easy communication, the world may be said to be "of one language and one speech."

It is indeed a marvellous tale, and yet the science itself is of recent birth. It opened its eyes upon the world since we of this generation opened ours. Many of the inventors and discoverers, who made it possible, are still living; and those who first applied it on a large scale to unite the Old World and the New, are our countrymen. It is well that the beginning of such an enterprise should be remembered before those who had a part in it have all passed away. Not long since The New York Herald thus referred to this chapter of recent history :

"We are so familiar with the use of the telegraph across the ocean that we are apt to forget how recent a thing it is, and that the originators of the great enterprise are still among us. It is only a quarter of a century since the project was first conceived.

The 10th of March, 1854, is the date of its birth, and so of the birth of deep sea telegraphy. On that day was signed the agreement to organize 'The New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company' (if certain privileges could be obtained from Newfoundland), the object of which was stated in the very first sentence of its charter to be 'to establish a line of telegraphic communication between America and Europe by way of Newfoundland.' The company was formed in a private house—that of Mr. Cyrus W. Field—and composed of but five individuals: Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Cyrus W. Field, Marshall O. Roberts, and Chandler White. Mr. David Dudley Field was present as the legal adviser of the company, and went with his brother and Mr. White to St. John's to obtain the charter. Mr. White soon after died, and was succeeded by Mr. Wilson G. Hunt. These five gentlemen are all still living, to see the great results of the experiment then first made to carry the telegraph across the ocean. Small attempts had been made in Europe to transmit messages under water—first across the River Rhine, but half a mile wide, and next across the British Channel. The first attempt to unite England and France was made in 1850. A copper wire, covered with gutta percha, was laid between Dover and Calais, about twenty-one miles, but communication was kept up only for a very brief period. The next year it was replaced by a cable of four wires, which is still perfect. A few other sea cables were laid, but only in shallow water and for short distances—the longest, that to Holland, being but 130 miles, and in water only a few fathoms deep. This American company was the first to propose to span the ocean. As soon as the line had been completed to Newfoundland, Mr. Cyrus W. Field went to London, and there, in 1856, organized the Atlantic Telegraph Company.

“Its first attempt was made in 1857, but the ships had sailed

but a little over three hundred miles from the coast of Ireland when the cable broke and the expedition returned. The next year (1858) the attempt was renewed in a different manner. The American and English ships-of-war, the Niagara and Agamemnon, sailed for the middle of the Atlantic, where they were to join cables, and sail east and west to carry the two ends to their respective shores. But before they reached mid-ocean a storm arose, and the Agamemnon had a narrow escape from foundering; and when at last the cable was joined, it was broken several times in the attempt to lay it, and the expedition returned to England almost in despair.

“One more effort, however, was made that summer, and with success. The cable was stretched from shore to shore and messages passed between Europe and America. But communication continued only three weeks, nor was it re-established till eight years later (in 1866), after two new cables had been manufactured (one of which, after being paid out 1,200 miles in 1865, was broken in mid-ocean and fished up the year after and carried to the shore of Newfoundland), mainly by the exertions of the same indefatigable spirit which had originated the project and urged it forward in spite of all obstacles for twelve years.

“But the success of that first Atlantic telegraph in 1858, brief though it was, had demonstrated the possibility of crossing the ocean, and so led the way for all after triumphs in deep sea telegraphy. It had proved that a cable over two thousand miles long could be laid in water over two miles deep. After that nothing seemed impossible. Cables were laid in the Mediterranean, in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, and thence across the Arabian Sea to India, and across the Bay of Bengal to Burmah, and down the Malayan Peninsula to Penang and Singapore, and up the eastern coast of Asia to China, and across to

Japan, while southward lines were carried to Java and across that island and the surrounding seas to Australia and to New Zealand. In this Western Hemisphere cables were laid to Cuba and the other West India Islands, and down the coast of South America to Brazil and the Argentine Confederation.

“Thus, within a quarter of a century, submarine telegraphs have been carried across almost all the seas and oceans of the globe (except the broad Pacific, which yet remains to be conquered), bringing into close communication all parts of the civilized world. Many who bore an honorable part in these great achievements have passed away. Their memory is cherished by their survivors, who find many stirring recollections recalled whenever they meet together, as they will continue to do so long as any of those who were actors in these scenes shall remain upon the stage.”

In the spirit of the above, in order to celebrate an anniversary of so much interest as the completion of a quarter of a century from the signing of the agreement to organize the first Company ever formed to lay an ocean cable; and to bring together once more his old companions-in-arms, and to gather around them *his* friends and *their* friends; Mr. Field issued invitations to a large number of gentlemen, to a reception at his house on the 10th of March, 1879.*

*The card of invitation, of which a fac-simile is given, was designed to represent Submarine Telegraphy, linking together with its chain of light the four quarters of the globe. In the centre is a white space of the size of an ordinary visiting card, on which is engraved the invitation. Above this is the coat-of-arms of the Field family, which consists of a shield, with a black ground, parted by a *chevron* of silver, with sheaves of wheat in gold. The crest shows an arm emerging from a cloud, and grasping the world. This is derived from an ancestor of the family, John Field, a distinguished English astronomer, who lived two hundred

As it had been his fortune, in passing to and fro in the last quarter of a century, on the errands of a very busy life, to form an acquaintance such as is rare among private individuals—one not confined to his own country—he took this occasion to give to friends far distant a token of his remembrance. Invitations were sent to a large number of persons abroad, especially to those who had been connected with him in telegraphic enterprises on land or sea, who, though they could not be present in answer to the call, responded in the most cordial terms. A few of their telegrams and letters will be given elsewhere. Of the invitations this side the Atlantic, some were sent to friends almost as far off as if beyond the ocean—as to those on the Pacific Coast. In all, there were eighteen hundred invited guests; and with the many unavoidable absences and regrets, about one thousand re-

years ago, and who introduced the Copernican astronomy into England. A more appropriate design could hardly be found for one who has united the Hemispheres. On one side is an American and on the other an English flag, the staffs of which cross behind the shield. The allegorical figures of the four quarters of the globe will be recognized by all Englishmen as taken from the designs on the Albert Memorial Monument in Hyde Park, London. Europe is seated on a bull, the emblem of strength, crowned, holding a sceptre in her right hand, and in her left a globe, surmounted by a cross, while at her feet are three symbolic figures, one holding a sceptre, one with an anchor and a wreath, and the third in an attitude of instruction. America appears as an Indian, with spear and shield, seated on a bison, with a native warrior behind, while in front a figure of civilization stretches out its wand over the new world. Asia reposes on a kneeling elephant, attended by Brahmin and Buddhist priests; and Africa is perched on the hump of a camel, with Oriental figures around her. A cable winds around the whole card, making a frame to the medallions. On one side is the date of the origin of the Company, March 10, 1854; and on the other, that of the reception, March 10, 1879. At the foot is the representation of Mr. Field's dining-room, and the six gentlemen who met therein to launch the first cable—Cyrus W. Field, Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, Chandler White, and David Dudley Field.

sponded in person. Said the New York Times the next morning: "Such a distinguished assembly was probably never gathered together in one house on this continent." Indeed one house did not suffice to hold them; but the adjoining one, of Mr. Dudley Field, Jr., was thrown open also; while in the rear of both had been erected a large temporary pavilion, in which the entertainment was provided.

The drawing-room was hung with paintings, some of which were delineations of scenes in the different telegraphic expeditions. One represented the landing of the cable at Valentia, Ireland, in 1865. The Great Eastern is standing off in the distance, while a long line of sailors in the shallow water are dragging the heavy cable to the shore. Another showed the arrival at Heart's Content, Newfoundland, of the Great Eastern, bearing the cable of 1866, under escort of the Albany and Terrible, and the landing in the presence of a vast and joyous multitude. The other three depicted scenes on board in mid-ocean; grappling for the broken cable, and throwing up a skyrocket at midnight to tell the accompanying ships that it was found; then the "testing" in the electrician's room on board, to see if the long lost cable were still "alive," and, last, the return of the Great Eastern from Newfoundland, after landing the recovered cable. In the dining-room, in the rear of the parlor, where the original company was formed, stood the table on which the first compact was signed, and on it the globe which has been in Mr. Field's library for more than a quarter of a century, and in turning over which the idea of a telegraph across the ocean was first suggested to him. On the wall, spanning the windows, hung a flag which had a historical interest. It was neither English nor American, but both in one, the two ensigns being folded or inwrought together, and this was the

very flag which had been borne in four expeditions : which floated over the Niagara when she first set sail from Ireland in 1857 ; and again in 1858, when the same ship brought it across the sea ; which was raised over the Great Eastern in 1865, to be carried only to mid-ocean, but which hung there still, in the year following, when the attempt was at last completely successful. In the rear of the dining-room was a telegraph instrument, at which, during the evening, messages were received from different parts of the country, and from beyond the sea.

It was a great pleasure to Mr. Field to have with him his three brothers—all that are living—David Dudley Field, Stephen J. Field, Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Rev. Henry M. Field. The special guests of the evening were of course his four associates, Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, and Wilson G. Hunt, who shared with him in the congratulations of the evening. No ladies were present, except those of the family. Soon after nine o'clock the guests began to arrive, and continued with scarce a moment's intermission for two hours, till both houses were densely crowded. Seldom has a company included a greater variety of personages. Almost every name suggested some enterprise with which it was connected, some position of influence. Among the first to arrive was the venerable Major-General Joseph Patterson of Philadelphia, and it was a sight to see grouped together three such distinguished octogenarians as Gen. Patterson, Peter Cooper, and Thurlow Weed—the latter a great power in American politics ; one who, without public station, holding no office and seeking none, has been the creator of other men's political fortunes. Official personages followed in great numbers, who, with the naval and military guests, many of them in uniform, made a very brilliant scene. It is impossible to give a complete list of those present. One can only

gather out of the reports in the city papers of the next morning a portion of the names, which are here arranged in groups, to show more clearly the varied and representative character of the distinguished company. Among them were the following:

William M. Evarts, Secretary of State; Sir Edward Thornton, the British Minister; Edward M. Archibald, C. B., the British Consul-General; Baron Schiskin, the Russian Minister, with attachés of the Russian Legation; M. de Kartschewsky, the Russian Consul-General; Captain Schmetkin of the Russian Navy, aide-de-camp to the Grand Duke Constantine; Leon Chotteau, commercial delegate from France; M. de Zamacona, the Mexican Minister; Judge Allen, Minister from the Hawaiian Islands; Hermann A. Schumacher, the German Consul-General; Signor C. G. B. Raffo, the Italian Consul-General; Salvador de Mendonca, the Brazilian Consul-General; Baron Thomsen; and E. F. Davison, Consul of the Argentine Confederation.

Of the late and present officers of the Government there were: Ex-Secretaries of the Treasury Benjamin H. Bristow and Hugh McCulloch; Judges Benedict and Choate, of the United States District Court; Edwards Pierrepont, Ex-Attorney-General and late Minister to England; John Bigelow, former Minister to France and late Secretary of State of New York; George H. Boker, late Minister to Russia; Ex-Postmaster-General Marshall Jewell; John Eaton, Commissioner of Education; and William G. Le Duc, Commissioner of Agriculture; J. Hubley Ashton, late Assistant Attorney-General of the United States; General Merritt, Collector of the Port of New York; S. W. Burt, Naval Officer, and Postmaster James; Ex-Collector Chester A. Arthur, and A. B. Cornell, late Naval Officer; and Thomas H. Dudley, late Consul at Liverpool.

Of former and present Members of Congress: Senators Allison of Iowa, and Pratt of Connecticut, and Ex-Senators Lafayette S. Foster and William H. Barnum; and Representatives Elijah Ward, Clarkson N. Potter, Abram S. Hewitt, Fernando Wood, S. S. Cox, Abram Wakeman, R. B. Roosevelt, Anson G. McCook, Benjamin A. Willis, William Walter Phelps, Levi P. Morton, S. B. Chittenden, and Archibald M. Bliss; J. W. Ferdon of Rockland county, and Ellis H. Roberts of Utica; Henry Watterson of Kentucky, and General C. E. Hooker of Mississippi.

The Navy was represented by Rear-Admiral Worden, who fought the Monitor against the Merrimac; Rear-Admiral Trenchard, late in command of the North Atlantic squadron; Commodore Glasson, who commanded one of the ships in Perry's Expedition to Japan; Paymaster Joseph Eldredge, who was on board the Niagara when the cable was laid; and Lieutenants Wells L. Field and T. B. M. Mason; and the Army by a number of officers who did brilliant service in the war, though some of them have since resigned to engage in other pursuits: Generals Francis C. Barlow, James Bowen, Daniel Butterfield; George W. Cullum, of the United States Engineers; W. M. Dunn, Judge Advocate General of the United States Army; Clinton B. Fisk, Quincy A. Gillmore, Thomas Hillhouse, Martin T. McMahon, Horace Porter, Charles Roome, Alexander Shaler, Henry W. Slocum, R. F. Stockton, Egbert L. Viele, and Stewart Van Vleit; Major Francis Pope, and Capt. W. P. Robeson.

Of the State of New York there were present three Ex-Governors: Samuel J. Tilden, E. D. Morgan, and John T. Hoffman; with Lieutenant-Governor William Dorsheimer, and his predecessor, Stewart L. Woodford; Chauncey M. Depew,

late Secretary of State; Attorney-General Schoonmaker; and Senators Robertson, Rogers, Ecclesine, Murphy, St. John, and Wagstaff; Chief Justice Church and Judges Andrews and Rapallo, and Ex-Judges Comstock and Davies, of the Court of Appeals; while other States were represented by Alexander H. Rice, late Governor, and H. G. Knight, late Lieutenant-Governor, of Massachusetts; Ex-Governor Marcus L. Ward, Hon. Cortlandt Parker, and Senators Hobart and Frederick A. Potts, of New Jersey; Governor Hoyt and Ex-Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania; Ex-Governors Howard of Rhode Island, and Bullock of Georgia.

The City of New York was represented, not only by its officials, among whom were the Mayor, Edward Cooper; and Ex-Mayors Gunther, Wickham, and Ely; Andrew H. Green, the late Comptroller; Jordan L. Mott, President of the Board of Aldermen; Smith E. Lane, Park Commissioner, and other members of the City Government; but by hundreds of her most eminent citizens—men distinguished in every profession, on the Bench and at the Bar, in the Pulpit and the Press, Literary men and Artists; with Bankers, Merchants, and the Capitalists, whose names figure at the head of all our great commercial enterprises.

Judges: Chief Justice Noah Davis of the Supreme Court of New York; Chief Justice William E. Curtis of the Superior Court; Chief Justice C. P. Daly of the Court of Common Pleas; with Judges and Ex-Judges Bosworth, Cowing, Daniels, Danforth, J. F. Daly, E. L. Fancher, F. J. Fithian, Henry Hilton, William Van Hoesen, R. L. Larremore, Amasa J. Parker, Charles A. Peabody, John K. Porter, C. F. Sanford, Gilbert M. Speir, H. C. Van Brunt, and H. C. Van Vorst.

Lawyers: Theodore W. Dwight, LL.D., Erastus C. Benedict,

District-Attorney Phelps, Joseph H. Choate, Daniel D. Lord, William Allen Butler, John E. Burrill, Henry M. Alexander, S. L. M. Barlow, Algernon S. Sullivan, George De Forest Lord, John E. Ward, Henry W. De Forest, Waldo Hutchins, John Sherwood, Henry Day, Charles E. Whitehead, William Tracy, Louis Delafield, Henry D. Sedgwick, G. P. Lowrey, Dwight H. Olmstead, W. G. Sterling, Simon Sterne, Frederick S. Tallmadge, Cephas Brainerd, Burton N. Harrison, U. S. Grant, Jr., Arthur G. Sedgwick, John Gaul of Hudson, &c.

Of Clergymen one recognized the faces most familiar in the pulpits of New York and Brooklyn: Rev. Drs. William Adams, Morgan Dix, John Cotton Smith, E. A. Washburn, Henry W. Bellows, R. D. Hitchcock, Henry C. Potter, Howard Crosby, Henry Ward Beecher, Theodore L. Cuyler, Noah Hunt Schenck, Thomas Gallaudet, G. H. Houghton, William F. Morgan, William M. Taylor, L. D. Bevan, George B. Cheever, T. W. Chambers, Philip Schaff, W. G. T. Shedd, M. R. Vincent, Robert Russell Booth, Thomas S. Hastings, E. P. Rogers, Samuel D. Burchard, C. C. Tiffany, Wm. J. Tucker, W. W. Newell, William T. Paxton, E. F. Hatfield, Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., Charles A. Stoddard, O. H. Tiffany, Samuel Osgood, E. H. Chapin, C. C. Hall, T. W. Nevin, Lyman Abbott, J. D. Wilson, J. R. Kerr, and Father Bjerring of the Russian Church.

Physicians: Drs. Willard Parker, William A. Hammond, William H. Van Buren, Fordyce Barker, Alfred Loomis, James R. Wood, Edward L. Keyes, Austin Flint, C. R. Agnew, A. Jacobi, W. B. Neftel, William F. Lusk, Arthur J. M. Minor, Elisha Harris, Joseph J. Hull, John C. Barron, Everett Herrick, Peter Jay, J. Foster Jenkins, Frederick Drake, S. B. Jones, Frank Leroy Satterlee, Edward Loring, H. Nichol, M. D. Van Doren, D. M. Stimson, Francis M. Weld, H. C. Eno, J. B. Fulton,

F. M. Gunnell, and William B. Hubbard; George J. Fisher, of Sing Sing; Thomas Kirkbride and O. A. Judson, of Philadelphia, &c.

Merchants, Bankers, &c.: Edward S. Jaffray, B. G. Arnold, Lloyd Aspinwall, Elliot C. Cowdin, J. M. Constable, William Libbey; Samuel D. Babcock, President of the Chamber of Commerce; John A. Stewart, Henry F. Vail, Henry F. Spaulding, George Cabot Ward, Russell Sage, John T. Agnew, Percy R. Pyne, Joseph Seligman, Jesse Seligman, J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles Lanier, D. S. Egleston, H. C. Fahnestock, George F. Baker, Morris K. Jesup, John W. Ellis, George Bliss, David Dows, Josiah M. Fiske, John Taylor Johnston, A. S. Hatch, Robert L. Stuart, Alexander Stuart, Solon Humphreys, E. P. Fabbri, J. H. Wright, Samuel Ward, Norman White, William E. Dodge, Jr., D. Willis James, James McCreery, John H. Hall, A. S. Barnes, Henry Ivison, Salem H. Wales, Daniel F. Appleton, Jackson S. Schultz, Isaac H. Bailey, H. G. Marquand, Julius Wadsworth, Chandler Robbins, John J. Cisco, Jay Cooke, Andrew V. Stout, Robert H. McCurdy, Edmund H. Miller, Anson P. Stokes, Henry M. Taber, William H. Webb, J. B. Colgate, Charles B. Hoffman, W. B. Dinsmore, Richard A. McCurdy, W. H. Beers, Charles F. Livermore, Benjamin B. Sherman; Brayton Ives, President of the Stock Exchange; T. B. Musgrave, William H. Fogg, George W. Lane, Lawrence Turnure, Gordon W. Burnham, Smith Clift, William H. Taggard, Parker Handy, Augustus Schell, J. Hasbrouck, Charles L. Tiffany, Colonel Bayard Clarke, Robert Stuyvesant, Edward Clark, Thomas C. Acton, Col. J. W. Adams, Milton Courtright, H. R. Bishop, Benjamin Brewster, William J. McAlpine, Col. William Borden, A. D. Juilliard, Francis Cottenet, Eugene Kelly, W. M. Halsted, Charles H. Russell, Harrison Durkee,

Joseph W. Drexel, C. H. Godfrey, Arthur Leary; F. S. Winston, O. H. Palmer, Alfred Pell, J. W. Pinchot, George Opdyke, Frederick H. Cossitt, Isaac N. Phelps, E. A. Quintard, Royal Phelps, José F. Navarro, James Renwick, Henry Grinnell Russell, H. M. Schieffelin; Alexander Brown, J. W. Clendenin, John Paton, Jonathan Edwards, R. Cornell White, James H. Whitehouse, John Townsend, George W. Carleton, A. D. F. Randolph, George Haven Putnam, E. A. Wickes, Arthur B. Graves, George B. Satterlee, Dudley J. Clift, James C. Fargo, Henry W. Dwight, Thomas McElrath, E. B. Wesley, and John H. Dey; and Henry E. Pierrepont, James S. T. Stranahan, Seth Low, Walter T. Hatch, and A. D. Napier, of Brooklyn; Henry R. Pierson, of Albany; James A. Burden, of Troy; George M. Bartholomew, of Hartford; Walter Watson, of the Bank of Montreal; Captain McMicken of the Cunard Line, &c., &c.

The Colleges were represented by President Barnard and Professors Chandler, Newberry, and Egleston of Columbia; President A. S. Webb of the College of New York; Chancellor Crosby and Professor Henry Draper of the University; Professors George P. Fisher, S. Wells Williams, LL. D., and O. C. Marsh of Yale; Professor E. N. Horsford of Cambridge; President Potter of Union; President Chadbourne and ex-President Hopkins of Williams; and President Foss of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.

The Press was represented by Robert Hoe, the inventor of the famous "Lightning Press"; by Rev. Drs. Samuel I. Prime and Edward Bright; Messrs. Chamberlain of the New York Herald, David M. Stone of the Journal of Commerce, Whitelaw Reid of The Tribune, Noah Brooks of The Times, William Henry Hurlbert of The World, Edwin L. Godkin of The Nation, Isaac Henderson, Jr., of The Evening Post, W. T. Clarke of

The Express, J. M. Bundy of The Mail, Frank Leslie of The Illustrated Newspaper, J. H. and Charles M. Goodsell of The Graphic, Oswald Ottendorfer of The Staats-Zeitung; Joel Cook, correspondent of The London Times; George W. Childs of The Ledger, and Francis Wells of The Bulletin, of Philadelphia; Thomas T. Kinney of The Newark Advertiser; R. M. Pulsifer of The Boston Herald, Edward King of The Journal, and George Roberts of The Times; N. D. Sperry of The New Haven Palladium; Stilson Hutchins of The Washington Post; Ralph Bayley of The Pittsburg Telegram; Horace White, late editor of The Chicago Tribune; Dr. J. G. Holland and Roswell Smith of Scribner's Monthly; Thorndike Rice of The North American Review; William Libbey, Jr., of The Princeton Review, H. B. Barnes of The International; and the representatives of the great publishing houses, the Harpers, the Appletons, &c.

Of the Artists were many whose names are familiar to all lovers of good paintings, as their works hang on the walls of the Academy: Daniel Huntington, Eastman Johnson, Sanford R. Gifford and R. Swain Gifford, Worthington Whittredge, J. F. Cropsey, Louis C. Tiffany, Jervis McEntee, William H. Beard, H. W. Robbins, Thomas Hicks, Thomas Le Clear, H. C. Shumway, T. Addison Richards, &c., with the sculptor J. Q. A. Ward.

With the editors and artists, one recognized others well known in our literary society, such as Prof. Botta, Richard Grant White and James Grant Wilson; Edmund C. Stedman and Edward J. Burlingame; Benson J. Lossing, the Old Mortality of our Revolutionary history; Gen. Di Cesnola, who spent years among the ruins of Cyprus, of which he has furnished the most authentic history; and Paul Du Chaillu, who explored the forests of Africa; Col. Thomas W. Knox, the traveller in Siberia; J. Young, the explorer of Australia; Fred Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, to

whose beautiful design our city owes its great Central Park, and Col. George E. Waring, who aided in carrying out the work; Prof. Bickmore, of the Museum of Natural History; and others connected with our public institutions and charities; William Wood, the President of the Board of Education; Henry Bergh, Henry M. Pellew, and Charles L. Brace, the latter the founder of the Children's Aid Society.

There was a large infusion of Railroad and Telegraph men. Of the former, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Vice-President of the New York Central; Hugh J. Jewett, President of the Erie; A. L. Dennis, Vice-President, and F. Wolcott Jackson, Superintendent, of the Pennsylvania Central; George H. Watrous, President, and William H. Bishop, late President, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford; Sidney Dillon, President of the Union Pacific; C. P. Huntington, Vice-President of the Central Pacific; Samuel Sloan, Commodore C. K. Garrison, W. R. Garrison, &c.

The Telegraph was represented by Hiram Sibley of Rochester and J. H. Wade of Cleveland, who were among the founders of the great Western Union Telegraph Company; by Dr. Norvin Green, its President, and its five Vice-Presidents; Gen. T. T. Eckert, President of the Atlantic and Pacific; George G. Ward, Superintendent of the Direct Cable Company; George B. Prescott, author of a History of the Electric Telegraph; Colonel T. Smith, the oldest telegraph operator in the United States; President Andrews, of the American District Telegraph Company; Mr. Dakers, of the Montreal Telegraph Company, who came from Canada to be present; and Moses G. Farmer of Newport, the inventor of the Electric Torpedo.

With these there were many from other cities than those already named: From Boston, Hon. Josiah G. Abbott, Samuel Kneeland, LL.D., Thomas G. Appleton, Nathan Appleton, &c.

From Baltimore, its Mayor, Ferdinand Latrobe, with Enoch Pratt, Decatur H. Miller, and William McKim; while Washington, besides its diplomatic and official guests, was represented by two of its most eminent men of science, Professor Spencer F. Baird, the recently elected Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, as the successor of the lamented Henry; and Gen. Albert J. Myer of the Signal Service Bureau, whose calculations from observations over the whole continent, enable him to anticipate and give warning of the winds and storms that are approaching.

While Mr. Field was receiving this array of guests, his associates seemed equally happy with himself in the results of the great enterprise to which they had all contributed. At half-past ten o'clock they took their places in the dining-room, where the original compact was formed, Mr. Field being surrounded by his family, while at Mr. Cooper's side stood his son Edward, the Mayor of the city. Mr. Field then spoke as follows:

NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS: Twenty-five years ago this evening, in this house, in this room, and on this table, and at this very hour, was signed the agreement to form the New York, Newfoundland & London Telegraph Company—the first Company ever formed to lay an ocean cable. It was signed by five persons, four of whom—Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, and myself—are here to-night. The fifth, Mr. Chandler White, died two years after, and his place was taken by Mr. Wilson G. Hunt, who is also present. Of my associates, it is to be said to their honor—as might have been expected from men of their high position and character—that they stood by the undertaking manfully for twelve long years, through discouragements such as

nobody knows but themselves. Those who applaud our success, know little through what struggles it was obtained. One disappointment followed another, till "hope deferred made the heart sick." We had little help from outside, for few had any faith in our enterprise. But not a man deserted the ship; all stood by it to the end. My brother Dudley is also here, who as the counsel of the Company, was present at the signing of the agreement, and went with Mr. White and myself the week after to Newfoundland, to obtain the charter, and was our legal adviser through those anxious and troubled years, when success seemed very doubtful. At St. John's, the first man to give us a hearty welcome, and who aided us in obtaining our charter, was Mr. Edward M. Archibald, then Prime Minister of Newfoundland, and now for more than twenty years the honored representative of Her Majesty's Government at this port, who is also here to-night. It is a matter for grateful acknowledgment that we were spared to see accomplished the work that we began; and that we can meet now, at the end of a quarter of a century, to look with wonder at what has been wrought since in other parts of the world.

Our little Company came into existence only a few weeks before the Western Union Telegraph Company, which is entitled to share in our congratulations; and has kindly brought a connecting wire into this room, by which we can this evening communicate with every town and village from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and by our sea cables, with Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, and South America.

While our small circle has been broken by death but once, very different has it been with the Atlantic Telegraph Company, which was formed in London in 1856, to extend our line across the ocean. At its beginning, there were eighteen English and twelve American directors, thirty in all, of whom twenty-nine have either died, or retired from the Board. I alone still remain one of the Directors.

Many of the great men of science on both sides of the Atlantic, who inspired us by their knowledge and their enthusiasm, have passed away. We have lost Bache, whose Coast Survey mapped out the whole line of the American shores; and Maury, who first taught us to find a path through the depths of the seas; and Berryman, who sounded across the Atlantic; and Morse; and last, but not least, Henry. Across the water we miss some who did as much as any men in their generation to make the name of England great—Faraday and Wheatstone, Stephenson * and Brunel—all of whom gave us freely of their invaluable counsel, refusing all compensation, because of the interest which they felt in the

* The allusion here made to the great engineer, Robert Stephenson, called forth a letter from a gentleman of New York to whose father Mr. Stephenson wrote August 25, 1857, just after the failure of the first expedition. The passage is interesting as showing how much thought that great man had given to the subject, and how fully he appreciated the enormous difficulties to be overcome—difficulties through which he frankly confesses "he could not see his way":

"The Atlantic Cable question is a far more difficult matter than those who have undertaken it are disposed to believe. The subject has occupied much of my thoughts, and as yet I must confess I do not see my way through it. Before the ships left this country with the Cable, I very publicly predicted, as soon as they got into deep water, a signal failure. It was, in fact, inevitable."

solution of a great problem of science and engineering skill. It is a proud satisfaction to remember, that while the two governments aided us so generously with their ships, making surveys of the ocean, and even carrying our cable in the first expeditions, such men as these gave their support to an enterprise which was to unite the two countries, and in the end to bring the whole world together.

Others there are, among the living and the dead, to whom we are under great obligations. But I cannot repeat the long roll of illustrious names. Yet I must pay a passing tribute to one who was my friend, as he was the steadfast friend of my country, Richard Cobden. He was one of the first to look forward with the eye of faith to what has since come to pass. As long ago as 1851 he had a sort of prophet's dream that the ocean might yet be crossed, and advised Prince Albert to devote the profits of the Great London Exhibition of that year to an attempt thus to unite England with America. He did not live to see his dream fulfilled.

But though men die, their works, their discoveries, and their inventions, live. From that small beginning under this roof, arose an art till then scarcely known, that of telegraphing through the depths of the sea. Twenty-five years ago there was not an ocean cable in the world. A few short lines had been laid across the Channel from England to the Continent, but all were in shallow water. Even science hardly dared to conceive of the possibility of sending human intelligence through the abysses of the ocean. But when we struck

out to cross the Atlantic, we had to lay a cable over two thousand miles long in water over two miles deep. That great success gave an immense impulse to Submarine Telegraphy, then in its infancy, but which has since grown till it has stretched out its fingers tipped with fire into all the waters of the globe. "Its lines have gone into all the earth, and its words to the ends of the world." To-day there are over seventy-thousand miles of cable, crossing the seas and the oceans. And as if it were not enough to have messages sent with the speed of lightning, they must be sent in opposite directions at the same moment. I have just received a telegram from Valentia, Ireland, which reads "This anniversary witnesses duplex working across the Atlantic as an accomplished fact"—by which the capacity of all our ocean cables is doubled.

Who can measure the effect of this swift intelligence passing to and fro? Already it regulates the markets of the world. But better still is the new relation into which it brings the different kindreds of mankind. Nations are made enemies by their ignorance of each other. A better acquaintance leads to a better understanding; the sense of nearness, the relation of neighborhood, awakens the feeling of brotherhood. Is it not a sign that a better age is coming, when along the ocean-beds strewn with the wrecks of war, now glide the messages of peace?

One thing only remains which I still hope to be spared to see, and in which to take a part, the laying of a cable from San Francisco to the Sandwich Islands—for which I have received this very day a concession

from King Kalakaua, by his Minister, who is here to-night—and from thence to Japan, by which the island groups of the Pacific may be brought into communication with the continents on either side—Asia and America—thus completing the circuit of the globe.*

But life is passing, and perhaps that is to be left to other hands. Many of our old companions have fallen, and we must soon give place to our successors. But though we shall pass away, it is a satisfaction to have been able to do something that shall remain when we are gone. If in what I have done to advance this enterprise, I have done something for the honor of my country and the good of the world, I am devoutly grateful to my Creator. This has been the great ambition of my life, and is the chief inheritance which I leave to my children.

Mr. Field's address was received with the heartiest applause. At the close he turned to his brother, Mr. David Dudley Field, who, as the counsel and adviser of the Company through all these years, had had occasion to speak for it

* It is four years since the King made his visit to this country. When in New York he called on Mr. Field, with several members of his Cabinet, and in the very room where the Newfoundland Company was formed, and sitting around the very table on which the original agreement was signed, offered him a concession as an inducement to undertake the laying of a cable to the Sandwich Islands. The formal guarantee has been delayed till now; but the last week, Judge Allen, the Minister of the Hawaiian Islands, informed Mr. Field that he had received full authority to complete it, and this evening he placed the document in his hands, securing to him and his associates an exclusive right for twenty-five years to land a cable on those Islands, provided the work is begun in five, and completed in ten years.

many times and in many places, and requested him to add a few remarks. The latter responded to the request as follows :

THEN AND NOW are the words which best indicate the current of thought of one who was an actor in the transaction we are commemorating and the events which followed it. Then, as we have been told, there was not a Submarine Telegraph in the world, excepting three from England to the adjacent Continent, none of which lay more than fifty fathoms deep ; now there are cables at the bottom of every ocean, except the Pacific. Then whatever took place in Ireland, the nearest land, could be known to us only after eight or ten days ; now we read at our breakfast-tables news of what has happened a few hours before in Ireland and in England, in France and Spain, in Constantinople and Cairo, in Delhi and Melbourne. When I look at this ceiling and these walls, all unchanged, and think of the group, small in number but great in heart, that then gathered around this table, and of what they set on foot, I feel that the achievements of our days have surpassed the marvels of fable and romance. Peter Cooper has written his name on walls of stone and iron ; Moses Taylor has heaped up "riches and honor" ; Marshall O. Roberts has ploughed either ocean with his swift ships ; and yet nothing that these men have done has wrought half so much for the world, as that which they began that night. The part which my brother took you all know. Of the other two, one, Mr. Chandler White, my friend of many years, fell by the wayside, long before the end of the tedious journey which the others had before them. Mr. Wilson

G. Hunt took his place, and journeyed with them resolutely to the end. No one knows better than I the obstacles which these gentlemen had to overcome, the disappointments to suffer, the delays to sustain, the obloquy to withstand; and no one can bear stronger testimony than I can to their patience, their perseverance, their courage, and the deserved honor of their final triumph. The flag, American and English wrought into one, which hangs over these windows, is the sign of their constancy in defeat, as of their victory. That united flag floated at the masthead of the Niagara in the disastrous expedition of 1857, and the partially successful one of 1858; it was run up again at the fore of the Great Eastern, for the voyage, when she failed in 1865, and was kept streaming in the wind, until it floated over a victorious ship and a great work accomplished.

Though we then knew something of what we were doing, we did not know all. Events have outrun the imagination. Little did I dream that, within twenty years, I should stand beneath the Southern Cross and send from Australasia a message to my northern home, which, almost while I stood, passed over half the globe, darting with the speed of thought across the nearly 2,000 miles of Australian desert, through the Arafura Sea, past the "Isles of Ternate and Tidore," across the Bay of Bengal and the Sea of Arabia, along the Red Sea coast, under the Mediterranean, and Biscay's sleepless Bay, and finally beneath our own Atlantic to this island city, "situate at the entry of the sea."

Seeing that so much has been accomplished in the quarter century past, what may we not expect in the

quarter century to come. The completion of the world-encircling girdle, by forging the remaining link between the Occident and the Orient, is but a part of what you may witness. There will be new instruments for handling the electric current, as there are new places to reach. Then, when every part of the earth shall be visited each day by the electric spark, with its messages from the peoples of many lands, we may hope to see that better understanding among all the sons of men, which is sure to teach them that the ways of peace are the ways of prosperity and honor.

There is a natural association between one's legal and one's spiritual adviser, and so it was quite in the order of things for Mr. Field, after hearing from the counsel of the Company, to request his pastor, Rev. Dr. Adams, to give his benediction to the happy occasion, who, being thus called upon, replied :

ALTHOUGH obedient to a summons so direct, I cannot think that the professional services of any clergyman are necessary at this SILVER WEDDING. The Doges of Venice were accustomed to repeat the ceremony of marrying the Adriatic with a ring, every year; but the event which we commemorate to-night has proved so happy that, with no need of second nuptials, and no possibility of a divorce, we have only to congratulate all concerned, and especially, as we all do most cordially, Mr. Field and the friends associated with him, in that marvellous achievement which, by one indissoluble cord, has married all seas and all continents.

It rarely happens that those who have projected great

enterprises, live to see their fullest success. Columbus discovered this Western hemisphere in 1492. After incredible reverses, chains even and imprisonment, he died in fourteen years, without a glimpse of our Northern Continent, or any vision of the vastness of that New World from which he had lifted the veil of the sea. Hudson, in 1609, discovered that noble river now bearing his name, on which sits our own metropolis. Repeating his voyage the next year, he was set adrift, in a small shallop, on the open ocean, by a mutinous crew, and never afterward was he heard of. Robert Fulton, in 1807, ascended the North River in his first steamboat, the "Clermont." Seven years only elapsed, when, worn out with litigations and perplexities, he died, not having seen in the most brilliant pictures of his imagination what is familiar to every one of us, on all the rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans of the globe. Of such explorers, inventors, and discoverers, it may be said, as of the old Prophets, that "not unto themselves, but unto us, they did minister" the things which to them were disclosed only by occasional glimpses through the rifts of the clouds. But here are we gathered, as we have been reminded, in the very room and by the very table at which, twenty-five years ago, were seated the five men who signed the contract for constructing and laying the first Atlantic Cable; and here, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, all of these very men, with a single exception, are met again—one of them, because of his age, as well as his benevolence, the object of universal veneration, surviving all the uncertainties and changes of life—to receive the well-earned congratulations of

their friends, because themselves permitted to see the amazing results of their sagacity and energy and faith. May they all live to be greeted again at a GOLDEN WEDDING.

I have no intention of saying a word in laudation of the Atlantic Cable. The time for that has passed. In the words of Holy Writ: "He is of age: ask him: he shall speak for himself." Though the ear catchès no articulate words passing along its quivering strands, yet this polyglot interpreter is speaking now, with tongue of fire, beneath the astonished sea, in all the languages of the civilized world. As Mr. Field has been pleased to speak of me as his pastor during all the toils of that project, whose success we now celebrate, I may, without any infringement of professional propriety, bear testimony to what was often brought under my personal observation. Prof. Morse and Mr. Field—I speak of them because of my special intimacy with them as their pastor; I doubt not the same was true of their associates—always regarded themselves in this enterprise as the children and agents of divine Providence. . Never did they fail, at every stage of the proceeding, at the beginning of every voyage, to implore the aid of Him who "holdeth the waters in the hollow of His hand," and who hath made "whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea." The motto on Mr. Field's coat-of-arms—*Sans Dieu Rien*—was no pretence or impertinence. One incident deserves to be immortalized on canvas: When Capt. Hudson, devout as he was gallant, after the cable had been drawn to its anchorage on shore, surrounded by his crew, with uncovered heads, fell upon

his knees, and beneath the stars gave thanks to Almighty God for his gracious favor, and for the new power then born into the world. With no tendency to superstition, may we not believe that much of that *pluck*, so near akin to *faith*, which bore these enterprising men through untold difficulties, disappointments, and rebuffs, leading them to risk their earthly fortunes in what to others seemed chimerical, entailing cares, long and painful separations from happy homes, such as few ever knew—had its taproot in the religious conviction, that this union of continents, symbolized on our cards of invitation, had a higher use and meaning than personal wealth, or commercial benefits, even the purpose of God to bring the thoughts and the interests of all nations into ultimate unity. As a pledge of success it matters much whether one works with the current of Providence or against it. At this late stage of history for local politicians to put an embargo on international intercourse, or attempt to prevent the intermingling of all tribes, nations, and kindreds, reminds one of the words of Luther: "He who would blow out God's fires does but blow the coals and the ashes in his own face." Here, in this room, in the presence of these our fellow-citizens whom we have come to congratulate and honor, as the original contractors of the first inter-continental Telegraph, here is the place, and this is the time to formulate the lesson: amid all the mysteries and confusion of the world, the more we study the ways of Providence, the more of design, and order, and harmony, shall we see. As the first message along the first telegraph on land was "What has God wrought," and the first words which

flashed beneath the sea were "Peace on earth, good will to men"; so now, as we lean to listen to the voice which, day and night, is passing under the surges of the Western Ocean, this is its interpretation :

"Close wedded by that mystic cord
The continents are one,
And one in heart as one in blood
Shall all their peoples be;
The hands of human brotherhood
Shall clasp beneath the sea."

After these graceful and touching words nothing more needed to be said, and the host led the way to the entertainment provided in the adjoining building, Mr. Evarts taking in Mrs. Field, Sir Edward Thornton the eldest daughter of Mr. Field, the Hawaiian Minister another daughter, and the Russian Minister, Mrs. Dudley Field, Jr. The pavilion which had been erected for the purpose was dressed with the flags of all nations. In the centre was spread a long table loaded with delicacies, and ornamented with ships and locomotives, and other emblematic devices. Here, for an hour and a half, was a scene of festivity and rejoicing. Old acquaintances and friends met from different parts of the country, who had not seen each other for years. The feeling shown toward Mr. Field and his family, was one of such personal kindness as must have been very grateful to him. All congratulated him on the past, and wished he might live to celebrate the Golden Wedding of this happy marriage of land and sea. As midnight drew on the guests began to take their leave, feeling that they had been present at an occasion, not merely of social enjoyment, but one suggestive of the advance of the world in scientific discovery and its practical application to the arts of life; in that subjection of the forces of nature to the purposes of human intercourse, which marks a long step forward in the progress of mankind.

As Mr. Field has spoken so generously of his associates in the original enterprise, it is but right that it should appear how fully they have recognized and appreciated his services. At the first meeting of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, after the successful laying of the cable in 1858, the following resolutions were offered by Peter Cooper and seconded by Moses Taylor, and unanimously adopted :

Whereas, This Company was the first ever formed for the establishment of an Atlantic Telegraph ; an enterprise upon which it started in the beginning of 1854, at the instance of Mr. Cyrus W. Field, and which, through his wise and unwearied energy, acting upon this Company, and others afterwards formed in connection with it, has been successfully accomplished : Therefore the stockholders of this Company, at this their first meeting since the completion of the enterprise, desiring to testify their sense of Mr. Field's services :

Resolve : First—That to him more than any other man the world is indebted for this magnificent instrument of good ; and but for him it would not, in all probability, be now in existence ;

Second—That the thanks of the stockholders of this Company are hereby given to Mr. Field for these services, which, though so great in themselves, and so valuable to this Company, were rendered without remuneration ; and

Third—That a copy of this resolution, certified by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, be delivered to Mr. Field as a recognition, by those who best know, of his just right to be always regarded as the first projector, and most persistent and efficient promoter, of the Atlantic Telegraph.

PETER COOPER, *Chairman*.

WILSON G. HUNT, *Secretary*.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

EXTENSION OF TELEGRAPHS ON LAND.

[The statement given in the address of Mr. Field as to the extension of Ocean Telegraphy, is admirably supplemented by the following letter from the President of the largest Land Telegraph Company in the world, showing, as it does, how vast has become the system of telegraphic communication both upon land and sea.]

From Norvin Green, Esq., President of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

NEW YORK, March 10, 1879.

CYRUS W. FIELD, ESQ. :

My Dear Sir,—I beg most heartily to congratulate you on being spared and preserved, still in the vigor of life, to entertain your numerous friends at a reception on the quarter-centennial anniversary of your grand conception to span the Atlantic with a Telegraphic Cable, as given the form of an undertaking by the execution of an agreement with your enterprising associates, at your house on the 10th of March, 1854.

This event marks also about the period of my own connection with Telegraph enterprises, since which I have continued to participate in the executive management of Telegraph Companies. I have, therefore, some knowledge of the great advance made in Telegraphy, both as a scientific art and as a business enterprise, over land as well as under sea, with which advance your undertaking, and the energy and perseverance with which it was pursued, has had very much to do.

Up to 1854, the total Submarine Telegraph Cables which had been laid and worked, did not exceed 600 miles, of which

480 miles were in four lines between England and Holland, and 108 miles were in four lines across the British Channel—all in comparatively shallow water. The longest cable working was 120 miles; and up to a period ten years later, it was almost universally held by the most scientific and experienced electrician, that about 600 miles was the maximum distance at which it would be possible to send a Telegraph current for any practical purpose through a Submarine Cable in one circuit. The conception of spanning the Atlantic at that early date, was therefore almost a vision of prophecy, far in advance of all philosophy and science in the then state of the art. And to the wonderful grasp of this grand enterprise, and the indomitable energy and perseverance with which it was prosecuted, under the most discouraging auspices, the world of science and the great interests of commerce are most undoubtedly indebted for the achievement of the grand benefits of Atlantic Cable communication, to the present age and generation.

This grand success, demonstrating that the thing could be done, gave a general impetus to deep-sea Cables all over the world, of which there are now between 70,000 and 100,000 miles in operation—more than sufficient to make three entire circuits of the globe.

The total extent of Telegraph lines in the United States at that time comprised about 26,000 miles of wire; and the total number of messages transmitted could not have exceeded 2,000,000 per annum. There are now about 260,000 miles of Telegraph wires in operation on this Continent, an increase of ten fold, and the Company I represent is alone transmitting 24,000,000 of messages per annum, an increase of twelve fold over the entire traffic of that date. The rates of tolls to the public, notwithstanding the extension to the Pacific, and greatly increased distances

messages are transmitted, have been reduced from an average of not less than \$1.40 per message, to that during the last year of 38½ cents; and the service has been so improved that, instead of waiting until the next day for answers, members of the Produce Exchanges and Boards of Trade complain if they do not get answers from Boston, Chicago, and other points on Board of Trade lines, within twenty minutes after sending their message.

The improvement in the profits of Telegraphy as a business enterprise, has been equally marked and decided. A large majority of the early Telegraph companies failed to realize a financial success in their business; and breaking down, like many of our railroads in the last few years, were purchased at much less than their cost and stocked into other companies which had been more successful. This tendency to consolidation, originating in necessity, was found desirable from motives of mutual interest, and went on until more than four-fifths of the entire Telegraph lines on the Continent are owned and operated by one Company. These lines extend from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande, and from North Sidney, Nova Scotia, to the Pacific Ocean, and up the Pacific coast into the British Possessions, a span East and West of 4,500 miles, over which it requires four hours and a quarter for the Sun to rise; and the feat has been performed of publishing in the morning papers at San Francisco the markets of London at the close of Exchange hours of the same day.

I am, my dear sir,

Respectfully and truly yours,

NORVIN GREEN.

**From William E. Everett, the Engineer of the Niagara, in the
Expeditions of 1857 and 1858.**

MY DEAR MR. FIELD: On account of illness I have been unable to leave my house for some months, but am improved sufficiently to seek a more mild climate, and all arrangements are made for leaving on Monday next. Therefore it is impossible for me to accept your invitation for the 10th, and with how much regret I am unable to express. Probably there is no one person who had more opportunity to know on how many occasions the carrying out of the plan to connect the Old and the New World by an electric cable would have been abandoned, but for you individually. It was often and often attended by such unfavorable circumstances that all others were in despair and disheartened, but you never; and to your unmeasured energy and encouragement the scheme was solely indebted for its final success. Nothing but the impossible prevents me from having in person the pleasure of expressing my congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the scheme, and that the years of labor and devotion you have given were at last terminated with such complete satisfaction.

I trust you may long enjoy all the best the world can bestow as a compensation, and wish not to be forgotten as among the number of your well-wishers in whatever you may undertake.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. EVERETT.

RYE, March 1, 1879.

A great number of letters and telegrams were received from distinguished persons in all parts of the country—from the President of the United States and Members of the Cabinet ; Senators and Members of the House of Representatives ; Judges of the Supreme Court, and Foreign Ministers ; from General Sherman and Admiral Porter, heads of the Army and Navy ; from the Governors of this and other States ; from Presidents of Colleges, and literary men, as well as those distinguished in the great railroad, telegraphic, and other enterprises of the country. From across the border letters were received from the Marquis of Lorne, the Governor-General of Canada ; from Sir John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister ; from Sir Francis Hincks ; from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and Sir Frederick Carter, Chief Justice of Newfoundland, and many others. Out of such a number of letters, only a few can be given, whose spirit indicates that of the whole :

From General Sherman.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1879.

MR. CYRUS W. FIELD :

My Dear Sir,—I returned last night after a five weeks' absence in the South, and found an immense pile of papers, among them your very kind note and the handsome card of invitation to your Reception of March 10th. From the embellishments, I see that you will assemble under your most hospitable roof representative men of the four quarters of the globe, who by cables of electricity are being brought into one great family. I know of no spot on earth, or of no human dwelling, where such an assemblage of men could meet with more propriety, and with a greater certainty of realizing that we are all akin. But it cannot be my privilege. I have been away so much that I must stay at home awhile, and therefore must beg you to excuse me.

Wishing you an assemblage worthy the occasion, I am, with profound respect, your friend and servant,

W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

From William Lloyd Garrison.

Boston, March 8, 1879.

DEAR MR. FIELD :

Many thanks for your kind invitation to be one of a very numerous assemblage that will meet at your residence on the evening of the 10th instant, with reference to the completion of a quarter of a century since the formation of the company, which, through obstacles seemingly insurmountable, and with chances of success that to almost all others but its half a dozen members appeared utterly visionary, laid the first Atlantic cable between the United States and Great Britain ; and thus prepared the way for a similar electric submarine communication with the four quarters of the globe—realizing the vision of John in the Apocalypse, “And there was no more sea.”

Unable to be with you on so jubilant an occasion, I can only send you my warm congratulations that—as it was primarily owing to your own sublime conception, unfaltering faith, and indomitable perseverance and energy—this most wonderful achievement was finally consummated, you have been permitted to live to this auspicious day,—as I trust have been most, if not all, of your early associates, without whose co-operation the undertaking might have been postponed for an indefinite period. All honor to you and to them ! You all deserve to be crowned with unfading laurels, and to hold a conspicuous place in the pantheon of the world's benefactors. There is no computing arithmetically, no grasping ideally, the value to mankind of this exploit, whereby time, space, and distance are almost annihilated in the interchange of mind with mind, the dissemination of every va-

riety of intelligence, and reporting the heart-pulsations of our common humanity universally :

“ For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along,
Round the earth's electric circle, the swift flash of right or wrong ;
Whether conscious or unconscious, yet humanity's vast frame,
Through its ocean sundered fibres, feels the gush of joy or shame ;
In the gain or loss of one race all the rest have equal claim.”

With sincere wishes for your health and happiness, I remain yours to labor for the incoming of that prophetic period,

“ When man to man the world o'er,
Shall brothers be, for a' that.”

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

Mr. Enoch Pratt, of Baltimore, wrote :

That Mrs. H. E. Johnston, of that city (Miss Harriet Lane), had in her possession the original despatch sent in 1858 to her uncle, President Buchanan, by Queen Victoria, and would allow it to be brought to New York for this occasion. The offer was gladly accepted, and it was brought on by Mr. Pratt himself, and attracted great attention during the evening. It is as follows :

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, Washington :

The Queen desires to congratulate the President upon the successful completion of the great international work, in which the Queen has taken the greatest interest.

The Queen is convinced that the President will unite with her in fervently hoping that the electric cable which now connects Great Britain with the United States, will prove an additional link between the nations whose friendship is founded in their common interest and reciprocal esteem.

The Queen has much pleasure in thus communicating with the President and renewing her wishes for the prosperity of the United States.

From John G. Whittier.

[In 1858, when the first success of an Atlantic cable startled the people of this country, Whittier wrote some of his most stirring lines on this victory of peace—lines which eight years after were repeated with great effect by the Duke of Argyll, at a dinner given to Mr. Field, in London. It occurred to a brother of Mr. Field that it would be pleasant to hear again from the now venerable poet. To this request he sent the following answer:]

OAK KNOLL, DANVERS, 2d Month, 24, 1879.

H. M. FIELD, D.D. :

Dear Friend,—I wish it was in my power to send some fitting words for the family celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the laying of the Atlantic Cable. I regret that it is not in my power to do justice to the occasion in verse.

A quarter of a century ago, I wrote some lines on the completion of the great enterprise, with which thy brother's name is so honorably associated as one of the noblest benefactors of his race. I do not know that I could add anything to them. No words can do justice to an enterprise of such colossal magnitude, of such present results and future possibilities.

Present to thy brother my warmest congratulations, and believe me very truly,

Thy friend,

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

From Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D.D.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25, 1879.

DEAR MR. FIELD:

Laocoon and his sons were hardly more inextricably caught in the folds of the serpents, than your name and fame are bound up in the Cable. I think you might have had the Greek sculpture on your shield, except that while Laocoon and his children *died* of their strangulation, you *live* by yours! I admire the ingenious twists by which the Cable speaks out your initials in your card of invitation. To write one's name *in water*, and to lay it down *under the water*, are two very different roads to immortality, and you have chosen, or *been chosen* for, the last. "*Sans Dieu Rien.*"

How fortunate to remain young and active, with twenty-five years back to date one's chief deed from! Most men put their crown on brows already nodding to the grave. You wear your laurels on young temples, that still throb with new enterprise and fresh purposes.

I shall come on March 10th, and see how famous men bear their triumphs, and congratulate you in person on the quarter-century festival of your Transatlantic Telegraphic Cable's birth—or rather conception.

That you are an American, secures you from ever being an "iron duke"; but certainly you are the most famous of all the *wire-pullers*, and have a full title to having outwitted Neptune and Chronos, and beaten even Apollo in the race.

All of which enigmas, interpreted, mean only my cordial sympathy with the happy occasion you celebrate.

Yours with sincere sympathy and American pride,
HENRY W. BELLOWS.

From the Editor of the Chicago Tribune.

EDITORIAL ROOMS, THE TRIBUNE, CHICAGO, March 6, 1879.

MY DEAR MR. FIELD:

I regret exceedingly that I shall be unable to accept your kind invitation to a meeting of your friends commemorating the inception of your scheme for connecting the New with the Old World by Ocean Telegraph. It was the boldest scientific project of the century, and seemingly the most impossible. But brains, pluck, and capital triumphed, and Puck put his girdle round the earth. To you fairly belongs the lion's share of the credit. Even envy has not attempted to tear a laurel from your brow. May you live to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Europe and America in the indissoluble bonds of electricity!

Very truly yours,

J. MEDILL.

P. S.—I vividly remember the great shout that went up when the electric announcement came that Field's Atlantic Telegraph was laid on its ocean bed, and that Britannia was "telephoning" to Columbia, or words to that effect. "Glory to Science" was the head-line of The Chicago Tribune's pean. Silence and darkness succeeded the "vocal flash," and sorrow and despair followed joy and jubilee.

Many unbelievers laughed, and mocked at "Glory to Science"; and the reply was "Preserve your weak souls in patience, and give that indomitable 'Yankee' another chance, and if he doesn't make the lightning cross on his wire bridge, you may have our heads for footballs!" It was not long before the laugh was on our side, and we enjoyed it. M.

The late Elihu Burritt.

“The late Elihu Burritt,” writes a friend to Mr. Field, “a few days before his death, was much pleased at receiving an invitation to the celebration at your residence. He was too feeble to answer, but greatly appreciated your kind remembrance.

“Only a few days before his death he tried to tell me something of his early movement in the Peace Cause, and spoke of your kind and substantial aid.”

J. Watson Webb, late Minister to Brazil, writes :

“Ocean Telegraphy would have come to us when it suited the wisdom of God, and the advance of science, to give it to us; but you have won the distinction of having anticipated its arrival by a period of more than twenty years. During each minute and space of time it has conferred innumerable blessings upon myriads of people. You have therefore richly merited the enviable title of a great public benefactor.”

The telegrams were from every part of our country, from Maine to Texas and California; from Newfoundland, from the Dominion of Canada and Jamaica; from England, Scotland, Ireland and Germany. A few only can be given, as showing the spirit of the whole:

From Mr. Graves, Anglo-American Telegraph Company's Office.

VALENTIA, IRELAND, March 10.

This anniversary witnesses duplex working across the Atlantic as an accomplished fact.

From Dean Stanley.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, March 10th.

Blessings from Westminster Abbey on the Silver Wedding of England and America. What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

From Sir William Thomson, LL.D., F.R.S.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, March 10th.

Thanks for your kind invitation. I am sorry your cables cannot flash me to the Hudson and back; and so I cannot be with you this evening; but they do allow me to congratulate you heartily, and wish continued prosperity and extension all around the world of ocean telegraphy.

From Sir James Anderson, who commanded the Great Eastern in the Expedition of 1865 and 1866.

LONDON, March 10th.

It cannot fail to gratify you, and should astonish your guests, to realize the amazing growth of your ocean child; sixty thousand miles of cable, costing about twenty million pounds sterling, have been laid since your energy initiated the first long cable. Distance has no longer anything to do with commerce; the foreign trade of all civilized nations is now becoming only an extended home trade; all the old ways of commerce are changed or changing, creating amongst all nations a common interest in the welfare of each other. To have been the pioneer *par excellence* in this great work, should be most gratifying to yourself and your family: and no man can take from you the proud position.

From Sir Samuel Canning, Engineer on both Expeditions in the Great Eastern.

LONDON, March 10th.

I congratulate you and your co-directors upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, the pioneer of all the Atlantic cables. I look back with pleasure to our first efforts between Newfoundland and Cape Breton Island in 1855, and to friendships then made, and wish you all health and happiness.

From Sir Daniel Gooch, Chairman of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company.

LONDON, March 10th.

I congratulate you on this twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, primarily due to your untiring energy in the cause of ocean telegraphy, which resulted in uniting Europe with America by cable. May this anniversary meeting prepare the way for the still grander work of connecting the great American Republic with the Continent of Asia, thus completing the circuit of the globe.

From John Pender, Esq., M. P.

LONDON, March 10th.

As one of your early colleagues in the Atlantic Cable enterprise, I congratulate you heartily on the great results of submarine telegraphy, the foundation of which is very much due to your energy and enterprise. You may remember what struggles we had in this country to obtain the money for the first Atlantic Company, and how many schemes were suggested, and tried, and failed, to enlist the public confidence in the carrying out of the great work. Now by perseverance it is crowned with signal success. It has done much, and will do more, to bring the world into harmony. Every day proves that it is carrying forward the great objects of human and material progress.

Baron Reuter, whose name is identified with telegraph lines all over the world, sends from London his "heartly congratulations"; and "Siemens," the distinguished Engineer and Electrician, the manufacturer of ocean cables, sends his "cable greetings."

From Henry Weaver, Esq., General Manager Anglo-American Telegraph Company.

LONDON, March 10th.

Accept my kind congratulations upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the occasion when the possibility of connecting Europe and America by submarine Atlantic cables, was first discussed at your house. I trust that the many friends assembled around you to-day may live to offer you their good wishes upon the fiftieth anniversary.

Messrs. Grant and Wells of the same Company's staff also "hope that they may have the pleasure of congratulating him again at the end of another twenty-five years."

From Hon. John Welsh, United States Minister to Great Britain.

LONDON, March 10.

Warmest salutations to you and your friends.

From Junius S. Morgan, Esq.

LONDON, March 10th.

I add my congratulations to the many you will receive at your Silver Wedding to-day. The Golden Wedding will gratefully inaugurate a new century. Promise me an invitation.

From Dr. Stephan, Postmaster-General of Germany.

BERLIN, March 10th.

Sincerest congratulations to the originator of the admirable work of ocean cable. May it always prove a medium for promoting the peaceful union of nations!

From Sir Hugh Allan, President of the Montreal Telegraph Company.

MONTREAL, March 10th.

As the leading spirit in developing and practically carrying into effect submarine telegraphy, you are entitled to much credit; and I am sure the time is not far distant when you will, in this respect, and in others also, be regarded as a very eminent public benefactor.

From Canada.

Hon. R. B. Dickey, Senator, telegraphs from Ottawa :

Ottawa sends congratulations—shared by the Governor General (Marquis of Lorne), Premier (Sir John A. Macdonald), and Senate of Canada—to the pioneer of Trans-Atlantic Telegraphy, on this quarter-century anniversary.

From Dr. Lasard, Manager and Director of the German Union Telegraph Company.

BERLIN, March 10th.

Please accept my best congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day when first you began carrying into effect your great idea of a telegraphic connection between the two hemispheres. The close and friendly relation between my country, and the undertaking which originates from that day, causes me the greatest satisfaction in my position. I am very sorry indeed that the great distance has prevented me from accepting your kind invitation, for which I thank you very much in my mind. However, I am celebrating the day with you.

From Sir Anthony Musgrave, K. C. M. G., Governor of Jamaica.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, March 10th.

I wish I could have accepted your invitation for to-night, and offered my congratulations upon the anniversary of what I saw completed in Newfoundland when I first met you. Drink the health of your grand nephew whose birthday it is, and who has directly descended from the cable to which I am deeply indebted for my wife. All well.

From Murat Halstead, Cincinnati.

[Mr. Halstead is well known as one of the most famous of American journalists. In 1874, he accompanied Mr. Field to Iceland to attend the millennial celebration of the first settlement of that island:]

Inability to attend your Silver Wedding with Atlantic Telegraphy—a ceremony memorable forever—sincerely regretted. Hope to join you and Peter Cooper on the Golden Anniversary! Do not forget our appointment at Reykjavik, Iceland, for the second millennial celebration of the settlement of Iceland! This is a marked anniversary for me also—closing twenty-six years of connection with “The Cincinnati Commercial.”

From Capt. R. C. Mayne, R. N., C. B.

OTTAWA, March 10th.

Congratulate you most heartily on this anniversary of your great triumph. May it never be forgotten in the annals of the world!

From Thomas Allen, Esq.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 10th.

Your enterprise made the earth smaller physically, larger intellectually, and brought humanity nearer a unit. I heartily join in the universal congratulations upon this Silver Wedding of the Hemispheres, and in felicitations of yourself, son of Berkshire, as its high priest. Thanks for the invitation, and regrets that I cannot be present.

From J. H. Wade, who was engaged years ago in the enterprise to carry a Telegraph to Asia via the Western coast of America and Behring's Straits.

Accept my congratulations. Although your success defeated our land line to connect Europe and America, via Behring's Straits, I can but rejoice in the most good to the greatest number, and no one is prouder of your great achievements of uniting the nations of the earth by ocean cable, than your friend,

J. H. WADE.

From C. H. F. Peters, Director of the Litchfield Observatory.

[Prof. Peters, of Hamilton College, is well known to the scientific world as one of the most eminent of American, or indeed of living, astronomers. He is the discoverer of several asteroids, and was sent out by the United States Government four years ago to make observations on the transit of Venus from the other side of the globe. His scientific enthusiasm will explain the peculiar phraseology of this telegram, which he sends from his Observatory:]

Astronomers throughout the world compliment Cyrus W. Field for Atlantic Cable, flashing news from the stars, telling planets unknown, connecting heaven and earth.

From Dr. Isaac I. Hayes, the Arctic Explorer, now Member of the Assembly.

ALBANY, MARCH 10th.

Very much regret that public business detains me here this evening. Accept my congratulations and cordial good wishes. The years of your friendly kindness to me are measured by the period you celebrate.

From Hon. R. L. Gibson, Member of Congress from Louisiana.

WASHINGTON, March 10th.

Mr. Gibson offers his sincere regrets and most cordial felicitations in commemoration of events which mark the advancement of mankind in the arts of peace and civilization.

From Senator Eaton of Connecticut.

HARTFORD, March 10th.

Regret that I cannot be with you. The Church, Bench, Bar, and Science alike honor the name of Field.

From Ex-Governor Leland Stanford of California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 10th.

Mr. Stanford congratulates Mr. Field upon the grand success of his great work. The progress of civilization for the past twenty-five years has been wonderful beyond any precedent in history; but should the future twenty-five years be undisturbed by violence, the possibilities of improvement can only be vaguely surmised; for the increased facilities of the telegraph, of steam, and of the printing-press, make the whole civilized world as one neighborhood. We can hope everything from the future, except from its political atmosphere.

George S. Ladd, of the Telegraph Office, San Francisco.

Congratulations upon the occasion which celebrates the triumph of a quarter of a century ago. We, of the Pacific, anticipate the day when you will crown your laurels with a Trans-Pacific Cable.

From Mr. Stearns, the inventor of the Duplex System of Telegraphy.

[The first of the above telegrams, from Valentia, Ireland, announces the successful application of the Duplex System of Telegraphy to the ocean cables. Mr. Stearns the inventor of that System, was absent from Valentia when his invitation came; but returning a day or two after, telegraphed to Mr. Field:]

Your kind invitation just received two days after the fair. May your years and your blessings be "duplexed"! May you live to put a girdle round the earth, and may I live to "duplex" that girdle!

LETTERS FROM ABROAD.

After the reception letters came in great numbers from abroad. There is space but for a few names of writers, and but two or three letters, and those only of the briefest kind. Among others were letters from the Marquis of Ripon, one of the High Commissioners who negotiated in 1871 the Treaty of Washington, which settled the Alabama question; Baron de Stern and Sir John Rose; Samuel Morley, of London, and William Rathbone, of Liverpool, members of Parliament; Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, late one of the Lords of the Admiralty; Admiral Preedy, who commanded the *Agamemnon* in the first successful laying of the cable in 1858; and Captain Moriarty, who as a picked man of the Navy for such a service, navigated the *Great Eastern* safely across the deep in the expedition of 1866; Admiral Commerell, who also took part in the laying of the successful cable in 1866, and has since held one of the highest commands in the Mediterranean; Robert Dudley, the English artist, who accompanied the Expedition in the *Great Eastern*, and took the sketches from which he executed the series of paintings which now adorn Mr. Field's house; Eugene Schuyler, American Consul at Birmingham; Dr. Callender, the eminent surgeon, of London; and Dr. J. H. Gladstone, the author of the *Life of Faraday*; Major Bateman Champain, of the Telegraphs of India; and Sir Julius Vogel, the Representative in England of New Zealand; the President of the Swiss Confederation; Le Com-mandeur E. D'Amico, of Rome, Director General, and M. Berliri, Inspector, of the Telegraphs of Italy; from Dr. Stephan, of Berlin, Postmaster-General, and Dr. A. Lasard, Director of Telegraphs, of Germany; Monsieur Brunner de Wattenwyl, of Vienna, Councillor and Minister of Commerce, Director of the Telegraphs of Austria; Baron de Luders, of St. Petersburg, Privy Councillor and Director General of all the Telegraphs of Russia and Siberia; Suleiman Effendi, Engineer of the Telegraphs in Egypt, &c., &c., &c.

From Lord Houghton.

FRYSTON HALL, FERRYBRIDGE, YORKSHIRE, March 10th.

Lord Houghton presents his compliments to Mr. Cyrus Field, and regrets that the slight distance of his residence will prevent him from having the pleasure of finding himself at Gramercy Park this evening.

From Prof. Bonamy Price, of Oxford University.

2 NORMAN GARDENS, OXFORD, Feb. 23, 1879.

DEAR MR. CYRUS FIELD:

Is this a summons to cross the ocean which you send me? A most delightful invitation, most certainly; but then one cannot exactly order out one's steamboat as one does one's carriage for an evening party. Yet how I should like to be in America again—that journey was so exceedingly full of pleasure. No kinder or more hospitable people on earth than the Americans! My heart would be made of stone if I did not say this, with the strongest emphasis.

I exult over the success of Resumption. I distinctly prophesied it in several writings. My fear turned only on the existence of the will to adopt it.

Now the next thing is Free Trade—a very far greater boon than even a sound currency. Why wont you Americans—keen-witted people that you are—see that protection is a tax or poor-rate imposed on the American people, upon no one else, to support certain makers or workmen? Why do they shut their eyes to the fact that no one, man or nation, can buy unless he sells, and that the only thing to buy with are the goods one makes. The foreigner must take them, or you cannot and will not buy. Trade never is anything else but goods for goods, of equal value nominally. Alas!

Mr. R. Stuart, of Liverpool, writes:

“But for the distance I should be delighted to be with you. Your energy, however, in the annihilation of time and space so far as *mind* is concerned, has stopped short of the conveyance of *matter* with lightning rapidity, and I must therefore content myself with thanking you for your kindly remembrance, and wishing a happy issue to your festival.”

From the late George Seward, Esq.

Along with the many kind messages from abroad from the living, it may not be out of place to add, as a touching close to them all, one from a friend who is gone, but whose testimony remains, and is reproduced here as being most honorable alike to the living and the dead. Immediately after the success of the first cable, in 1858, Mr. George Seward, of London, the Secretary of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, wrote to Mr. Field as follows :

“ At last the great work is successful. I rejoice at it for the sake of humanity at large. I rejoice at it for the sake of our common nationalities, and last, but not least, for your personal sake. I most heartily and sincerely rejoice with you, and congratulate you, upon this happy termination to the trouble and anxiety, the continuous and persevering labor, and never-ceasing and sleepless energy, which the successful accomplishment of this vast and noble enterprise has cost you. Never was man more devoted—never did man’s energy better deserve success than yours has done. May you in the bosom of your family reap those rewards of repose and affection, which will be doubly sweet from the reflection, that you return to them after having been under Providence the main and leading principal in conferring a vast and enduring benefit on mankind. If the contemplation of fame has a charm for you, you may well indulge in the reflection ; for the name of Cyrus W. Field will now go onward to immortality, as long as that of the Atlantic Telegraph shall be known to mankind.”

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

From the New York Herald, March 11th.

A CABLE JUBILEE.

The reception given last night by Mr. Cyrus W. Field, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of a company for laying the first Atlantic cable, was an event of no ordinary interest. The liberality of the entertainment, the distinguished character of the guests, the reminiscences which filled the rooms of one of the most important enterprises that ever enlisted the sympathies or tested the genius and the energy of man, united to render the evening a memorable one to all who partook of Mr. Field's hospitality. But there was something more than this in the celebration. Among the company were four out of the five gentlemen who first pledged their names for the execution of a work which, from the grandeur and overshadowing importance of the results promised in case of its success, seemed almost hopeless of accomplishment. Through struggles the severity of which can scarcely be imagined, and through discouragement such as no one can now conceive, these five capitalists persevered until the glorious end was reached, and the two continents were practically drawn into immediate proximity by the first Atlantic cable. The great changes, the revolution, we may say, which followed the linking together of Europe and America in instantaneous telegraphic communication, formed the topic of the eloquent speeches made last night, and need not be repeated here. The example of the men now living among us, to whose hopefulness, confidence, wonderful energy and untiring perseverance we are indebted for ocean telegraphy, is certainly a practical encouragement to all who enlist in the cause of science, and should spur them on to action in enterprises which promise to benefit the world, no matter how insurmountable may appear the obstacles in their path.

From the New York Tribune.

THE CABLE'S SILVER WEDDING.

The gathering at the house of Mr. Cyrus W. Field last night was a remarkable commemoration of a remarkable event. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the first ocean cable company was celebrated by a gathering of every member but one of the original association, and of some of their most prominent co-workers in the enterprise; and a great number of distinguished people came together to witness the impressive re-union. The attention of the company, which was one of the most brilliant ever beheld in New York City, naturally concentrated itself upon the man who may, with truth, be called the father of ocean telegraphy, and who has, in other ways likewise, done much work for mankind. The liberal spirit and the boundless enterprise of Cyrus W. Field have made him rich in a most honorable fame. The true significance of the commemoration, however, was not in the presence of a large and splendid company, of course, nor yet in the assemblage of the smaller group of now historic characters; but in the vivid reminder given to the world of the amazing growth of a system which only a quarter of a century ago was merely one man's dream, the realization of which seemed to the mass of mankind fairly impossible.

Twenty-five years have passed, and there are to-day, as Mr. Field stated in his address, "over 70,000 miles of cable crossing the seas and oceans." This anniversary itself, as he went on to show, is a witness of a new and great stride forward in ocean telegraphy. "Duplex working across the Atlantic" was proved to be an accomplished fact by a dispatch which the speaker held in his hand. Telegrams may be sent in both directions on the same cable at once, and thus the capacity of all the ocean wires is doubled. It was in the highest degree appropriate that the same untiring worker to whose genius and perseverance we owe the Atlantic Cable should be the main instrument in completing the telegraphic circuit of the earth, as he has been in making it. There remains only one link more to be forged in this wonderful chain, and this work began also yesterday—that day of happy coincidences. With the laying of the Pacific cable, connecting the California coast with the Sandwich Islands, and the Islands with the great Eastern Continent, the globe will have its girdle of electric fire complete. Seeing to what this conception has grown in less than a generation, we may well hesitate even to conjecture what its progress may

be in another generation. Its influence upon the arts of war and peace, the methods of trade and the manners of nations, upon language and law and religion, upon all the processes of diffusing civilization, is beyond human foresight, and may well serve as a theme for reverent thought.

From the World.

The Atlantic cable has, in twelve years, become so much a part of the general frame of things, that most people have long ago ceased to wonder at it, or to regard it as any less commonplace an appliance of the world's business than an omnibus. As Mr. Carlyle once devoted a chapter to showing, the ceasing to wonder, however, is by no means the beginning of wisdom. The Atlantic cable none the less remains an amazing achievement, because ordinary minds are unable to maintain a condition of amazement and stupefaction over it. It is, perhaps, the most remarkable achievement of our generation; certainly it is the achievement which has had the greatest effect on the practical conduct of human affairs. The revolution it has wrought in journalism will be apparent to any reader who will reflect, as he turns over to-day's *World*, how much less complete his view of his own affairs as affected by the affairs of his fellow-creatures would have been had the cable been interrupted yesterday morning. It has changed the whole aspect of international politics, on the one side, and of occupations so prosaic as operating in stocks and buying breadstuffs, on the other. The twenty fifth anniversary of the planning of a project which has already borne such tremendous fruits is an event really worth celebrating, not only in the manner in which Mr. Field and his friends celebrated it last night, but in a more public theater and on a much larger scale. Of Mr. Field's own share in bringing about this result it would not be easy to say too much. From the beginning of electric communication by telegraph wires, the cable, it may be said, was a foregone conclusion; but it was not a foregone conclusion that the cable should be laid in our time. It was in this connection that the personal equation became important. Mr. Field, with persistent and indomitable impetuosity, dragooned foreign capitalists, engineers, manufacturers, and governments into the service of his project, and it is altogether probable that to his personal exertions, more than to any other single thing, it is due that telegraphic communication between Europe and America has been perfected in our generation, instead of being left for our children to establish. It should be enough for one man's ambition that this can be said of him with truth.

From the Evening Post.

It was a notable anniversary which Mr. Cyrus W. Field celebrated last night with the assistance of a multitude of his fellow-citizens, many of them eminent in various departments of public life. The obvious sentiment of the occasion, and the words with which everybody would describe it, are contained in the telegraphic message sent from Westminster Abbey by Dean Stanley, who calls it the "silver wedding of England and America," and says: "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder." The event which was commemorated is scarcely more remarkable than the rapid advance of all nineteenth century events which the recollection of this one suggests. It is only twenty-five years since a determined effort was made to realize what had been wildly dreamed of; it is considerably less than twenty-five years since the dream became a reality; yet already instantaneous communication between the Old World and the New has been consigned to the commonplace book of history. It has become one of those familiar things which we forget all about because they are familiar, but which are also indispensable, as we would be sharply reminded if we should lose them for a day, or an hour; things which are of the highest value, but of which it is hard to speak without talking platitudes. With this great event the names of Mr. Field and other men of business, whose intelligence, liberality and energy made the work of Morse and other men of science a practical triumph, will be always and honorably associated.

[From the Evening Post.]

A MODERN HERO.

[Inscribed to Cyrus W. Field.]

He slew no dragon with his well-aimed spear,
 No blood-stained crown nor laurel did he gain
 On battlefields heaped with unburied slain;
 The foes he vanquished were the doubt, the fear,
 The dread of timid souls to do or dare;
 His only weapon, hurled with matchless skill,
 Was an unbent, unconquerable will,
 Strong as the enchanted sword Excalibar.
 To this the stormy and mysterious main
 Unbarred its depths, and over whitening bones,
 Treasures untold, wrecked fleets and galleons,
 Deep in its breast was laid that wondrous chain,
 That nerve between two worlds whose currents' flow
 Vibrates to thought and thrills to joy or woe.

ANNE C. L. BOTTA.

NEW YORK, March 10, 1879.

From the Dally Graphic.**"A MANY YEARS AGO."**

There was a notable gathering at Mr. Cyrus W. Field's residence, in this city, last evening, to celebrate a very notable event. Twenty-five years ago—that is, on the 10th of March, 1854—in the very room in which the host last night welcomed his guests, on the very table at which he stood, and at the very hour at which he began to speak, the agreement to organize the first company ever formed to lay an ocean cable was signed.

Mr. Field's speech was an interesting one. He referred in appropriate terms to the memory of the great men of science, Faraday, Wheatstone, Bache, Morse, Henry, Maury, and Berryman, who aided the enterprise in its inception, without whom, indeed, cables could not have been constructed and laid. They are now dead, but their works follow them. In this case it is the good that men do that lives after them.

The world has been changed by the completion of the ocean cable. It has tended toward the unification of the world. We are, thanks to the electric link, within a few seconds of Paris, London, Berlin, and St. Petersburg. Instead of counting ten days for the mail, we have the news, commercial, political, personal and dramatic, in our newspapers every morning. And what occurs in the morning in Europe is published in the afternoon broadcast throughout America by the afternoon press. Space and time seem to have been annihilated by the telegraphic wire, and its great adaptation to marine conditions—the telegraphic cable.

Heretofore all the praise of men has been awarded to the soldier. The past ages were ages of conflict. He that gave the stoutest blows was the best man. The new times are ages of peace—comparatively at least. The inventor, he who makes our mortal labors lighter, who increases the sum of human happiness, who brings nations closer together, who makes intercommunication between man and man and nation and nation easier—has become in a sense a real hero. The victories of mind over matter, of man over his physical environment, are now thought to be of higher moment than the victories of man over

man. The celebration last evening was notable as being in the new direction. It commemorated the initial point in an enterprise of the first importance. The *personnel* of the gathering was worthy of the event, and all who assisted at Mr. Field's entertainment will be sure to retain pleasant reminiscences of it through life.

From the Evening Express.

A very large and brilliant company of gentlemen crowded the parlors of Cyrus W. and David Dudley Field last night to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the company to whose enterprise and perseverance and energy the world is indebted for the ocean telegraph. The story of the inception of that undertaking, and the prosecution of the work in spite of the seemingly insurmountable difficulties and overwhelming discouragements to a success which is justly regarded as one of the triumphs of the nineteenth century, is too well known to need rehearsal. No eloquence is required to set forth the splendid achievement wrought by the far-seeing sagacity and indomitable pluck of those five men who twenty-five years ago put their heads together in that historic dining-room and resolved that an ocean cable should be laid. The work speaks for itself. It is its own eulogy. How much the inception of the enterprise and its ultimate success were due to the irrepressible activity and executive force of Mr. Field, and how much to his able supporters, we may not be able to determine; it is of very little consequence now. Last night celebrated the success of the enterprise, and it was one of the felicities of the occasion that all the original members of the company but one were present. The venerable Peter Cooper, Marshall O. Roberts, and Moses Taylor shared the congratulations of the distinguished company, than which no more striking gathering of eminent and notable men has assembled in this city for years. The speaking was pertinent to the occasion, but the occasion itself was far more eloquent than anything that was said. Yet the telegraph is in its childhood. No one can foretell or imagine what developments it is capable of, and what revolutions lie latent in it. What has been effected in twenty-five years justifies expectations of greater improvements and more far-reaching results than the originators of the project dared even to dream.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.**A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY.**

There was, last evening, in the house of a New York gentleman, a gathering which was in every way remarkable. There were present men eminent in almost every worthy calling and profession in life. On a table, about which stood four famous but unassuming gentlemen, lay an unpretentious document, to which, among other signatures, were attached the names of these four. The document was the original agreement by which the first Atlantic Telegraph Company was organized. The names written on it were those of Cyrus W. Field, Peter Cooper, Marshall O. Roberts, Moses Taylor, and Chandler White, and the occasion which brought the first four named of these, the survivors, and several hundred other gentlemen together in Mr. Field's parlors was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of that great event.

We said that it was a gathering altogether notable. It marked a point in human progress so advanced, so important and so suggestive as to well make us think seriously of what the future may yet have in store for us. The annihilation of time and space by the electric telegraph in communicating thought, was unquestionably the most tremendous stride forward in improving the material condition of human beings ever made by the human mind. It is a comparatively recent event. In it there was something that appealed to the imagination as no other discovery ever did, and suggested possibilities such as no other discovery ever approached. It was a sort of miracle to find out that the ethereal medium that fills all space and manifests itself to our senses as light, heat, electricity, motion, could be made the means of instantaneous communication between persons separated by thousands of miles. We accepted the new and wonderful condition, made famous the discoverer and went on our way, and a new generation came into the enjoyment of the heritage of genius with almost the same indifference with which the child accepts nature's common gifts of light and air. The man of great practical foresight came along and proposed another step in advance. He would lay the electric wire on the bed of the ocean and connect the continents of the world. The idea seemed chimerical. To any but the bold little coterie, all but one of

whom were celebrating its success last night, it was like the dream of a lunatic. When the first fragmentary sentence was flashed along under the sea, and when the communication was broken again, the people believed it to have been a fraud, and refused to listen to an expression of faith, even, in the possibility of an ocean telegraph. But success was at last achieved, and with due glorification and conferring of renown we went on our way again, and another generation has already begun to accept the benefits of ocean telegraphy as if it were a free gift of God. Now, under almost every ocean the cable is laid. Not one of Puck's girdles about the earth, but a hundred almost. Every grand division of the earth and the important islands of the seas are in instantaneous communication with each other. The earth turns eastward on its axis, eleven hundred miles per hour, but the mysterious something we call the electric current conveys motion, cunningly made intelligent by human invention, almost infinitely faster. Time is not only annihilated in the transmission of thought, but so to speak, is made a minus quantity, and as we read duration on the face of the earth's revolutions, we learn of events before they seem to have taken place. Human progress developed amazingly thereby. The telegraph, in its latest application, became a lever to lift up the whole race. It seems as though no people could long remain degraded and dark when the whole earth should be covered with electric lines conveying human thought. Only the Pacific, the greatest ocean of all, as yet remains unattempted, and last evening it was announced that this would soon be spanned. In one of his great missionary efforts before the first Atlantic Cable was laid, Bishop Simpson foretold the time when "nations would be converted in a day," and made use of the splendid illustration of the electric current passing in its circuit between carbon points producing a light almost ineffable in brilliancy and glory. Missionary effort aided by divine grace was the electric current, and the dark heathen of the islands of the sea were the carbon points. Bishop Simpson looked forward to a spiritual millennium, which he hardly hoped to live to see. A material millennium seems to have been already reached. Yesterday the Hawaiian Minister gave to Cyrus W. Field the concession required, and before many months elapse the Sandwich Islands will be a telegraphic station on the line of sub-marine telegraph connecting Japan with our Western coast.

Since the successful completion of the Atlantic cable over 200 submarine lines have been laid of an aggregate length of over 50,000 miles,

and with the improvements in telegraphy the capacity of ocean wires to transmit words has been vastly increased, resulting in a corresponding increase in business and a lessening of cost of transmission. As Dr. Adams remarked last evening, the first message over the first telegraph on land was, "What God hath wrought," and the first words beneath the ocean were, "Peace on earth, good will to men," and this wonderful achievement aiding more than any other human agency, the time draws near when

"One in heart and one in blood
Shall all the peoples be,
And hands of human brotherhood
Shall clasp beneath the sea."

From the Philadelphia Ledger, March 12th.

"WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?"

That was the impressive and reverent message sent by Professor Morse over the first completed line of electric telegraph wire in the world. This was the short stretch between Washington and Baltimore. In those days (1844) it was a marvel, and the possibilities of the future were let loose upon the inventive imagination; but how few they were who looked forward through the intervening twenty-two years, to 1866, the time when Europe was successfully linked to America under the depths of twenty-two hundred miles of the Atlantic.

The present generation of business men and of reading people have become so accustomed to the ocean cable (once, like the transatlantic steamship, a scientifically demonstrated impossibility), that the time when "it was not" seems away off in the remote ages. Yet it was not so remote but that four of the five of the far-seeing originators of that noble enterprise could meet in the living body, as they did, at the residence of Cyrus W. Field, New York, on Monday last, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the compact to lay a telegraphic cable across the Atlantic. There they were, at the invitation of Mr. Field—himself, Peter Cooper, Marshall O. Roberts, and Moses Taylor, in the same house, the same room, and at the same table—not with an untried, hazardous, bold, and most costly scheme to consider, but with the full fruition of their grand conception about

them, in immediate telegraphic communication with the hundreds of thousands of miles of wires on the land, and with the seventy thousand miles under the sea—Jules Verne's fanciful "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" surpassed! In the short interval between 1866 and 1879 all the continents had been interlocked by the ocean cable—America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the far away New Holland, as it used to be called, at the antipodes. Practically the world had been encircled, though there is still no cable across the Pacific.

Mr. Field and his three surviving colleagues of the original band (Mr. Chandler White being deceased)—and the goodly company he had assembled to celebrate the silver wedding of the Continents and the Seas—sitting at that table in that now historic room in Gramercy Park, could have telegraphed to every capital of every civilized nation of the Old World, and to every commercial centre and to every local point—to London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Lisbon, Rome, St. Petersburg, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Geneva, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Constantinople—and under the Mediterranean and the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and all the separating waters to Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, Hong Kong, Jeddo, Australia, and New Zealand—to meet the coming sun in his circuit journey from the Orient—and in advance of the sun and of local time across our own continent to San Francisco, on the shores of the Pacific! Through the Atlantic cables also and by a two-fold traverse of the Atlantic, first to Lisbon, in Portugal, and thence back, across the South Atlantic, to Pernambuco, they could have held converse with the good Brazilian Emperor at Rio Janeiro, or with their commercial correspondents at Para. Equally, they could have exchanged greetings with the West India Islands; and with all of our own multitudinous cities and towns, where the click of the Joseph Henry repeater is heard day and night, almost without ceasing. What a magnificent fruition the guests of Mr. Field had to survey in that room on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their daring project!

Besides the numerous cables across the smaller arms of the sea, and in addition to those under the Baltic, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, there are five now in operation between this country and Europe, and one between Portugal and Brazil. From Western Europe they course around through the Mediterranean to Alexandria,

in Egypt, and from Suez, under the Red Sea, to Aden, and thence under the Indian Ocean to Bombay, and thence again by land lines and other cables they communicate with the systems from Singapore to China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, as already indicated. Thus we see "what God hath wrought" in this quarter of a century, since Mr. Field and his four associates met in 1854!

Coming back to the period immediately succeeding their memorable agreement, we may take but a glance at the tremendous difficulties and, what seemed irremediable, defeats the promoters of the Atlantic cables had to encounter. After negotiating the vast sums of money required, they were struck by failure after failure, three cables breaking in mid-ocean, and at every break a million and a quarter of dollars sunk into the sea—until at last, in 1858, a cable was got to speak across the twenty-two hundred miles of ocean; but fainter and fainter till it gave its last sign in the memorable "All right. De Sauty," and spoke no more, to the dismay of the projectors and the regret of the world.

Then hope seemed to have fled—and did fly for seven years from all save a faithful few—and would have fled from them but for the indomitable will and courage of Cyrus W. Field. He knew it could be done, and was determined that it should. And most nobly has it been accomplished, as our very brief summary of electric cables will help the reader to understand. It is not too much to say that Mr. Field was the inspiration all the way through; and that he is a typical representative of that species of human activities who leave their impress in broad and enduring characters upon the age and upon the world.

From the Christian Union.

It is only once or twice in a lifetime that one sees so many notable men gathered under one roof as thronged the twin houses of the two brothers, David Dudley and Cyrus W. Field, to celebrate the silver wedding of the Atlantic cable last Monday night. It is difficult to believe that it is a quarter of a century since the little body of men met with Mr. Field to form the company which led to realizing Puck's prophecy of putting a girdle round the globe; and impossible to estimate the obligation which the world owes to the courage and persistence and pluck of the man who has fulfilled Puck's boast. If New York

owes any one a monument it is the man who, having connected her with the Old World by a telegraphic cable, now at a time when most men would be resting, connects her commercial heart with her rural suburbs by rapid transit.

These Extracts from the Press might be continued to any extent. as articles similar in character appeared in almost all the leading journals of the country. They may be fitly closed by a despatch sent by the cable itself, and which appeared in the London Times of March 12th :

NEW YORK, March 11.

The 25th anniversary of the formation of the company that laid the Atlantic Cable was celebrated last night by a reception at the house of Mr. Cyrus W. Field, Gramercy Park, New York. On March 10, 1854, in this house, was signed the agreement organizing the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company. Five New York merchants composed the company—Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Cyrus W. Field, Marshall O. Roberts, and Chandler White. The latter, soon afterward dying, was succeeded by Wilson G. Hunt. These five gentlemen attended the reception, receiving congratulations on the splendid results of their enterprise. One thousand guests assembled, embracing many who had aided in perfecting the cables, with others distinguished in professions, arts, and sciences. Many congratulatory messages were telegraphed from Europe and Canada, including those from Mr. John Welsh, the American Minister, Dean Stanley, and the Marquis of Lorne.

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