

and Santy gave up hope and were about to abandon the enterprise when the current as suddenly reappeared and for a while all went well. The mysterious cease was never satisfactorily explained. The next day, when about one hundred miles further, the brakes were applied too suddenly to the paying out cable, the vessel gave a lurch and the wire parted. The experiment had failed and more than one bronzed cheek, for the first time probably in years, felt a tear trickle down as the vessel was put about and headed for Ireland. Mr. Field, however, was not at all discouraged. On the contrary a letter written by him to the directors showed him still to be full of that strong faith that is sure to conquer all obstacles.

In 1852, after more cautious preparation had been made, a second expedition started, this time to start in mid-ocean and pay out to either shore. After paying out five miles the wire parted and they started over again; forty miles more had been completed when the flow mysteriously ceased. Again they started and after two hundred miles the cable again parted. They returned to Queenstown with Field, the only man of the party still hopeful, if not confident. He again made use of that subtle persuasion for which he seems to have been so famous, to persuade his colleagues in the great scheme to once more allow him to repair to mid-ocean there to try again. Not a cheer followed them as they put forth on the 17th of July, on what some went so far as to call a fool's errand. This third time they were more successful and on August 5th they safely stretched the cable to the Newfoundland and a strong current was sent from shore to shore. The success of the venture gave rise to great rejoicing and the intrepid Field was the hero of the hour. The glory was short-lived however, and after a few messages had been sent, the first of which was the canticle "Glory be to God on the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will," the current suddenly ceased. The last message sent was one of ninety-nine words from Queen Victoria to the President, which it took sixty-seven minutes to transmit, when it became silent. The failure of the scheme almost overwhelmed its promoter and "the

many headed monster" mob which had been so profuse in its adulation of him in his brief moment of triumph, cruelly turned on him, and some even went so far as to say the whole thing was a hoax. Civil war and trouble abroad prevented Field from immediately attempting to revive interest in his plans, but in the interim, he was studying the construction and the faults of the cable in order if possible to remedy them and be better prepared for the next attempt.

In 1865, as a government enterprise, the Atlantic Telegraph Cable Company became a living reality. The Great Eastern was chartered and with a much improved cable, the start was once more made. Twice did the current stop on this trip but was remedied after the exercise of some time and patience; in fact it was afterwards found out that the stop was caused by the insertion of a small piece of iron into the covering of the wire thereby destroying the insulation and introducing so much resistance into the current as to practically make it useless. This insertion it was found was the work of a dastardly sailor who afterwards confessed the crime. After paying out about half of the cable, a flaw was discovered by Mr. Field and before he could remedy it the wire had passed overboard and a moment later the cable again broke. So many disappointments would certainly have stopped any ordinary man, but Cyrus W. Field was not to be balked by any such, and after a fruitless attempt to grapple for the lost wire, the vessel returned to London.

After a delay of two years, during which a lighter wire was constructed, the Great Eastern again set sail on the 13th of July, 1866, and the enterprise was this time destined to be crowned with success. On Sunday the 29th the cable was landed and a message was sent to London as follows: "All well, thank God, the cable is laid and in perfect working order."

After a few days spent in repairing the gulf line which had been neglected by ten years of enforced idleness, the line was opened for messages and has worked without a hitch ever since. After coaling up the Great Eastern again set out for mid-ocean, where the other cable had parted, and after a search of a month,