

would carry, as a matter of course, its own portable receiver and transmitter attached to gum-ring or feeding-bottle, and thus would be enabled at any moment to communicate with any one anywhere. He points out, with ineluctable conviction, that our brains would be trained to enormous activity by the intellectual potentialities thereby educed. Now many people have not been behindhand in declaring that communications transmitted through atmospheric ether would be picked up by the wrong recipients. Bacon caustically and epigrammatically classifies these persons as (a) the Ordinary Liar, (b) the Condemned Liar, (c) the Expert Witness or Electrical Engineer; and contemptuously dismisses their declarations as mere "*eidola telegraphiae*." He shows that nothing more is necessary than that each individual should possess a transmitter which is not in accord with any other individual's receiver. A secret, under these circumstances, will be quite safe: because, when committed to the four winds, though they may carry it everywhere, they cannot hand it over to anybody. Without degrading our manhood by futile sentimentalities we may accord our meed of sympathy to the pathetic little secret wandering for ever round the ramparts of the world, vainly tap-tapping at the doors of all the innumerable unresponsive receivers of incurious mankind. But a more fitting commentary on this point may be expected from—indeed the point is commended to the notice of—the minor (or spring-) poet.

It is thus, with a half apologetic indulgence of his own inappropriate levity, that Bacon endeavours to give the necessary dramatic touch to this section of his Treatise. We must not be misled by it into thinking that he was unaware of the magnitude of Marconi's invention. On the contrary, with all the authority of his great office, he declares that the far-reaching effects of it pass beyond the limits of his imagination. He looks forward to the time when the principles of Wireless Electricity will be applied, not only to telegraphy and telephony, but also to locomotion. He foresees vehicles driven by electric motors receiving energy from central transmitters,