

and on that day a message of 31 words was transmitted in 36 minutes along the sinuosities of the submerged hills and valleys forming the bed of the great Atlantic. This first message expressed 'Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace, good will towards men.' Never, since the foundations of the world were laid, could it more truly be said, 'The depths of the sea praise him!' "

Since these eloquent lines were penned this great triumph of modern science has received a check in the temporary failure of the cable, but the scientific problem has been satisfactorily solved, and the practicability of the scheme established beyond all doubt. Even we in Canada have had proof of the successful working of this wondrous agency; for among the messages transmitted during the too brief period of the Company's operations, was one countermanding the order for the embarkation of troops from Canada for India, upon the receipt of the intelligence at home that a great check had been given to the Indian Rebellion.

For the ultimate success, then, of this great enterprise, we need have no fear; the perseverance and energy of its promoters must overcome all obstacles, and, with the Divine blessing on their labors, we may hope, ere this year is out, to see the electric chain once more uniting the old and the new world.

Let us turn now to our own country, and see what progress we in Canada have been making during the past year; how far we have borne a part in advancing the outposts of science; or added in any way to the general stock of knowledge: and, first, I would call your attention to the contributions which have lately been made to our knowledge of the geography and natural characteristics of a part of North America hitherto but very imperfectly known. For some time past the attention of the people of this country has been drawn to the consideration of the practicability of establishing a direct communication between Canada, the Red River settlement, the valley of the Assiniboine, the Saskatchewan, and the British possessions on the Pacific; and a Company has already been chartered with very extensive powers, under an Act of the Provincial Legislature, for the purpose of opening up this communication. The route which I believe it has been *proposed* to follow, would lead from the shores of Lake Superior to Red River, from Red River to Carleton House on the Saskatchewan, from Carleton House to Edmonton House at the head of navigation on the Saskatchewan, and thence across the Rocky Mountains to the