

HYDROG. OFFICE.  
 umber 31, 1856.

ote of the 30th  
 s in relation to  
 e Atlantic, and  
 tructions which  
 ire from being  
 our own shores.  
 nd, in the pres-  
 ey may be con-

nce between the  
 States, without  
 ty, is, in round  
 nd the lightning  
 essage through  
 a. Here, there-

n Islands to the  
 out equal to the  
 nd Ireland; and  
 coast and the  
 hundred miles.  
 eastern Islands,  
 nds, to our own

d have to cross  
 , and then the  
 as the English,  
 o that, in a mil-  
 of view, noth-  
 nning the At-  
 by that route.  
 the wire across  
 ate obstructions  
 knowledge, are

r a submarine  
 es and England  
 of the Atlantic.  
 e wire that is

constructed by  
 British shores.  
 f our sea-port  
 e line along  
 of its great ad-  
 and in war the  
 the American  
 the other end.  
 ve or perfectly

very wise and  
 ance that this  
 ic telegraph is  
 erica. This  
 ve as a guar-  
 f war—should  
 een these two  
 be broken, or  
 nd fairly alike  
 subjects.  
 ons of Europe  
 ce and bloody  
 e glory of the  
 eful though it  
 k a single line  
 g ran to and  
 ertsburgh and  
 nd, as it now

does. And in case of war with this country, after that electric cord is stretched by the joint means and enterprise of the two people upon the quiet bottom of the deep sea, neither of the two Governments would dare take that cord, and, in the face of the Christian States and people of the age, convert it into a military engine, to be turned against its joint owners and partners.

Our fellow-citizens who contrived, planned, and brought forward this noble work, are too sagacious and patriotic not to have perceived that, lying as it does wholly within the control of a foreign Power, that Power, were it a nation of Goths and Vandals, might turn the path they were about to make for the lightning along the bed of the ocean against their own country in war; but they knew the people on the other side, and trusted to higher and nobler sentiments. The British Government interfere with the free use of that cable even in war! The spirit of the age is against such an act, and no State within the pale of Christendom, much less that great English nation of noble people, would dare to do such a thing. Her people and rulers would not if they could; they could not if they would. We might as well think of tearing up now, in peace, the railways between Canada and the States, or of abrogating the steam-engine because it may be turned against us in war.

When Captain Cook was on his voyage of discovery, France and England were at war. The King of France was requested not to let his armed cruisers destroy the records of that expedition in case any of them should fall in with it. You recollect the noble reply: "I war not against science;" and forthwith every French man-of-war had orders to treat Cook as a friend, should they fall in with him; and assist, not interrupt him, in the object of his cruise. To this day the memory of that King is held in more esteem for that act and sentiment than for any other act of his reign.

A little more than three years ago, at the maritime conference of Brussels, where the principal nations of the world assembled in the persons of their representatives to devise a uniform plan of physical research at sea, and to report the best form for the abstract log to be used on board ship for marking the observations upon its winds and currents, those functionaries alluded to this sentiment of the French Monarch, and appealed each to his own Government to order that, in case of war, this abstract log should also be regarded as a sacred thing. It is made so. The armed cruisers of the various nations that are coöperating in this system of research are required to touch that record with none but friendly hands.

This submarine telegraphic line is an achievement which this very system of research has had something to do in bringing about; and is it likely that it will or can be monopolized by any Power for war purposes? Fairly and clearly it may be considered as the joint property of those nations who are operating as coworkers and joint collaborators in that beautiful system of physical research by which a way for the lightning has been discovered under the sea and across the ocean.

This system of research, it has been proclaimed over and over again, was not undertaken for the exclusive advantage of any one people or nation,

but for the benefit of commerce, the advancement of science, and for the benefit and improvement of the whole human family; and with this understanding the nations of Europe entered into it.

Being joint owners and equal participators in such a great enterprise as this, we may with propriety, under these circumstances, demand a fair participation in all its advantages.

But suppose we should stand aloof, and that the enterprise now on foot should be abandoned by our citizens and Government, and then suppose war to come; in less than six months after its declaration, the British Government could, on its own account, have a wire stretched along this telegraphic plateau between Newfoundland and Ireland.

You do not desire me in your note to consider the christianizing, political, social, and peace-preserving influences which this fascicle of copper threads, when once stretched upon the bed of the ocean, is to have, and therefore I do not offer any of the views which present themselves from such a stand-point. This much, however, I may say: submarine telegraphy is in its infancy, but it is in the act of making the stride of a full-grown giant; and no problem can to my mind be more satisfactorily demonstrated than is the practicability of readily, and almost without risk, laying the wire from land to land upon this "telegraphic plateau" of the Atlantic.

Respectfully, &c.

M. F. MAURY.

Hon. C. C. CHAFFEE,

House of Representatives, Washington.

LONDON, FIVE O'CLOCK, A. M.,  
 October 3, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: As the electrician of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, it is with the highest gratification that I have to apprise you of the result of our experiments of this morning upon a single continuous conductor of more than two thousand miles in extent, a distance you will perceive sufficient to cross the Atlantic ocean, from Newfoundland to Ireland.

The admirable arrangements made at the Magnetic Telegraph Office in Old Broad street, for connecting ten subterranean gutta-percha insulated conductors, of over two hundred miles each, so as to give one continuous length of more than two thousand miles during the hours of the night, when the telegraph is not commercially employed, furnished us the means of conclusively settling, by actual experiment, the question of the practicability as well as the practicality of telegraphing through our proposed Atlantic cable.

This result had been thrown into some doubt by the discovery, more than two years since, of certain phenomena upon subterranean and submarine conductors, and had attracted the attention of electricians, particularly of that most eminent philosopher Professor Faraday, and that clear-sighted investigator of electrical phenomena Dr. Whitehouse; and one of these phenomena, to wit: the perceptible retardation of the electric current, threatened to perplex our operations, and required careful investigation before we could pronounce with certainty the commercial practicability of the Ocean Telegraph.