

gether, when like a flash the thought came to him, "Why not go farther. Why not span the Atlantic."

With him to think was to do, so the next morning's mail carried letters of inquiry to Lieut. Maury, at Washington, and Prof. Morse, at Poughkeepsie, while he consulted at home with his brother David, and his neighbour, Peter Cooper.

Two questions had to be solved ere such an enterprise could be undertaken: the feasibility of laying a cable of such length (The longest cable that had heretofore been laid was that between England and Holland, and one had never been laid in water one hundred fathoms deep), and if laid, its capability for transmitting messages. The first question involved the overcoming of mechanical difficulties, such as the varying depths of the ocean, and the obstacles of winds and currents. The second question was purely scientific and related to the laws of electricity.

Prof. Morse entered into a detailed explanation of the laws of electricity as applied to telegraphy, and assured Field of his entire faith in the project. With this encouragement, Cyrus W. Field set out on his audacious experiment.

Well was it that a kind Providence veiled from him the heavy burdens, the long delays, and the many discouragements that would be ere success would crown his efforts.

As was his wont, Cyrus Field had his plans all laid ere he went to work. He purposed enlisting ten gentlemen of wealth, who could, if needful, lift a pretty heavy load. He found five sufficient. The first of the number was Peter Cooper, whose gift to New York, the massive building consecrated to science and art, is his best monument. The second name was that of Moses Taylor, a well-known capitalist of the day. Of

their first interview Mr. Field says: "I shall never forget how Mr. Taylor received me. He fixed on me his keen eye, as if he would look through me. And then, sitting down, he listened to me for nearly an hour without saying a word. He listened, then consented to a conditional arrangement. Then Mr. Marshall O. Roberts and Mr. Chandler White caught the spirit of enthusiasm and joined the circle. The five met, formed themselves into a company, and agreed to enter on the undertaking if the Government of Newfoundland would grant favourable terms and a new charter. These were granted. The new charter bore the title of "The New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraphic Company," the very name showing how much broader it was than the old one. It was one morning early, at the home of David D. Field, and in the short time of fifteen minutes, that the charter was accepted, the stock subscribed, and the officers chosen.

It was with a heavy heart and full hands that Mr. Field went to the work. His partner's death threw the business again in his hands, and then the death of his son was a sad blow, but he hesitated not. In January, 1855, Cyrus W. Field sailed for England to order the cable which was to connect Capes Ray and Breton.

Newfoundland is not unlike Scotland, with its rock and moss-covered surface, its interior lakes and lofty mountains. Its climate, not any more inhospitable than that of Old Scotia, needs but a population of the same hardy race, inured to toil, to make its hillsides as green and beautiful as the loveliest of Scottish glens. Nothing daunted this new company. They set to work with a strong will and earnest resolutions to accomplish the work.