

HISTORY OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

CHAPTER I.

DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD, BY COLUMBUS. RELATIVE POSITION OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES. NEAREST POINTS—THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, IRELAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND. FIRST SUGGESTION OF A SHORTER WAY TO EUROPE. LETTER OF BISHOP MULLOCK. THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF NEWFOUNDLAND. LABORS OF MR. F. N. GIBBORNE. FAILURE OF THE COMPANY.

WHEN Columbus sailed from the shores of Spain, it was not in search of a New World, but only to find a nearer path to the Old. He sought a western passage to India. He had come to the belief that the earth was round; but he did not once dream of another continent than the three which had been the ancient abodes of the human race—Europe, Asia, and Africa. All the rest was "the great deep." Hence he believed that he could sail direct from Spain to India; that over that space, covering, as he then supposed, one third of the round globe, the billows rolled without a shore. No undiscovered continent existed even in his imagin-