

proved successful, substantial profit ought to be reaped by those who had borne the heat and burden of the day, and had embarked their fortunes in so hazardous and, in what appeared to some, so Quixotic an enterprise. Meanwhile, the English and American Governments assisted with their ships; more than one of the North American Colonies granted special and other privileges for the landing of the telegraphic wires; the most public-spirited capitalists of England and America freely contributed their money; and scientific men of the greatest eminence successfully applied themselves to the work of effecting improvements in telegraphy and in the construction of sea-cables. It was therefore not surprising that when the "Great Eastern" steam-ship successfully laid the Atlantic cable of 1866 and recovered the cable of 1865, the popular enthusiasm, although sobered by the remembrance of the sudden collapse of the 1858 cable, gave a species of national sanction to the honours which Lord Derby conferred upon the English leaders of the expedition, and subsequently to the splendid banquet at which a just tribute was paid to them and to Mr. Cyrus Field by the foremost men of the time.

Before proceeding to discuss the provisions of the Marine Telegraphs Act, or to narrate the history of that measure, it may be convenient to remind the reader that the Anglo-American Company, which was established in March, 1866, under the Com-