So it is with electricity. If you ask me what electricity is, I must answer I cannot tell. I can only say that, like gravitation, it is a power, a force that nature has made for herself, that we have discovered that it exists, that we have given it a name, and that we are finding numerous ways in which we can make use of it to serve us, as no doubt nature intended.

Six hundred years before Christ the people knew that the power existed. They knew then that if they rubbed a piece of amber, the rubbing created something which drew towards the amber other things that were not very heavy. Now, eighteen almost nineteen-- hundred years after Christ we are only beginning to know what that power in the amber may do for us. So difficult is it to fathom nature. is going to bed, and that flashes away down the poles again to get out of sight before the sun gets up again.

Look at my first picture, and you will see two rods



TWO RODS ALMOST MEETING.



A HUGE FOUR HUNDRED HORSE POWER.

Electricity, then, is a power or a force. That is enough for us in the meantime.

One might think that we should leave all these great and difficult questions to countries that are older and more advanced in learning and in the applications of learning. But I am happy to tell you that we don't do anything of the kind; that we want to be abreast of the age in these things; and that we actually are ahead of many countries, indeed ahead of most countries, in the application of electricity. Next, perhaps, to the United States, we come second.

Some day soon I will tell you all about our telegraphs and our telephones, how they go into every corner and fly on the wings of lightning with our messages. Today I want you to listen to me as I tell you how we get our

ELECTRIC LIGHT,

that flashes up the hundreds of thousands of poles at a moment's notice when the sun gives us a wink that he stretching across towards each other, and almost meeting. At the ends nearest each other you see the tips sharpened a little. These rods have a current, or tiny stream of electricity passing through them. You cannot see it; but it is there. I know it is, and you will soon see how I put it there.

So long as the rods do not touch one another, we hardly know the current is there. But if we let them touch for a moment, and then draw them back a little way, instantly we have a flash of the most fiercely brilliant light and heat. In the act of leaping across from one rod to the other the current will go only a certain length. If this distance is too great, that is, if the two tips are too far apart, the light goes out. In the separation of the two tips, the current leaps across, and in the leap the light and heat are created, but in order to maintain the light, it is necessary to maintain the proper distance.

Not only is the light most fierce, but the heat is most intense. Hardly any metal that we know can stand it,