

government officials, together at a dinner at the house of the latter. He sat opposite to Howe, who was then Provincial Secretary.—There he urged the importance and feasibility of the enterprise with so much clearness as to induce them to make a line across the Province a government measure. It was built and proved a profitable investment.

Gisborne's next move—still with the same great object in view—was to throw a submarine line across the gulf from the main land to Prince Edward Island, by way of experiment. In this, too, he succeeded, and the line is still in good working order, notwithstanding the immense quantities of floating ice with which that coast is visited during the winter season.

The next step was to reach Newfoundland from Cape Breton. To accomplish this, he came to New York, where he succeeded in forming a Company to carry out the enterprise. He returned to Nova Scotia, and in his little steamer, the *F. N. Gisborne*, he proceeded to Newfoundland, where, with six picked Indians, he started on a survey across the Island, some 300 miles, through dense forests.—His Indians failed under the labor and fatigue of the journey, and one after another gave out, and had to be provided for, until he finally got through alone, with his hatchet in his hand and pack of stale provisions on his back. The route was considered favorable, and a gang of laborers were engaged to clear a way for the wires across the Island.

For a while the work prospered, promising the early completion of a submarine line from the Island to Cape Breton, where it would connect with the wires to the United States, and form uninterrupted communication from the States to the eastern extremity of Newfoundland, where the steamers from Europe would be visited by newsboats, as at present, (alas! their occupation is gone!) and the news forwarded from the Island to our cities, until the line across the Atlantic might be completed.

But a cloud of adversity burst over Gisborne's head, which paralyzed his efforts for a time. The New York Company, upon whom he relied for his pecuniary aid, failed, and his drafts were returned dishonored. The work was suspended, and a posse of unpaid laborers surrounded the projector and superintendent of the enterprise, threatening even his life if their bills were not settled. He gave up all his own property, but this did not satisfy the clamor of his hungry creditors, who had him arrested and imprisoned. To add to his grief, his young and lovely wife died, and left him with blighted prospects, both in his pecuniary and his social prosperity.

But those whose minds are capable of grasping such an enterprise as that in which he had been engaged, are not easily crushed. He sent to the head member of the Judiciary, and asked the favor of an interview at his call. To him he stated, that as he had surrendered all his property, he could do no more *there*; but if released, and protected from molestation, he would recognize a new company, and pay all claims.

He was taken at his word. Measures were adopted to release him at once, and the Colonial Parliament, then in session (Spring, 1854), passed an Act granting an appropriation as a loan, from the Provincial Treasury, to pay in part the claims of those laborers whose families were suffering. Gisborne came on to New York. The Company was found to be insolvent. His next efforts were to get up a new one. Among strangers the reader may well imagine the difficulties he must necessarily encounter in this step of his progress.

Where will he find the man who will even stop to listen to his story, much less risk a fortune in such an unparalleled project? He did find the man, and that man was Cyrus W. Field, with whom he succeeded in enlisting the co-operation of Peter Cooper, the millionaire, and four or five others, whose wealth and energies were thrown into the enterprise. The result was the formation of a new company. Mr. Gisborne returned in May, 1854, to Newfoundland, as the superintendent of the enterprise, backed by a responsible company, who assumed all the obligations of the insolvent concern and paid off all claims.

Operations were pushed forward from this date with energy. The line between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland was successfully laid, and has proved entirely satisfactory, notwithstanding that both ends of the cable rest on shores visited by icebergs, but from which no injury has been sustained.

At the completion of this part of the line, a general superintendent of the telegraph was required. Gisborne had the first offer of the office, but he overshot the mark in naming as a salary \$10,000, or something in that vicinity, and the office was given to young McKay, that very efficient superintendent of the Nova Scotia line. Here, unfortunately I think both for himself and for the stockholders, Gisborne's connection with the company ceased.

Sensible of his scientific attainments and unconquerable perseverance, the merchants of Newfoundland invited Mr. Gisborne to a public dinner, and he was soon after elected President of the Mining Association of that island.

In the year 1856, Cyrus W. Field visited England. The result of

his visit was the formation of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, with a capital of £350,000, for the purpose of connecting Europe with America by a submarine telegraph cable. The sequel is well known.

#### THE SUCCESS OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

(From the London Times, August 6.)

By a chain of electric communication, extending from Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, to this metropolis, we are informed that the last attempt to lay the Atlantic Telegraph has succeeded, and that the Old and New World are actually linked together by the magnetic wire. The intelligence is so much the more gratifying as we had been led, in common with the rest of the public—and surely not without very plausible reason—to something like despair, not indeed of the ultimate success of the project, but of its success with the existing machinery, and under conditions so apparently unfavorable. It was not unnatural to apprehend that a cable which had parted at the bottom of the sea, and again within a few feet of the stern of the vessel that was paying it out, would never be stretched in safety across the Atlantic. But the feat has been accomplished, and the relish of the surprise is only the greater from previous disappointment and uncertainty.

We sincerely congratulate the promoters of this great enterprise upon the triumphant success by which, after so many delays and disappointments, they have been rewarded. It is difficult so suddenly to realize the magnitude of the event which has just taken place; the accomplishment of this mighty feat comes upon us not in the gradual and tentative manner in which most scientific exploits have been performed, but with a rapidity worthy of the agent which it employs. The steam engine, the other great discovery of our time, has been perfected little by little, and no one can exactly say when it was that each of the triumphs which it has successively achieved became possible. Practice was so far ahead of theory that high scientific authorities argued strongly against the possibility of results, and were not refuted by counter-arguments, but by the accomplishment of those very results the possibility of which they had denied.

With the Atlantic Telegraph it has been just the contrary. Theory had shown the practicability of the line, but practice lagged infinitely behind it. Instead of proceeding by slow degrees, the projectors have leapt at once to a gigantic success. We believe we are correct in stating that 500 miles of telegraph have never before been successfully laid under water, and yesterday we received intelligence that a communication is fully established beneath 2,000 miles of stormy ocean, under a superincumbent mass of water, the depth of which may be calculated in miles. Only now, when it has succeeded, are we able fully to realize the magnitude and the hardihood of the enterprise. Over what jagged mountain ranges is that slender thread folded; in what deep oceanic valleys does it rest, when the flash which carries the thoughts of men from one continent to another darts along the wire; through what strange and unknown regions, among things how uncouth and wild, must it thread its way? It brings us up tidings from the vast abyss, but not of the abyss itself, but of men like ourselves who dwell beyond.

Since the discovery of Columbus, nothing has been done in any degree comparable to the vast enlargement which has thus been given to the sphere of human activity. We may, now that this most difficult problem of all has been solved, be justified in anticipating that there is no portion of the earth's surface which may not be placed in immediate communication with us. We now know that we have in our hands the means of a practical ubiquity. Distance, as a ground of uncertainty, will be eliminated from the calculation of the statesman and the merchant. It is no violent presumption to suppose that within a very short period we shall be enabled to present to our readers every morning intelligence of what happened the day before in every quarter of the globe.

The Admiralty will know to within a few miles the position of every ship in her Majesty's service. The intelligence of a Caffre war or an Indian mutiny will reach us before the first blood that has been shed is cold, and we shall be able to economize the whole time consumed by the ordinary vehicles of intelligence. We see with not unnatural satisfaction that the advantage of the discovery will be the greatest to those countries the possessions of which are the most remote, and therefore, that England has more to gain than any of her rivals. More was done yesterday for the consolidation of our Empire than the wisdom of our statesmen, the liberality of our Legislature or the loyalty of the colonists could ever have effected. Distance between Canada and England is annihilated. For the purposes of mutual communication and of good understanding the Atlantic is dried up, and we become in reality as well as in wish one country. Nor can any one regard with indifference the position in which the Atlantic Telegraph has placed us in regard to the great American Republic. It has half undone the Declaration of 1776, and gone far to make us once again, in spite of ourselves, one people. To the ties of a common blood, language and religion, to the intimate as-