

THE MAXIM LIGHT

AS PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANY

From the New York Graphic May 5th 1881

The rapid advance made in the application of the electric force to the uses of common life is one of the marvels of the age. Ingenious inventors and keen-witted discoverers in all parts of the civilized world have bent their energies to the task of wresting from Nature the secrets she has held. Repeated experiment, repeated failure and final success mark the progress of the investigation. Rivalries have but stimulated invention; one scientist has trodden close upon another's heels, one company of capitalists has gone a step further than its competitor in developing newly-found resources, and the general public is the gainer by all that has been produced. From the Atlantic Cable of 1858 to the electric light of 1881 is a long stretch, representing incessant labor, high ambitions, manifold applications of scientific skill, wonderful displays of profound learning. What the next quarter of a century will produce may reasonably be inferred from what has already been accomplished.

Readers of current literature are aware, not only of the progress of discovery in reference to the application of the electric light to practical uses, but are cognizant of the respective claims put forth by rival inventors, some of whom have promised, honestly enough, but mistakenly, to do more than they could perform, being, so to speak, the victims of circumstances beyond their control. Others, achieving partial success, have won reputation and profit. From time to time our newspaper and magazines have described the newest efforts, and the appetite to the public has been whetted accordingly but has never until now been wholly satisfied, and for a very sufficient reason. For, although great stores and warehouse have been brilliantly lighted up by the electric light, streets illuminated and steamships equipped with machine whose rays can pierce dense fogs, two problems have been left unsolved until now. One of these problems was the discovery of the best method of controlling and regulating—the night, the other was the question of cost—a consideration to householders, especially, who suffer under the exactions and impositions of the gas companies. Both of these problems are now satisfactorily solved.

The Maxim light, which is illustrated in this issue of THE GRAPHIC, is found, by a long series of severe practical tests, to contain several invaluable qualities not possessed by any other electric light in existence. It is produced at a cost much less than that of gas, and gives more than twice the light that gas furnishes; it creates no appreciable heat; it is adjustable by the ordinary gas stop cock; its carbon burner, instead of wearing out speedily, repairs itself and lasts for many months, and its flame is pure and steady. The United States Electric Lighting Company, of which Mr Charles R. Flint is

