

operations is that we know the contours and the nature of the surface—soil covered by the North-Atlantic, for a distance of 1,700 miles from east to west, as well as we know that of any part of the dry land. It is a prodigious plain—one of the widest and most even plains in the world. If the sea were drained off, you might drive a wagon all the way from Valentia, on the west coast of Ireland, to Trinity Bay in Newfoundland. And, except upon one sharp incline, about 200 miles from Valentia, I am not quite sure that it would even be necessary to put the skid on, so gentle are the ascents and descents upon that long route. From Valentia the road would lie down hill for about 200 miles to the point at which the bottom is now covered by 1,700 fathoms of sea-water. Then would come the central plain, more than a thousand miles wide, the inequalities of the surface of which would be hardly perceptible, though the depth of water upon it now varies from 10,000 to 15,000 feet; and there are places in which Mount Blanc might be sunk without showing its peak above water. Beyond this, the ascent on the American side commences, and gradually leads, for about 300 miles, to the Newfoundland shore." Such is the great bed, smoothed by nature's hand, along which the telegraphic cables may stretch in safety between the two continents. No fear of abrasion from jagged sub-marine cliffs or chafing against sharp rocks. The deep sea mud, which the men of science tell us is substantially chalk, receives the slender rope of wire, all along this ocean plain, and safely embeds it in its soft substance, protecting it from all injuries. Only within a comparatively short distance from the shores, can any fatal wound be inflicted.

These natural advantages render it highly desirable that the Island should be thrown open to telegraphic enterprise, and every facility granted for the landing of cables on its shores. The interests of civilization require that it should be preserved free from all monopolies. No doubt the colony, in exercising its right of pre-emption, will have to expend a certain amount of money in buying up the existing line; so that a small toll on messages passing over its wires would not be unreasonable; and in the end this might become an important item of revenue to aid in developing the resources of the country. But it is of the last importance, in the interests both of Britain and America, that the exclusive right of landing telegraphic cables on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador should be terminated, and "right of