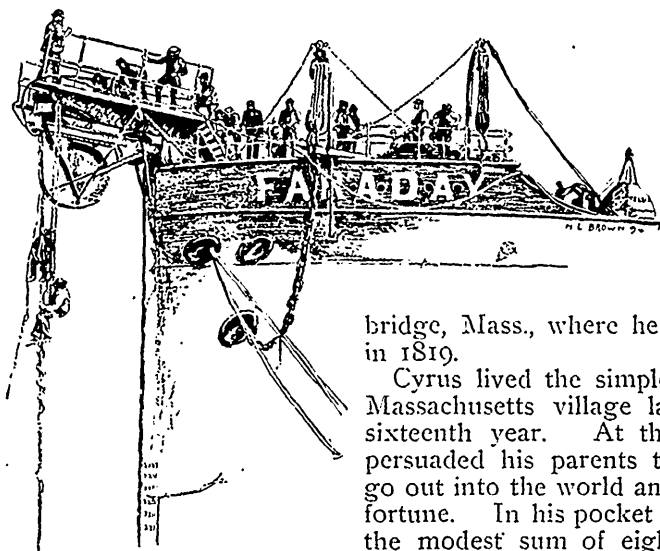


CYRUS FIELD AND THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

BY HELOISE DUPUIS TAYLOR.



THE STERN OF THE "FARADAY,"
SHOWING THE STERN-BAULKS
—THE APPARATUS FOR LOWER-
ING THE CABLE INTO THE SEA
CLEAR OF THE PROPELLER.

I.

Whenever any great enterprise is to be undertaken, God chooses as the instrument of its achievement some man of sterling integrity, of indomitable will, and unbounded enthusiasm. So when there arose the question of quicker word transit between the Old World and the New, God laid his hand on Cyrus W. Field, and said, as Nathan of old said unto David : "Thou art the man" to undertake this work. As we read his life, it would seem that the early part of it was but a preparation for this great work. Like the greater majority of the men who have left their impress on the history of the world, Cyrus W. Field came from humble circumstances. His father was the Congregational minister in Stock-

bridge, Mass., where he was born in 1819.

Cyrus lived the simple life of a Massachusetts village lad till his sixteenth year. At this age he persuaded his parents to let him go out into the world and seek his fortune. In his pocket he carried the modest sum of eight dollars, all his parents could afford to give him, but behind that he had the capital of a strong heart, filled with good principle, and a mother's prayers to follow him whithersoever he should go.

His first situation was in A. T. Stewart's store in New York, at the small salary of fifty dollars a year, to be doubled for the second year. Here he speedily became a favourite, and it was much to the regret of his employers and fellow-clerks that he severed his connection with the firm in 1838 to go to serve as a book-keeper for his brother, Matthew. Five years after leaving home, in 1840, he became junior partner in the firm of E. Root & Co., paper manufacturers, and in the same year, at the early age of twenty-one, he took to himself another and a better partner in the person of Miss Mary B. Stone.

His first business venture is not among the successes of his life, for it was only six months after he