

On June 29th the ships once more met in mid-ocean; spliced the cable, and sailed away from each other, the Agamemnon for Valentia, the Niagara for Newfoundland. But they were never separated,—the cable still bound them together, and on the 5th of August a thrill of wonder shot through the two continents when it was published that they were bound together by electric thought. The first message that came over the cable gave glory to the Most High and promised peace and good will to men. This cable broke down on the 3rd of September, and all efforts to recover it failed.

For seven years the cable slept almost forgotten. They were years full of political convulsions and fatal disorder. The reign of peace on earth and good will to men which had been so fondly promised by the first message over the cable seemed to have faded forever, for the United States was threatened with destruction in the tumult of the rebellion. The public had lost its interest in the Atlantic cable and looked with coldness upon a project that had once aroused its highest enthusiasm.

Amidst such disappointments Mr. Field and his associates in 1865 renewed their telegraph company, provided a new cable, and secured the Great Eastern to lay it.

On July 5th, 1865, the ship left the Nore with the cable on board for Berehaven in Bantry Bay and anchored inside the Island. Here she lay preparing for her great undertaking, whilst the steamer Caroline was laying the shore end of the cable in Valentia. On the 22nd July the bight of the cable was transhipped from the S. S. Caroline to the Great Eastern, and the next morning the Great Eastern proceeded at the rate of six knots an hour. As the sea was calm and the cable ran out so smoothly the speed of the ship was increased, and it looked as if there was really no limit to the velocity at which the process could be carried on under favourable circumstances. Every eye in