

## AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN LONDON.

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TO give their readers all the news of all the world, the great papers of the United States now rely upon news gatherers in every news-centre of the globe. Many of these journalists are connected with agencies like the Associated Press, which distribute the news to American papers. Others are in direct connection with the noted London correspondents, of whom we shall presently speak. The work of news gathering has been going on for over fifty years, because the interest of the American people in foreign affairs and the history of the European correspondent dates, roughly, from the moment the little steamer *Sirius* entered New York Harbor in April, 1838, followed soon after by the *Great Western*. The country was immediately thrown into great excitement, and James Gordon Bennett, the editor of *The New York Herald*, was aflame with enthusiasm. He saw that steam had brought the people of the two countries together, in sentiment as well as in reality. He went to Europe on the return voyage of the *Sirius* to make arrangements for correspondence. There had, it is true, been occasional correspondents before, but no attempt had been made to give the American people a connected knowledge of contemporary trans-Atlantic occurrences.

The laying of the first successful Atlantic cable in 1866 intensified the interest to fill the demand for the latest news; the newspapers began to depend upon the telegraph, although the expense was enormous. During the Seven Weeks' War *The New York Herald* secured the whole of the Prussian King's speech after the battle of Sadowa. The cost to the paper was \$7,000, but the advertisement was a recompense. The sudden beginning of the war and its absorbing interest caused *The New York Tribune* to send, at one day's notice, a special correspondent to the field of battle. The fortunate journalist was George W. Smalley, the present correspondent of *The London Times* in New York. In May, 1867, Mr. Smalley was again sent to Europe by *The Tribune*, this time to organize a London bureau. When the Franco-German war broke out the efficacy of the bureau was tested to the utmost. *The Tribune* allied itself with a London paper for the collection of news, and the alliance brought fame to *The Tribune* and its representative.

Notwithstanding the change that has occurred and the demand for more activity and news, the "commentator" or critic correspondent still holds a responsible position, and will probably continue to hold it. There are certain conservative papers which will always prefer the scholarly letter which the "commentator" likes to write. But with that class of progressive "news" journalism, represented by *The World*, *Sun* and *Journal of New York*, the London correspondent must needs be a man with infinite capacity for hard work or "hustling," and ability to get exclusive information, called "scoops" by the "fourth estate." Regarding this latter quality, it may be said that the same strenuous though friendly rivalry now exists among many of the London correspondents for American newspapers that exist among the reporters of the New York press. The opening of the present year found this rivalry intense. After President Cleveland's "war message" was given to Congress, and there were signs of a disastrous conflict, it was the aim of the American press to find out "how England took it." The London correspondent was naturally to the fore. *The World* seized the occasion to telegraph to all

the leading men of Great Britain for an expression of sentiment upon the crisis. Everybody will remember the reassuring dispatches that came and how they were quoted in all the great papers of the two continents. It was a tremendous stroke of newspaper policy, but it could not have been done without the aid of *The World's* representative in London, Ballard Smith. In like manner Horace Townsend, another prominent newspaper man in London, cabled to *The New York Journal* the new year's greetings he had personally sought for from 24 great men of England. These included the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York and Cambridge, the Marquis of Lorne, Dean Farrar, Lord Leighton, A. J. Balfour and Lord Rosebery. This magnificent response of conservative England to the people of America was the result of three days' telegraphing during a time of great national anxiety in America and England.

The Venezuelan trouble was quickly followed by the difficulties in South Africa, and the United States recognized that its citizens were threatened with the same danger that threatened Englishmen. Immediately there was a keen struggle between the New York papers to get an interview with Hays Hammond, the mining engineer, which Julian Ralph, of *The Journal*, finally secured at great expense. About this time one of the correspondents was required by his editor to get (1) the opinion of the Czar upon the Venezuelan question; (2) to interview Mr. Gladstone; (3) to interview the Pope as to his willingness to arbitrate the Venezuelan dispute, and (4) to get word from President Krueger, of the South African Republic, regarding his intentions towards American prisoners, and interviews with the prisoners themselves. These four things were demanded in four successive days, and they were successfully accomplished, although at enormous cost.

It is needless to say that the men whom great New York papers send to London to guard their foreign interests are trained journalists. *The Tribune* made no error, therefore, when it sent Mr. Smalley, whose first journalistic feat was a descriptive report of the battle of Antietam, written on the train from the battlefield to New York. *The World*, when it appointed Ballard Smith as its European representative, was fortunate in choosing a man who had served *The Herald*, *Sun* and *World* in several important capacities, latterly as managing editor under Mr. Pulitzer. Mr. Smith came to England on the City of Paris a few years ago, and it is humorously supposed by his brother journalists that the steamship broke down off the coast of Ireland for Mr. Smith's especial benefit. The chance of getting a "scoop" for *The World* was too good to lose. The adventurous journalist embarked from the helpless liner in a trawler and got to the shore, where, after many hardships, he reached a telegraph office. But the fight was not yet over. It happened to be the operator's wedding day, and she positively refused to do any work. The journalist was in despair, when a happy thought struck him. He added to his report a few words saying that the dispatch was being sent by one of Ireland's fairest beauties, who had consented to sacrifice part of her wedding day for the sake of *The World's* readers and the friends of passengers on the City of Paris. "Yes," said the operator, "I'll send that." "But it's on page 13," said the journalist, "and you must send the other first." Which was done. The cable gram was printed in *The World*, and the news of the disaster to the Inman liner first reached England from New York.

Not less energetic than Ballard Smith, in the scent of European news, is Julian Ralph, of *The New York Journal*, who has