

in a direct line,) with the systems of telegraphs in operation on this continent. This part of the undertaking has been accomplished by means of a submarine cable eighty-five miles in length, across the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, connecting the islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and by long overland lines running across both the islands.

The careful and elaborate investigations of Lieut. Maury, U. S. Navy, into the physical geography of the sea, though instituted for scientific objects rather than for telegraphic purposes, had already resulted in the discovery of a sub-oceanic plan, extending from St. John's to the west coast of Ireland—the shortest possible route between the shores of the Old and the New World. This plan, which has been justly designated the "Telegraphic Plateau," was found to possess, in a remarkable degree, two conditions chiefly to be desired for the successful submersion of a telegraphic cable, namely, the absence of currents interfering with the steady descent of the line; and a level bottom, with a stratum likely to remain undisturbed, and adapted to its reception as well as subsequent security and preservation.

A special survey and soundings of this route, made last year, under the orders of the United States Government by Lieut. Berryman, of the United States steamship *Arctic*, amply corroborated the data previously obtained by Lieutenant Maury. The British and American Governments having signified their readiness to encourage the prosecution of the enterprise, and the New-York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company being desirous that this great undertaking should be established on a broad international basis, entered into an alliance with persons of long experience in the telegraphic affairs of Europe, which resulted in the formation, last autumn, in England, of the Atlantic Telegraphic Company, composed of bankers, merchants, and other gentlemen of wealth and high respectability; and comprising, with numerous scientific persons, very many who have been heretofore engaged or interested in submarine telegraphic enterprises. Among the directors are Mr. George Peabody, Mr. William Brown, M. P., of Liverpool, Mr. Gurney, of the house of Overend, Gurney, & Co., Mr. C. S. Lamson, Mr. T. H. Brooking, and others, well known on both sides of the Atlantic.

The capital stock consists of £350,000 stg., in shares of £1000 sterling, each. Three-fourths of the stock were immediately subscribed for in England, (indeed there was an excess of applications for it,) and the remaining fourth was taken for distribution in America. Contracts were at once made with the most eminent manufacturers for the construction of the cable to connect Valentia, Ireland, with St. John's, Newfoundland, and at a cost much below the previous estimate of the Company. The distance between these two points is 1640 nautical, or 1900 statute miles, but the entire length of the cable when manufactured will be nearly twenty-six hundred statute miles, affording a surplus of about seven hundred miles to meet any exigency. Of this cable more than two thousand miles have been already completed and satisfactorily tested, and the whole will be on ship board and ready for submersion in the course of the next month.

The Atlantic Telegraph Company has been formed in alliance with the New-York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, on the basis of an agreement by which they mutually bind themselves to connect the wires and cables exclusively for a period of fifty years. An act of the Newfound-