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# THE TRADE REVIEW

AND

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1869.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN TELEGRAPHING.

NUMBER of eminent Americans have taken the A opportunity to honour the illustrious inventor of telegraphy, Professor Morse, by entertaining him at a grand banquet, at which Chief Justice Chase presided. Speeches of the usual style were unde by the Chairman, Mr. Evarts, Professor Goldwin Smith, W. C. Bryant, and others. The principal speech was however made by the guest, and we refer to it chiefly on account of the difficulties he encountered while telegraphing was yet in its infancy. He had brought his invention before Congress, suggesting the idea of attaching Telegraphy to the Post Office Department. His proposition was very coldly received, and in a subsequent debate in the House of Representatives, in 1843, on a motion to appropriate \$50,000 to be expended under the direction of the Post Master-General, in making experiments to test telegraphy amusing speeches were made, which the venerable Professor read to the meeting. One gentleman of the then enlightened republic, proposed that the expropriation should be divided so as to include Mesmerism; another seggested Mills him, and a great deal of wit was displayed by others, at which there was "great laughter." Eharp politicians, and far-seeing men of business were unable to foresco the future of telegraphy. They placed it on a level with mesmerism and other Law too frequent, and ridiculed the inrentor. But he persovered, succeeded, prospered; and to-day we see a part only of the result, for tele-

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FRED. COLB, Secretary.
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9-ly

graphy is only in the first stages of development. Yet even now, as one of the speakers said, there are in the United States about 60,000 miles of line, and more than 120,000 miles of wire, transmitting nearly 13,000,000 messages. One company alone jurnishes 850,000,000 words to the press. In Canada, Hugh Allan, Esq., of Montreal, who was present stated that the number of measages in a year was some 700,000, and "amid the snows of the North, that must be considered a great achievement." This onward march of tolegraphy is as marked a sign of the progress of nations, as the increased power of a tree press; and if those who ridicaled the inventor, could awaken as from a Rip Van Winkle sleep they would be overcome with amazement at the vast and ever-increasing net work of wires which encircles the globe.

## THE NEW EXPRES COMPANY.

WE don't care to get into a squabble with Mr. Kerby, only we protest against his bringing into the discussion either Mr. Wiman or the Mercantile Agency. He has no ground whatever for doing so, and so far as any connection is concerned between the Agency and the Express Company in the matter of collection business, the facts are that they are competitors for the business, and not at all likely to build each other up. As to Mr. Kerby's antecedents, we before said we can't refer to them very pleasantly, but can give the Directors a suggestion, which perhaps will enable them to get the desired information. Just let them advertise for a list of the claims against our friend, and the confidential circumstances under which they were incurred. If there is any prospect of them being paid, we venture to say that some very strange matters will come to light.

On or about the 15th day of January next, S. P. Mansfield of Detroit, Alexander Desthorn, and G. B. Nichols of Boston, J. B. Hills of Newton, Angs., and J. W. W. Ward of Ottawa, will petition, the Lieut-Governor in Council, to incorporate the "McNab Iron Company," whose purpose is the mining for fron and other metals, and the washing and smelting of ores in the township of McNab, county of Renfrew, with a nominal capital of \$50,000; stock sub-scribed, \$30,600; and the amount to be paid in before granting the charter, \$10,000, to be invested in mineral lands held by trustees for the company,