

never brought forward. At the same time, in order to prevent the Canadians from suffering the inconvenience which would necessarily be occasioned by the sudden stoppage of telegraphic intercourse between the two continents, the Bill magnanimously permits the company to continue to receive and transmit messages through its own cables until forsooth a competing line has been established. Surely a show of moderation and forbearance was never exhibited in a form more grotesque or more intolerably unjust. Although four millions of words per annum pass through the cables of the company, a number which will probably be increased 50 or 100 per cent by the lower rates that have lately been declared, the promoters of the Bill appear to have considered that when a single cable had been laid down by a competing company, it might be possible to dispense altogether with the use of the Anglo-American cables.

But the reader will have perceived that the Bill submitted to the Company another alternative besides that of undergoing ignominious extinction at the hands of Canada. In fact, a loophole of escape was provided under section 15, the whole of which it is necessary to reproduce :—

“In case any company is now or shall hereafter be authorized by any special Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, or incorporated under the Imperial Joint Stock Companies Act or any other general