

could only be solved by expensive experiments. Scarcely, however, had they begun to receive a return for their investments, when rival Lines sprung up, under different systems of telegraphing, which the two Companies believed to be infringements of MORSE'S Patent, for the use of which they had given half their stock. Expensive litigation was the consequence; from which, however, no effective protection was obtained, on account of the defective character of the patent laws, and the conflicting principles applied to their construction by the judicial tribunals.

Nevertheless, your Memorialists would have been content to carry on their business with the imperfect protection which the existing laws afford them, without an appeal to Congress for further legislation, had they been left to contend only with infringers of their patented rights, or even with a full and fair domestic competition. But your Memorialists represent and charge, that a combination has been entered into by parties and Companies in and out of the United States, endeavoring to force the Companies represented by the undersigned to surrender their property into the hands of such combination on their own terms, or of destroying its value altogether. And your Memorialists charge that this combination, through concealment of its ultimate objects, and through representations and pledges of some of its active managers, prevented your Memorialists from taking steps to protect their interests, while the said combination were procuring the aid of the British Province of Newfoundland, the Government of Great Britain and the Government of the United States.