

the ship was watching the turning of a single wheel. Every ear was listening for a single sound. The Great Eastern was nearing a fatal spot; somewhere below her lay the bones of the two previous cables, when the sound of the wheel suddenly stopped, the cable broke and was lost in the deepest part of the ocean, 1062 miles from Valentia. The Great Eastern hung about the spot for nine days and made several unsuccessful attempts to recover the cable. By this time Mr. Field's health and fortune were so impaired that his friends supposed he would abandon the project. But after a short period of recuperation he organized the Anglo-American Telegraph Company and raised the money in less than three months.

A new cable was put on board the Great Eastern in June, 1866. On July 15th, the shore end was successfully laid, and made fast to the cable on the steamer. For fourteen days the cable was paid out and, on July 27th, the enormous hull of the leviathan was discerned by watchers on the Newfoundland coast. With guns firing and bunting floating, with a trail of 2000 miles behind her, the Great Eastern steamed majestically into the harbor of Heart's Content. A salute of 21 guns from the Great Eastern with hearty cheers from the ships and from the people on shore announced that complete success had followed the laying of the Atlantic cable of 1866. The lost cable of 1865 was immediately after raised and successfully landed in Newfoundland. No less than nineteen cables have been laid across the Atlantic up to the present time.

The project of connecting Australia with Canada by a cable across the Pacific Ocean was first suggested by Sir Sanford Fleming in the report submitted to the Dominion Parliament in 1880. As a practical question, however, the history of the scheme may be said to date from 1887, when a conference of delegates from various parts of the British Empire was held in London. The conference declared that