

be very expensive to maintain it in perfect order. The unsuccessful projects of the Atlantic and Red Sea cables, which have swallowed up nearly £2,000,000, and which enterprises are now considered by men capable of judging, to be dead failures, yet are not so impracticable as many would seem to believe, provided that a different and safer plan than that hitherto pursued be followed—viz., for the former, the adoption of the route through Russia, where, passing up through the Behring Straits (about 50 miles broad), the Aleutic Islands seem to form the piers of a bridge, shaped out as it were by nature to connect the Old with the New World.

That the eastern route, *viâ* Russia, has already proved of great importance to Europe, is evidenced by the sensation that was excited in 1858 and 1860, when the papers received the telegraphic news, *viâ* Siberia and Russia, of peace having been concluded with China, and yet telegraphy in this part of the world is only in its infancy.

It may also be added that the English and French Ambassadors in China are now using that line for their correspondence transmitting it from Pekin through Mongolia.

Another fact may be mentioned bearing on this point—viz., that a telegraph company in England has offered several commercial houses in London, to transmit their messages to and from the East Indies through Russia and China, *viâ* Pekin, which is considered a quicker route than the usual mode of communication, the East Indies being connected by steam navigation with the Chinese ports, which will now be extended from Shanghai to Tien-tsin, on the river Hai-he (Pei-ho).

East Indian messages sent by this route are forwarded to Pekin; those from the latter place are handed over to