

to more generous treatment at the hands of the Government. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

I may point out that there is nothing unusual or irregular or unconstitutional in offering this Bank Guarantee. The Postmaster-General every week accepts guarantees from private persons against loss by the establishment of local telegraph offices, and this is an analogous case. Last year between 19,000*l.* and 20,000*l.* was guaranteed. (Hear, hear.)

You will now see, gentlemen, that I have exhausted every means to induce the Government to grant this boon to the people.

In the last resort I now appeal to Manchester to demand Imperial Penny Postage in the name of British trade, and in the name of the mute and friendless millions who have seen their sons and daughters pass out into the darkness. (Cheers.)

It is universally admitted that the extension of the benefits of Sir Rowland Hill's scheme to the whole of Her Majesty's possessions and to the United States would lead to a large and timely development of our commerce; that it would confer widespread happiness on our poor, and on their emigrant sons and brothers, who are constantly adding to the wealth and power of the British dominions; and that by cultivating and intensifying the feelings of natural affection and friendship, which unite vast numbers of Her Majesty's subjects in various parts of the world, it would effectually counteract the dissolvent influences of distance,