

The companies elect their officers, and constantly without the least favour—I borrow the expression of an American writer—shown “to class, or rank, or wealth.” The man who is most distinguished by these advantages, frequently shoulders his musket as a private; and yet he may most largely subscribe to the company’s expenses for yearly “excursions,” and other contingencies and needs.

I have already mentioned the number of the electric telegraphs in America. I must just add, that on one particular occasion the New York Herald (on the 5th of January 1848), contained ten closely printed columns of important matter, that had all been received during the preceding evening and night over the wires. The entire length of the electric lines in the United States, which, indeed, bring within speaking limits nearly every portion of this vast Union, is stated on fair authority to be ten thousand, seven hundred and twelve miles, of which three thousand and six hundred miles are traversed by double wires; but while I am writing, more are probably completed. Indeed, if it is not an Irish bull, I should say, that in order to keep pace with what is going on in this indefatigable country, this unparalleled hive of industry and intelligence, you