the resultant fibrous mass is worked up or macerated in the usual manner, for the production of a pulp suitable for the use of the paper-maker. This pulp may be used in the manufacture of paper, either unmixed, or commingled with other materials already in use for making paper. The routine of manufacture into paper of the pulp, is similar to that pursued with the ordinary rag pulp, or it may be varied, as the properties of the thistle may suggest. The thistle fibre being strong, the paper made from it is of great tenacity, the fibres cohering well together in the paper machine, and being worked up with very little loss from washing away. The fibres are also of good colour; hence paper of a fair colour may be made from them without bleaching, and if bleaching is resorted to, a very good white colour is obtained at a slight expense. The mucilaginous or gummy matter dislodged from the fibres may be collected and applied in the manufacture of gum or glutinous matter, or it may be otherwise rendered commercially valuable, so as still further to economize the thistle manufacture. In applying the thistle plant to the manufacture of textile materials, the fibres are primarily prepared in the manner already described, and then subsequently treated according to the existing textile processes—such, for instance, as are adopted in the flax manufacture, the thistle fibre being closely allied to the fibre from the flax plant, as regards its general characteristics. Being strong and of good staple, the thistle fibre is particularly well suited for the spinning and weaving processes.

Further Observations on associated cases, in Electric Induction, of Current and Static Effects.

BY PROF. FARADAY, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.*

Melloni, whose loss science must deeply feel, was engaged in the latter part of his life in investigations relating to static electricity, especially concerning induction, conduction, &c. He desired, in reference to these and the results I had published respecting the charge of, and conduction by, subterraneous and subaqueous insulated wires, to know whether there was any difference in the *time* of transmission through such wires, of currents having greater or less intensity, *i. e.* of currents from batteries of different numbers of plates. I applied to Mr. Latimer Clark on the subject; and he with the same earnestness as on the former occasion, sought and seized the opportunity of making experiments of the like kind, and gave me the results, which I sent to Melloni. The latter published them with some observations in an Italian Journal (whose title is not on the paper which he sent to me), and soon after he was suddenly removed from us by death. As Mr. Clark's results are not yet known in this country, I have thought that a brief account of them would be valuable. His process records, by the printing telegraph of Bain, the results obtained with 768 miles of copper wire covered with gutta percha, and laid in the ground in four lines between London and Manchester, so connected that the beginning and the end of the whole length was in London. The following are his words, dated May 31, 1854:—

"I have tried a few experiments on the relative velocities of currents of different intensities, and I enclose you some strips of paper showing the results. I was unable to equalize the deflexions of a galvanometer by currents of intensity with small plates as compared with currents from a few large plates, for no size of plate would make up for the deficiency in intensity. I allude to the form of experiment suggested by Melloni;—but I believe they will be of interest to him.

"The experiments were made through 768 miles of gutta percha wire, viz.: from London to Manchester and back again twice, with our ordinary sulphate of copper batteries, plates 3 inches square, and with intensities varying from 31 cells to sixteen times 31 cells, or 500 cells.

"In the accompanying strips the upper line indicates the time during which the current was sent, being made by a local arrangement.

"The second line (of dots) indicates *time by seconds*, being made by a pendulum vibrating seconds, and striking a light spring at the centre of its arc of vibration.

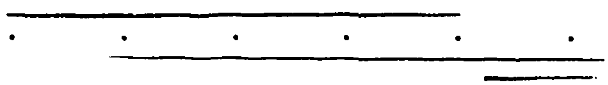
"The third line indicates the time at which the current appeared at (what we call) the distant end of the line, 768 miles off.

"The fourth line merely shows the residual discharge from the near end of the wire, which was allowed to communicate with the earth as soon as the batteries were disconnected; this has no reference to the subject of our enquiries.

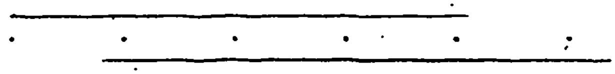
"It will be seen by the *third line*, that about two-thirds of a second elapsed in every case before the current became apparent at the distance of 768 miles, indicating a velocity of about 1000 miles a second; but the most interesting part appears to be, that this velocity is *sensibly uniform for all intensities* from 31 cells to 500."

Melloni has then given a copy of the records made when 31 pair and 500 pair of plates were employed; unfortunately the copy is inaccurate, since it makes the fourth line commence as to time at the termination of the third, whereas it ought to correspond with the termination of the first; also the third line on each does not thin off as those upon the record do. The following is a copy from other slips obtained at the same time from the Bain's printing apparatus. Experiments with 62, 125, and 250 cells, gave like results with those of 31 and 500 cells.

31 cells.



500 cells.



After certain observations, which are mainly upon the manner of the experiments, and the way in which practical difficulties were avoided, Melloni says, "it appears, then, that when the electric current possesses sufficient force to overcome the sum of the resistance offered by a given conductor, whatever its length may be, an augmentation of its intensity ten or twenty fold does not alter the velocity of its propagation. This fact is in open contradiction with the general meaning attributed to the denominations of *quantity* and *intensity*; since the first compares the mass of electricity to that of a fluid, and the second represents its elasticity or tendency to motion. The equal velocity of currents of various tension offers, on the contrary, a fine argument in favour of the opinion of those who suppose the electric current to be analogous to the vibrations of air under the action of sonorous bodies. As sounds, higher or lower in pitch, traverse in air the same space in the same time, whatever be the length or the intensity of

* From the Lond., Edin. and Dub. Philos. Mag. March, 1855.