

freshness which appeals very forcibly to the lay or ordinary intelligence. He has the trick of telling one just that which one wishes to know.

The Treatise naturally divides itself into three parts,—there is a curious literary repetition in the opening words, *Wireless Telegraphy est omnis divisa in partes tres*. The first part deals with the history of the invention, from the childhood of Marconi down to Bacon's own day, or perhaps a little later. Our author has found a difficulty in placing this section before us with his usual (and unusual) transparent clearness. It certainly would be difficult for any one totally ignorant of history to gather from it a correct chronological knowledge of the facts. It would be impertinent to attribute to Bacon an ignorance of events which had not yet happened: otherwise we might be tempted to account in this way for his apparent failure to write the history of events which succeeded his demise. But the first section is the least important of the three.

The second part is much more satisfactory; and intreats of the theoretical aspect of the subject. Here, Bacon's masterly knowledge, and the extraordinary ambiguity of the Latin words which he employs, enables him to display erudite eloquence which would indeed be surprising in the author of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, more especially in the author of a work such as this, the most Baconian of all non-Shakespearean productions from the same pen. Here, then, Bacon uses language to emit some of the most surprising facts in the way of electrical theory, facts so surprising that they would appear to contradict reason, and even the theory itself, but that subsequent events have not failed to prevent us from not seeing them with his eyes.

The third part of the *Treatise* deals with the probable results of the general introduction of wireless telegraphy. Lord Bacon draws a vivid picture of the civilising effect of the annihilation of mundane acoustic space; and half-plaintively regrets that he has not lived at a time when every infant in its cradle