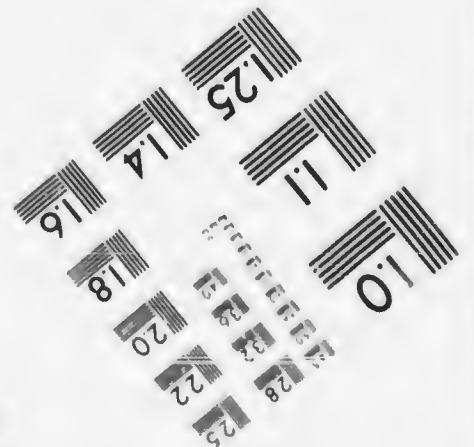
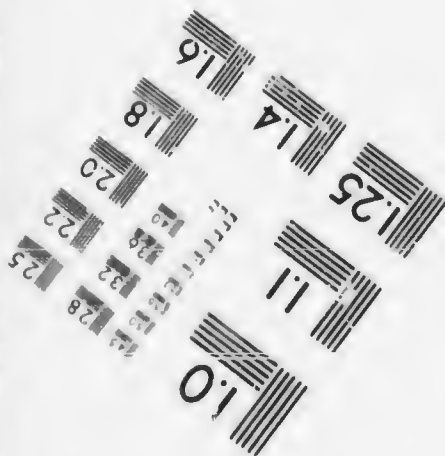
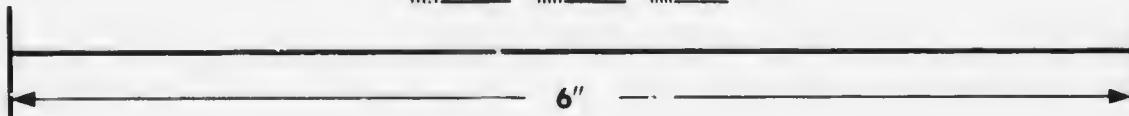
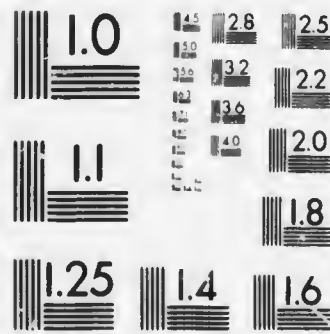


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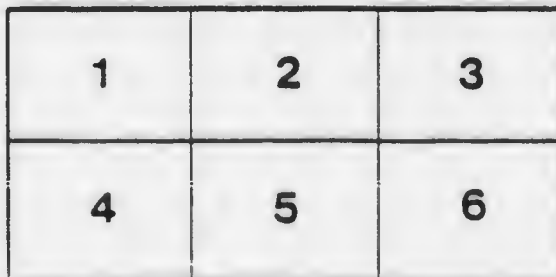
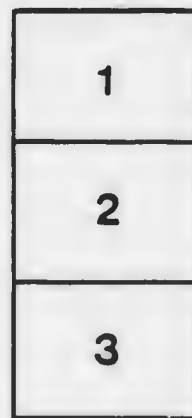
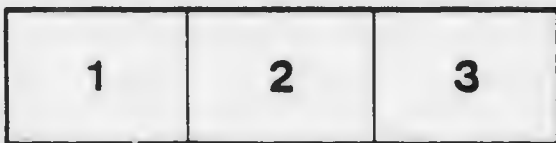
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HELD IN HONOUR OF

CYRUS W. FIELD, ESQ.,

OF NEW YORK,

IN

Willis's Rooms, London,

ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST JULY, 1868.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE proceedings of the Banquet given to Mr. Cyrus Field are now published in a permanent form, because it is felt that they possess an historical interest. The occasion was unique, and can never be repeated. Mr. Field is the pioneer of Ocean Telegraphy ; and although those who follow him in this noble path of enterprise may, in some degree, emulate his perseverance and devotion, it is impossible that any one of them can occupy the singularly exceptional position in which he is placed before the world.

The desire to promote peaceful and fraternal intercourse between England and the United States was a sustaining motive with Mr. Field during fourteen years of anxious labour. It must, therefore, have been peculiarly gratifying to him that the speeches delivered at the Banquet were so instinct with good feeling towards his own country—a pledge, indeed,



that the Atlantic Cable is destined to be one of the great pacific instrumentalities of the present and future ages.

Mr. Field is pre-eminently "an international man," a citizen of the world—"One whose heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them." There is, therefore, a peculiar appropriateness in publishing this volume, which, while it is a tribute to the distinguished services of Mr. Field, is so eminently calculated to further the cause of international peace and goodwill.

LONDON, *September*, 1868.

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## BANQUET TO CYRUS W. FIELD, Esq.

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A grand banquet was given on Wednesday, 1st of July, 1868, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, London, to Cyrus W. Field, Esq., of New York, "as an acknowledgment of the eminent services he has rendered to the New and Old World by his devotion to the interests of Atlantic Telegraphy, through circumstances of protracted difficulty and doubt."

His Grace the Duke of ARGYLL, K T., presided. Upwards of three hundred of the gentlemen whose names appear in the Committee of Invitation sat down to dinner. The proceedings were also graced by the presence of the following ladies:—Mrs. Cyrus W. Field, Miss Fanny G. Field, and Miss Jeanie L. Field (the wife, daughter, and niece respectively of the distinguished guest), Lady Charlotte Locker, Lady Anderson, Lady Glass, Lady Milne, Mrs. Jacob Bright, Mrs. J. Humfreys Parry, Mrs. J. L. O. Sullivan, Miss Sullivan, Mrs. J. H. Lloyd, Mrs. F. H. Morse, Miss Clara Francis Morse, Mrs. Scholfield, Mrs. Satterthwaite, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Newmarch, Miss Newmarch, Mrs. Robert Dudley, Miss Isabella Mackay, Miss Jeanie Mackay, Miss Gillon, Mrs. Ralph Elliot, Miss Lloyd, Mrs. Wm. Evans, Mrs. Albert Bierstadt, Mrs. Stebbins, Mrs. E. Muter, Miss Grant, Miss Hipplesley, Miss Jeanie Anderson. Owing to the



numbers present many of the guests were accommodated in an adjoining apartment.

The banqueting hall was tastefully decorated with the national flags of England and the United States. The band of the Coldstream Guards, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Godfrey, the bandmaster, played during the evening an appropriate selection of English and American music. A telegraphic apparatus, in direct communication with Valentia, and supplied with one of Siemens' ink writers, was fitted up under the orchestra. It was well remarked that messages passed to and from London and New York and other parts of the American continent with more facility than Sir Stafford Northcote, sitting on the right hand of the Chairman, could have communicated with Mr. Bright seated at the Chairman's left.

Grace was said by the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., and the noble Chairman informed the company that during dinner messages would be transmitted to several of the representative men of the New World.

Dinner being over,—

The CHAIRMAN said: In proposing the first toast of the evening, I shall only say this, that I believe it to be a toast that would be received with equal cordiality on both sides of the Atlantic, and that toast is, "The health of Her Majesty the Queen." (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The CHAIRMAN said: My Lords and Gentlemen,—The next toast is, "The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the other Members of the Royal Family."

(Cheers.) I need not remind you of the extreme affection, the more than cordial feeling—the affectionate feeling—which was shown by the great American people when His Royal Highness visited that country. And I feel quite certain that if he should ever visit it in company with the Princess of Wales his reception will be more cordial still. I give you—The Prince and Princess of Wales, and other Members of the Royal Family. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with much cheering.

The CHAIRMAN: My Lords and Gentlemen,—The next toast which I have to propose in the order of to-night's proceedings is, "The President of the United States." (Loud and prolonged cheering.) I need hardly say that there is this difference between the position of the Chief Magistrate of that great Republic and the Sovereign of our country: that whilst our Sovereign is placed entirely above the level of all political and party disputes, this is not the position which, according to the Constitution of the United States, the President is placed in. He is responsible for his political opinions, and he takes part in the political controversies of his time and country. But it is not as persons who take any part in American politics that we give this toast to-night. (Cheers.) We give his health simply as the Chief Magistrate of that great people—who represents their power and character to us amongst the other nations of the world. This only I may venture to say, that whilst leaving in perfect confidence to the American people—to their wisdom and to their decision—the painful issue of all those tremendous questions with which they have

lately had to contend, I trust it is the wish, and I believe it is the wish and the desire of every Englishman, first, that the normal condition of the Constitution of that country should as speedily as possible be restored ; and secondly, that such restoration should not take place until perfect equality of all races shall have been established before the law. (Loud cheers.) I give you, "The President of the United States."

The toast was drunk with long continued applause.

The CHAIRMAN : My Lords and Gentlemen,—The next toast is, "The Military and Naval Services of the two countries, Great Britain and America." My Lords and Gentlemen, I hope the American people will believe, and I think they do believe, that all Englishmen almost now deplore the causes which ever led the two countries into collision. They deplore them the more, as I think the conviction is now fastened on the minds of all of us that in these contests, from beginning to end, England was in the wrong. (Cheers.) She was in the wrong in our quarrels with the colonists, and was hardly ever in the right in regard to belligerent warfare. But however that may be, I am sure we all concur in this hope, that the Services of these two great countries should never again be brought into hostile conflict ; but that they should be united in those works in which I rejoice to say they were united in regard to this Electric Telegraph. I believe the co-operation of the American Navy was one of the great steps towards the work which has been promoted by our illustrious guest of this evening ; and I trust that in other works for the service of the same great cause those two

forces may be again united. It is, indeed, hardly possible that the land forces of the two countries can be united in similar services. But the two navies may, I hope, be often united in such works as this. I beg to give you, "The Military and Naval Services of the two countries," coupled with the names of Sir John Pakington and Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne. (Loud cheers.)

SPEECH OF THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN PAKINGTON, BART., M.P.  
*Secretary of State for War.*

My Lord Duke, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—The toast to which your Grace has done me the honour to call upon me to respond is of so unusual a character, combining as it does the Armies of two great and independent Empires, that I think its peculiarity must have some special meaning, and I believe I am not wrong when I say that that meaning is Peace and Goodwill between the United States and England. (Loud cheers.) Long may it be before the armies of those two countries regard each other with any other feeling than mutual respect. (Cheers.) Both of those armies have given recent proof of their prowess and their valour. The manner and extent to which the United States put forth their military power during that great civil war by which they were for years convulsed excited the admiration of the world; and, a portion of the British army has just returned from a duty, small, indeed, in comparative duration, and in the numbers of the force engaged, but which has reflected credit upon both the army and their gallant Commander, not exceeded by any triumph in the annals of our country. (Cheers.) We have all read lately of a struggle in the United States as to

who should have the honour of being the Minister of War, and perhaps the day may not be distant when a similar question may be raised in England. (Loud cheers and laughter.) But, whichever party may prevail, whoever may be War Minister, either at Washington or in London, long may it be before any Minister of either country has to devote his energies to preparing armaments and forces for carrying on hostile operations between the two countries. (Loud cheers.) There are few men who, more than myself, have in their own personal experience been struck by the greatness of the event which we are now assembled to celebrate. I am one of the few—and they are quickly becoming fewer—who made a tour in the United States, not only before Electric Telegraphs were thought of, but before even steamboats had crossed the Atlantic. I went to America in the quickest way it was then possible to go, in one of the celebrated American Liners, but it so happened that the wind was in the west, as it generally is—(a laugh)—and I was exactly six weeks from shore to shore. My next personal communication with America was just ten years ago. It then became my duty, on account of the office I held, to attend the Queen, upon the occasion of her visit to the Emperor of the French at Cherbourg; one of those interchanges of courtesy which have done so much to create and prolong good feeling between France and England. One of the festivities during that visit was a banquet, given by the Emperor to the Queen, on board one of his finest line-of-battle ships. I had the honour of being present, and, during the dinner, a servant came to me and delivered a letter which contained a telegram from the United States, announcing the completion of tele-

graphic communication between America and England. (Cheers.) I can never forget the interest of such a communication at such a moment, nor the feeling which it excited among the distinguished persons of both nations by whom I was then surrounded. Another agreeable memory of the same period was the assistance which my office enabled me to give, by lending the ships of war of this country for the accomplishment of that extraordinary event. It is true that the communication so established was shortly afterwards interrupted, but it is now restored. (Loud cheers.) We may now, without exaggeration, say that England and America are no longer separated by the breadth of the Atlantic Ocean, for even during this dinner we have been corresponding briskly with our American friends; and it is impossible, gentlemen, to resist the conclusion that this greatest triumph of modern science must have the effect of softening prejudice, increasing and cementing good feeling, and in every way promoting the welfare and the prosperity of the two great peoples so brought together. That communication, which at the time to which I first referred occupied six weeks, may now be effected in as many minutes, and I rejoice that I am enabled to attend here to-day, to join in doing honour to the man to whom, more than to any other human agency, we are indebted for this wonderful change. Gentlemen, I will detain you no longer. I will only once more express my hope that the military forces of these two great countries may never again draw their swords against each other, and, in the name of the army of the United States and the army of England, I thank you for the compliment you have paid them. (Loud cheers.)

## SPEECH OF VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ALEXANDER MILNE, K.C.B.

Vice-Admiral Sir ALEXANDER MILNE said: I have to thank our noble Chairman for the gratifying and complimentary manner in which he has proposed the toast of the military and naval services of both countries. To me it is a source of personal gratification that as a British Admiral I am called upon to respond to the toast of the navy of a foreign power, in amity, and we hope long to continue in amity and friendship, with this country. The gratifying manner in which you have received this toast will, I am sure, be appreciated by the officers of the navy of the United States—(cheers)—and it convinces me that you are not insensible of the great trials that service had to endure during the last few years. It would have been a source of gratification to those now present as well as myself had there been some officer of the United States Navy present who could on this auspicious occasion return thanks to this distinguished company. I much regret that such is not the case, and that that distinguished officer, Admiral Farragut (—loud cheers)—who is now in England, is not here this evening that he might witness the manner in which the toast of the United States Navy and Army has been received. I trust I may be permitted to say that the officers of the British Navy fully appreciate the gallantry and great achievements of that service, than which no nation has ever afforded greater examples of bravery and courage. Having been employed during an important period on the American coast—when that country was passing through so severe a trial of internal war—it was

my lot to have had communication with many American officers, and I have great satisfaction in saying that during the whole of that period there was an interchange of friendly feeling between the respective navies, which I feel assured was of advantage to the interests of both countries. (Loud cheers).

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SPEECH OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

The CHAIRMAN: My Lords and Gentlemen,—It now becomes my duty to propose that which is pre-eminently the toast of the evening—(cheers)—and to ask you to return to our distinguished guest our warm and hearty acknowledgments of the great service he has rendered to England, to America, and to the world by his exertions in promoting the success of the Atlantic Telegraph—(cheers)—an enterprise which is the culminating triumph of a long series of discoveries prosecuted by many generations of men. It is not easy to apportion with exactitude the merits which may belong to those who have been engaged in it; but I much mistake the character of our distinguished guest—and I have now known him for several years, and have had much communication with him—I much mistake his character if he desires to displace for a single moment any of those who have preceded him in the history of electrical discovery. This great triumph may be looked at from various points of view, and in the first place I think I am safe in saying that we all feel it to be a triumph of pure science. (Cheers.) I say, of pure science—of the pure desire and love of knowledge. I



believe I have the honour of speaking to many distinguished scientific men, and I think they will bear me out when I say that if there is one question which they hear with the utmost indignation and contempt addressed to them when they are in the course of their investigations it is the question—what is the use of their discoveries. (Cheers.) The answer which the man of science returns to this question, as to what is the use of his discovery, is, “I only tell you what is the interest of that discovery, that interest which compels and impels me to go on in the path of investigation.” (Cheers.) It is knowledge—mere knowledge of the facts and laws of nature—that the scientific mind seeks to gain. Nevertheless, I think it is a great comfort to scientific men to be sure that even those discoveries which for years, and even for centuries, remain apparently entirely useless, may at any time and at any moment become serviceable in the highest degree to the human family. (Cheers.) And surely there never was a case in which this has been so signally displayed. From the days of Galvani, when he first noticed the twitches in the leg of a frog, to the days of Faraday and Wheatstone and Morse, those inventions have been conducted by men of science in the pure spirit of scientific investigation, and it is only very gradually that it has been perceived that this wonderful discovery of galvanic electricity may be pressed into the service and use of man. In the second place, I think this electric telegraph is not only a great triumph of pure science, but of engineering, of mechanical, and of nautical skill. Really, gentlemen, when we come to look at the mechanical operations which were necessary—the long and patient steps which had to be taken in connection with

galvanic electricity before it could be turned to use—one is astonished at the amount of investigation and patient labour which has been gone through. We are amazed also at the immense skill, not only of the engineers, but of the navy, which has been so well represented by Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne. Only read the account of the exertions which were made by the captain and officers of the Great Eastern, and we shall see how eminently it has been due to their untiring energy, to their immense professional experience and skill, to their unwavering determination, to their unsparing exertion, that this great enterprise has been so completely successful. Now, lastly—and here we come upon the exertions of our distinguished guest—this is a great and noble triumph of commercial enterprise. And I believe the success of this enterprise would have been delayed for many years—perhaps for whole generations of men—had it not been for the single exertions, for the confidence and zeal, for the foresight and faith, amounting as I think to genius, of our distinguished guest, Mr. Cyrus Field. (Loud and prolonged cheering). None of us in our day, I rejoice to think, are disposed to undervalue the influence which the spirit of commercial enterprise is having upon the progress and civilisation of mankind. In nothing perhaps is there so strange a contrast between the spirit and the wisdom of modern times and the spirit and wisdom of ancient philosophy. It is surely a most wonderful fact that in the most brilliant civilisations of the ancient world, the wise men of those times—and they were men so wise that many of us to this day are influenced by their thoughts—many of those men held that commercial enterprise was the

bane of nations. They called it the mere getting of gain. Why, it might just as well be said that the spirit of the soldier and of the sailor is expressed in the duty of killing men, as it is to say that the spirit of commercial enterprise is represented by the mere getting of gain. Every man who has devoted himself to a great profession, or to a great enterprise of any kind, knows that though the getting of gain is one of the elements, and ought to be one of the elements, in all successful enterprise, yet that the spirit of enterprise itself—a desire that ennobles that pursuit—the desire of adding to the comforts of man is among the stimulants which urge him on his course. (Cheers.) And, gentlemen, although it is possible that exaggerated estimates may be made as to the effect of commercial enterprise in promoting peace and goodwill among men, yet I can have no doubt whatever, as has been said by my right hon. friend Sir John Pakington, that at least the tendency of commercial enterprise must be to promote peace and goodwill among men. Sir John Pakington has referred to the immense sensation which was created in 1858 when the first electric telegraph was completed. (Hear, hear.) I trust you will allow me to read to you some very striking and beautiful lines in which this expedition has been commemorated, and those feelings have been expressed by that eminent Quaker poet of America, Mr. Whittier. I will ask you to let me read them to you, for I have not had time to commit them to memory. They express, I think, finely and solemnly as could be expressed, the great hopes which were then entertained, and which I rejoice to think have been now fulfilled.

Thou lonely bay of Trinity,  
 Ye bosky shores untrod,  
 Lean breathless on the white-lipped sea,  
 And hear the voice of God.

From world to world his couriers fly,  
 Thought-winged and shod with fire;  
 The angel of the stormy sky  
 Rides down the sunken wire.

What saith the herald of the Lord?  
 "The world's long strife is done!  
 Close wedded by that mystic cord,  
 Her continents are one.

"And one in heart, as one in blood,  
 Shall all her peoples be;  
 The hands of human brotherhood  
 Shall clasp beneath the sea.

"Through Orient seas, o'er Afric's plain,  
 And Asia's mountains borne,  
 The vigour of the northern brain  
 Shall nerve the world outworn.

"From clime to clime, from shore to shore,  
 Shall thrill the magic thread;  
 The new Prometheus steals once more,  
 The fire that wakes the dead!

"Earth, grey with age, shall hear the strain  
 Which o'er her childhood rolled;  
 For her the morning stars again  
 Shall sing their song of old.

"For lo! the fall of ocean's wall,  
 Space mocked, and time outrun!—  
 And round the world the thought of all  
 Is as the thought of one."

Oh, reverently and thankfully  
 The mighty wonder own!  
 The deaf may hear, the blind may see,  
 The work is God's alone.

Throb on, strong pulse of thunder! beat  
 From answering beach to beach!  
 Fuse nations in thy kindly heat,  
 And melt the chains of each!

Wild terror of the sky above,  
 Glide tame and dumb below.  
 Bear gently, ocean's carrier dove,  
 Thy errands to and fro!

Weave on, swift shuttle of the Lord,  
 Beneath the deep so far,  
 The bridal robe of Earth's accord,  
 The funeral shroud of War!

The poles unite, the zones agree,  
 The tongues of striving cease;  
 As, on the Sea of Galilee,  
 The Christ is whispering "Peace!" (Cheers.)

These are very noble lines, and all that I can say is this, that although I do not myself believe that commercial enterprise will ever secure a millenium in the world—though I believe that the time is not yet come, and never will come until better influences are at work than even this—when men can beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks—yet I do believe that every step we take in the progress of the intercommunication between the nations, prejudices and passions will certainly be removed, and there will be a tendency to a common brotherhood, because they will be linked by those commercial interests

which are very strong guarantees indeed in the interests of peace. (Hear, hear.) Now I must say this, that of all commercial enterprises which have ever been undertaken, this one on the part of Mr. Cyrus Field represents the noblest and purest motives by which commercial enterprise can ever be inspired. (Cheers.) I believe it was the very greatness of the project—the great results which were certain to issue—I believe it was this, and this alone, which supported him with that confidence and decision which, through many difficulties and many disappointments, has carried him at last to the triumphant conclusion of this great project. (Cheers.) And, gentlemen, I rejoice to say that whilst as a commercial enterprise it has come from the other side of the Atlantic, it has been well seconded and supported by the capitalists not only of America but of England. And surely this is another link of friendly intercourse between the people of the two countries. Now, let me also say this—and this is a point which I have ascertained from other sources—I believe so great was the confidence of Mr. Field in the triumph of this great undertaking, that he risked every farthing of his own private fortune in promoting its success. On these grounds, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to drink his health. But on one other ground also I ask you to drink it, and that is this, that he is personally one of the most genial and kindly hearted of men. (Great cheering.) At a time when his country was in great difficulty, and when many Americans thought at least they had something to complain of in the tone of English society, I was in the constant habit of meeting Mr. Field, and I never saw his temper ruffled for a moment—I never heard any words fall

from him but words of peace between the two countries ; and I often heard him express a hope that a time would come when a better understanding would arise in the minds of the people of this country and those of the United States ; and I have reason to believe that his services and exertions in the United States have not a little contributed to secure the return of that feeling, what I believe is the real and permanent feeling of the people of those two great countries. Allow me, then, to ask you most heartily to drink this toast with me—The health of Mr. Cyrus Field, as the promoter of this great enterprise, and as a gentleman whom we all know and honour. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

SPEECH OF MR. CYRUS FIELD.

Mr. CYRUS FIELD, who was received with an enthusiastic burst of applause, again and again renewed, spoke as follows: My Lord Duke,—With all my heart I thank you for the kind words which you have spoken, and which are the more grateful to me, coming as they do from one who was my country's friend in the hour of darkness and seeming disaster. (Hear, hear.) To you also, my lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I equally return my thanks for the cordial manner in which you have received the generous sentiments expressed by your distinguished President. Most sincerely do I wish that I had the power to express to you all that I have it in my heart to say, and to make my voice respond to the gratitude I feel for all the kindness I have received in this country. (Cheers.) I know how anxious you are to hear the Statesman who so ably presides over the affairs of India, that great orator who is the friend of America because he is the friend

of mankind, and the other distinguished gentlemen who are to follow them. I will, therefore, not detain you with any lengthened remarks in regard to the Atlantic Telegraph, with its more than fourteen years of varying fortunes; nor with any account of the anxious days and sleepless nights which have been passed by those who were engaged in bringing the undertaking to its final consummation; nor with any narrative of what has been done to realise apparent impossibilities by so many who are now seated around this board. The laborious scientific investigations in the closet, the laboratory, the workshop, upon and beneath the sea; the accurate soundings of the Atlantic; the careful and increasingly perfect manufacture of the cables; the wonderfully effective mechanical appliances used to lay them, and to recover and complete the one that was lost; the skilful seamanship exhibited in the sure guidance of all the movements of the vessels; the unsurpassed enterprise of the capitalists, without whose profuse expenditure the Atlantic Cable would still have remained a chimera; the ability with which the affairs of the several Companies were conducted by the directors and officers; the generous aid of the English and American Governments in connection with the successive expeditions, and that of the Government of Newfoundland in granting valuable privileges—in a word, the unexampled combination of nautical, electrical, engineering, financial, and executive resources—all this is best told by the simple fact that two cables are in perfect working order across the most stormy ocean in the world, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, more than two-thirds of which is over two miles in depth, and that messages are passing with



lightning speed from continent to continent. (Loud cheers.) That the enterprise has also been a pecuniary success is best proved by the fact that on this very day the holders of every description of Atlantic Telegraph stock have received a dividend. (Laughter and applause.) The living are too numerous to particularise, and the fame of many of them has not yet reached its climax; but I may be excused if I pay my reverent tribute of gratitude to the memories of those who have departed from amongst us, but who live, and will ever live, in their works. In doing so, I gratefully record the honoured names of Faraday, Stephenson, Brunel, Brett, Statham, Woodhouse, Brown, Stewart, Bache, Berryman, White, and Hudson, who laboured so zealously, and who, if living, would have rejoiced to be with us to-night. (Cheers.) But the past is matter of history. Let us do all we can in the future to make the fruits of our experience beneficial to the world. Do not, my friends, be content with having connected Europe and America together by the electric cord, but remember that India, Australia—(hear, hear)—China and Japan, South America, and the isles of the sea, both in the east and in the west, have yet to be brought into instant communication with England and America. (Hear, hear.) I most fervently thank God that I have been permitted to live to see this enterprise, which binds your country to mine, completed; and that I am privileged this night, with some members of my family, to meet our English friends, and with them to rejoice over its success. (Cheers.) I rejoice, because the cable brings into closer union the two great Anglo-Saxon nations of the world, which have a common origin, inherit the same glorious traditions, and are so bound

together that if one were to receive a blow both would suffer from the shock. I, an American, feel pride in remembering that my ancestors were English citizens, and lived and died under your flag. (Applause.) And do not all true Englishmen glory in the fact that the small expeditions which sailed from these shores some 250 years ago, and settled at Plymouth and on the banks of the James River, were so multiplied and replenished that at the time of the Declaration of Independence the original handful had increased to 3,000,000 of people; while, in less than a century the 3,000,000 have grown into a nation of 35,000,000, and now, thank God, not one slave among them; with a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. There are, undoubtedly, many now within hearing of my voice who will live to see within the limits of the existing United States 100 millions of people all speaking the English tongue. While, when I think of the greatness of England, I always remember the words of the American orator who said that she "is a power to which Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun, and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth in one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England." (Loud cheers.) To this I would add the hope, that ere long every one of the numerous and scattered dependencies which suggested to Daniel Webster the noble figure America has enshrined in her classics will be united to the mother country by the electric bond, and that it may be in the power of the

Sovereign and her Minister, or of the merchant on 'Change,' to hold instantaneous converse with all or any of the races, nations, and tribes which yield obedience to the mild sceptre of the good Queen Victoria. (Applause.) I pray that hereafter no jealousies may be allowed to create a wall of separation between England and America; that all the ill-feeling that has been engendered between the two countries may be buried so deep in the Atlantic that the ingenuity of man shall never invent a grapple to drag it to the surface; and that the only rivalry between them shall be the rivalry of co-workers in efforts to promote peace, industry, and commercial intercourse, and to extend the blessings of civil and religious liberty throughout the world. (Mr. Field resumed his seat amid enthusiastic plaudits.)

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SPEECH OF THE RIGHT HON. SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE,  
BART. M.P.,  
*Secretary of State for India.*

Sir S. NORTHCOTE, in proposing "Peace and Prosperity between Great Britain and the United States," said: My Lord Duke, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—If we understand anything in England we understand the organisation of a public dinner and speeches afterwards. I believe we have reduced it pretty well to a good system. We begin with those loyal and patriotic toasts which appeal to the hearts of Englishmen, and which work us up to a proper frame of mind for receiving that which follows—the great toast of the evening; and, after we have had the great toast of the evening, then it falls to the lot of the minor speakers to deal with subjects

appropriate to the occasion in respect to which the company may have met. Now, to-night we are met for the purpose of expressing our friendship, and doing honour, to a distinguished guest, who has been long known among us, and whom we desire to congratulate upon the successful termination of an enterprise in which he has the largest share of honour, but in which we all, as a nation, are half-workers, and in which we all have a deep interest. We celebrate the success of an enterprise which has brought Great Britain and the United States of America within a few minutes one of the other. Now it is not unnaturally suggested that the one toast which should follow that toast of the evening should be a toast embodying an expression of hope that we may see peace and prosperity in Great Britain and in the United States. And I should have felt no hesitation or difficulty in proposing that toast to your notice if it were not that in point of fact it so very closely connects itself with the toast which has gone before, and which it has been so ably done justice to in the remarks we have heard from our noble President, that there is little or nothing left for me to do but to chime in with those remarks. At the same time allow me to say that we are but expressing the mind of the whole people of England in declaring our confidence that this great work which has been so nobly accomplished—this junction of the two great countries—will strengthen the bonds of peace between the two countries. And I say so, although I am conscious that it by no means necessarily follows that by bringing two nations or two individuals into close proximity you promote peace between them. (Cheers.) We know there are persons of whom it may be said they are

better friends when distant from each other, and there are nations which are in a similar position. But the reason why I say that the conjunction between these countries will be for the peace and prosperity of both is because I believe that the feeling of the two nations to each other is at bottom such that they will stand the test to which they are now about to be subjected. (Cheers.) Now, if you will look at this increased facility of communication in one respect, it is a fact that it does not necessarily conduce to peace. Because when difficulties and misunderstandings arise it is better that we should not be too rapid in solving those difficulties, but that we should allow a little time to elapse in order that a little diplomacy may bridge over the misunderstanding—(cheers)—so that the passions may have time to cool down, and we may learn to understand one another. But notwithstanding that I believe, for purposes of soothing down misunderstandings when they arise, that our communications should not be too rapid, on the other hand, I believe that for preventing such misunderstandings communication between England and America cannot be too rapid. (Cheers.) Because, after all, peace between these great countries does not depend upon any amount of diplomacy. (Hear, hear.) Peace is for the interest, and is welcome to the mind of the population of England and America; and I am convinced the better we know each other, the more we have to do with each other, that the better are the securities of peace; and I believe if there ever was a time when there has been a disturbance, or a rupture, or a misunderstanding between us, it has arisen from a want of sympathy and understanding between the one and the other. That time is, however,

passing away. So many of us have friends in America, and see friends from America, whom we know and value, that the way to get rid of those difficulties is daily becoming more plain. And I believe that from year to year the sympathies of the two countries will grow heartier and more cordial, and from year to year the social and political as well as the commercial value of this communication will make itself more felt on both sides of the Atlantic. My Lords and Gentlemen, I should not be justified, considering the terms of the toast, if I did not say a word upon the commercial prosperity which I hope this undertaking may increase. But in point of fact, I am disposed, in presenting the toast to your notice, to leave out the word 'commercial.' (Hear, hear.) I do not see why we should confine ourselves to the commercial point of view. I wish to promote not only the commercial but the social prosperity of these countries. At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the fact that in its bearings on the social condition of both countries commerce must take a prominent place. Now, while I believe that for diplomatic correspondence a little delay may not be a bad thing, there can be no doubt that in commerce it is the reverse. The annihilation of time is everything for commerce. I believe that in this case we have only to try and learn to understand one another, and to understand the great principle of science and political economy, to produce very great improvement in commercial prosperity. I say, take the lesson which has been read to us on the success of private enterprise, and you cannot fail to see that the time must come when the prospects of telegraphy will be furthered eastward as well as westward. (Loud cheers.)

Nobody joins in those cheers more fully than I do, and I welcomed the sentiment as it came just now from the lips of my friend, because he not only pointed out the object to be sought, but because he has given practical proofs of the mode, of the best way in which that object can be attained. I believe we have to learn the practical application of the great doctrine of private enterprise to things of this sort. And I believe the man who has done the most for the great system of private enterprise and telegraphic communication is he who has shown that the greatest and most difficult of all the operations of that great system of communication is a matter which private enterprise is not afraid to undertake to grapple with, and which he has successfully carried out. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with loud cheers.

SPEECH OF MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.

Mr. BRIGHT, who, upon rising, was received with cheers, said: In attempting to respond to the sentiment that has been submitted to us, I have a certain anxiety with regard to a mysterious box which is said to be on these premises, containing an instrument by which every word we utter to-night, be it wise or be it foolish, will be transmitted with more than lightning speed to the dwellers on that part of the earth's surface which we describe as the regions of the setting sun. But we are so entirely agreed that there seems no possibility that anything will be said to-night which any one who hears it will desire to contradict, and I hope we may avoid the charge of saying anything that is foolish or hasty. Sir Stafford Northcote has submitted this sentiment—"The

peace and prosperity of Great Britain and the United States ;" which means, I presume, that we are here in favour of a growing and boundless trade with America, and at the same time desire an unbroken friendship with the people of that country. With one heart and voice, I presume we accept that sentiment—(great cheering)—and without any fear of contradiction we assert that we are on that point truly representative of the unanimous feeling of the three kingdoms. (Cheers.) There are those—I meet them frequently, for there are cavillers and critics everywhere—there are those who condemn the United States, and sometimes with something like scorn and bitterness, because at this moment the people of the United States are bearing heavy taxation, and because they have a ruinous tariff ; but if these critics were to look back to our own position a few years ago they would see how much allowance is to be made for others. (Cheers.) During the years which passed between 1790 and 1815, for nearly twenty-five years, the Government and people of this country were waging a war of a terrific character with a neighbouring State. The result of that war was that which is, I believe, the result of every great war—enormous expenditure, great loans, heavy taxation, growing debt, and, of course, much suffering among the people who have to bear the load of those burdens. But after that war, during twenty-five years, from 1815 to 1841, there was scarcely anything done by the Government of this country to remedy the gross and scandalous inequalities of taxation, and to adopt a better system in apportioning the necessary burdens of the State upon the various classes of the people. But since 1841,



as we all know, we have seen a revolution in this country in regard to taxation and finance, and I need not remind you that this has been mainly produced by the teaching of one who is not with us to-night, but who would have rejoiced, as we now rejoice, over the great event which we are here to celebrate, whose spirit and whose mind will, I believe, for generations yet to come stimulate and elevate the minds of multitudes of his countrymen. (Loud cheers.) But this revolution of which I speak is not confined to this country; for, notwithstanding what we now see in the United States, it may be affirmed positively that it is going on there, and that in the course of no remote period it will embrace in its world-blessing influence all the civilised nations of the globe. The United States have had four years of appalling struggle and disaster. It was nevertheless, in some sort, a time of unspeakable grandeur, and it has had this great result, that it has sustained the life of a great nation, and has given universal and permanent freedom over the whole continent of North America. (Loud cheers.) But, as was the case with our war, so with the American war; it has been attended with enormous cost, with great loans, with grievous taxation, and with a tariff which intelligent men will not long submit to; but at this moment and for some time the strife has been ended, the wounds inflicted are healing, freedom is secured, and the restoration of the Union, surmounting the difficulties that have interposed, is being gradually and certainly accomplished. (Cheers.) I conclude that such a nation as the United States, such a people, so free and so instructed, will not be twenty-five years before they remedy the evils and the

blunders and the unequal burdens of their taxation and their tariff. (Hear, hear.) They will discover, in much less time than we discovered it, that a great nation is advanced by freedom of industry and of commerce, and that without this freedom every other kind of freedom is but a partial good. (Cheers.) This sentiment speaks also of unbroken friendship between the two countries. May I say now, in a moment of calm and of reason, that with regard to the United States both our rulers and our people, and especially the most influential classes of our people, have greatly erred? Men here forget that, after all, we are but one nation having two Governments. We are of the same noble and heroic race. Half the English family is on this side the Atlantic in its ancient home, and the other half over the ocean (there being no room for them here) settled on the American continent. It is so with thousands of individual families throughout this country. No member of my family has emigrated to America for forty years past, and yet I have far more blood relations in the United States than I have within the limits of the United Kingdom; and that, I believe, is true of thousands in this country. And I assert this, that he is an enemy of our English race, and indeed an enemy of the human race, who creates any difficulty that shall interfere with the permanent peace and friendship of all the members of our great English-speaking family. (Great applause.) One other sentence upon that point. No man will dare to say that the people of the United States or the people of the United Kingdom are not in favour of peace. Whence, then can there come the chance of war? The fact is, in dealing

with nations, we do not deal on the basis of morals which we apply to individuals. One hundred years—two hundred years ago—almost every gentleman went about armed with a deadly weapon. In those days there were duels and violent and fatal encounters constantly between men of our order in life, and if you turn to the newspapers and magazines of that period you will find constant reference to calamitous events of that kind. Now nothing of that kind happens, except by some lamentable accident. We have great fleets and great armies, as other nations have, and the moment anything happens to create the slightest dispute between any two nations, instantly the question is, “How is the army? How is the navy? Have you ships? Have you men? Have you armaments equal to those of your imagined opponent?” Instead of turning, at the moment any little dispute arises, to the question of sufficiency of armaments, if our dispositions are really those of peace instead of war, we should turn to courtesy and to negotiation, to arbitration and to modes of settlement which do not in the slightest degree lead men into the hostile position out of which war almost inevitably springs. (Cheers.) But leaving for a moment—in fact, leaving altogether—the sentiment and the toast which have been submitted to us, you will permit me to turn more immediately to the purposes of this banquet only for a sentence or two. I rejoice very much at this banquet, because we are met to do honour to a man of rare qualities, who has conferred upon us—and I believe upon mankind—rare services. I have known Mr. Field for a good many years, and although, I dare say, to any sailor who may be here it is not

much, to me it seems a good deal, that Mr. Cyrus Field, in the prosecution of this great work (not being a sailor, always bear that in mind) has crossed the Atlantic more than forty times—(cheers); and he has, as you know, by an energy almost without example, by a courage nothing could daunt, by a faith that nothing could make to falter, and by sacrifices beyond estimation—for there are sacrifices that he has made I would not in his presence relate to this meeting—aided by discovery and by science and by capital, he has accomplished the grandest triumph which the science and the intellect of man have ever achieved. (Cheers.) Soon after the successful laying of the cable I had an opportunity of referring to it in a speech spoken in the north of England, when I took the liberty of describing Mr. Cyrus Field as the Columbus of the 19th century—(cheers)—and may I not ask, when that cable was laid, when the iron hand grasped in the almost fathomless recesses of the ocean the lost and broken cable, if it be given to the spirits of great men in the eternal world, in their eternal life, to behold the great actions of our lives, how must the spirit of that grand old Genoese have rejoiced at the triumph of that hour, and at the new tie which bound the world he had discovered to the world to which but for him it might have been for ages to come unknown. (Cheers.) I join in the sentiments of those beautiful verses read by our president. I believe no man—not Cyrus Field himself—has ever been able to comprehend the magnitude of the great discovery—of the great blessing—to mankind which we have received through the instrumentality of him and his friends, the scientific men by whom he has been assisted. (Cheers.) I say with the

greatest sincerity, that my heart is too full, when I look at this question, to permit me to speak of it in the manner in which I feel that I should speak. We all know that there are in our lives joys, and there are sometimes sorrows that are too deep for utterance, and there are manifestations of the goodness, and the wisdom, and the greatness of the Supreme which our modes of speech are utterly unable to describe. We can only stand, and look on, and wonder, and adore. (Cheers.) But of the agency—the human agency—concerned, we may more freely speak. I honour the great inventors. In their lifetime they seldom receive all the consideration to which they are entitled. An old and valued friend of mine is one of them, and of them not the least—I speak of William Fothergill Cooke. I do not see him here, and he may not be present. (A Voice: He is here.) He is here I hope to take some consolation for his long days of patient investigation from the feeling which he has seen exhibited here to-night, and from the vast service which has been conferred upon the world by the invention of which he certainly was one of the chief discoverers. (Applause.) I honour, too, Professor Wheatstone and Professor Morse, and all those men of science who have made this great marvel possible, and I honour the gallant captain of that great ship—(enthusiastic cheering)—whose precious cargo not landed in any port, but sunk in ocean's solitary depths, has brought measureless blessings to mankind; and I honour him, our distinguished, may I not say our illustrious guest of to-night; for, after all that can be said of invention and of science and of capital, it required the unmatched energy and perseverance and faith of Cyrus Field to bring to one grand

completion the mightiest achievement which the human intellect, in my opinion, has ever accomplished. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

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SPEECH OF VISCOUNT STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, G.C.B.

VISCOUNT STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, in proposing "The Literature and Press of the two countries," said:—My Lord Duke, my Lords, and Gentlemen, you will give me credit for the unwillingness which I cannot but feel to address this great and intelligent assembly at so late an hour of the evening, and after the brilliant effusion of eloquence which we have just heard. But I must beg of you to measure the interest I take in this subject by the effort I have made to overcome my reluctance, not in consenting to attend this banquet, but in venturing to take part in the proceedings of the evening. I feel that my title to your attention is very small, and I can only hope, therefore, that the interesting toast which I shall have the pleasure of proposing to you will in some degree make up for the deficiencies of the proposer, and enable me for a few minutes to engage your attention. The occasion on which we have met is indeed one which appeals to our strongest feelings, to our strongest sympathies, not only to the sympathies of heart, but to those of our political relations, and of all those interests of commerce and social life which connect us with the other side of the Atlantic—with a nation which, as it sprung from the loins of our ancestors, we must regard with the deepest interest, and an earnest desire to bind it up with ourselves in peace and

amity. Gentlemen, it cannot have escaped your observation that the great object of our meeting here this evening is one which without presumption may be said to have no parallel, one which cannot help, by extending the intercourse of nation with nation, greatly to enlarge the commercial relations and extend the commercial prosperity of the two countries. Yes, in spite of those unfriendly passions which too often disturb and inflame the heart of man, our great Atlantic Cable must go very far to increase those feelings by which peace and prosperity are always produced. I have often thought that in the beginning of the world the genius who first thought of connecting one country with another must have felt himself discouraged, even to despair, by the obstacles which the vast waters of the ocean seemed to throw in his way. The briny element was fatal to human life, and its boundless expanse insuperable even to fancy. Who could have imagined that the self-same ocean would prove in due season the greatest facility to the intercourse of nations, and to the diffusion of commerce? Who, I say, could have imagined that the sea, instead of being the lifeless wilderness its first appearance suggested, should not only swarm with the means of living, but give passage to multitudes embarked on its waves, and waft from shore to shore the varied productions of the earth? One of the things most remarkable in the history of the world is, that wherever an interest exists—I do not mean a private interest, but one which concerns more or less the many among nations—there you will find an intention full of benevolence to promote the progress of that interest, and to work it out in such manner that it shall conduce to the

general benefit of mankind. (Cheers.) The great cable has in an eminent degree this characteristic in common with all other great enterprises. It tends to advance the welfare and happiness of man—a providential forecast and intention. I say of man in general, for the success of the first oceanic cable will lead to other similar successes, and the result must be the approximation of all countries to each other, and the development of nature's resources in boundless abundance. But cables are not the only instruments of communication on the largest scale; we have literature, we have the press, and, what is more, in our intercourse with the United States, we have a language common to both nations. These powerful engines are, no doubt, less rapid in operation than the electric cable, but their effects are more impressive and more durable. The service of the cable, immense as its usefulness may be, is incidental and often momentary; but the impression made by literature, or even by the daily press, sinks deep into the mind, and forms, in great measure, the policy of nations. The Atlantic Cable, which has brought us this day together, unites for immediate communication the inhabitants of North America and those of the British Isles. The convictions of great minds, the results of deep research, the inventions of art, the discoveries of science fall within the province of literature, and the volumes built up for their reception by men of genius or learning spread truth throughout the nations, carry improvement from age to age, and give to poor humanity a character almost divine. The daily and periodical press may be said to occupy an intermediate place between books and electric wires. (Hear, hear.) We all know with what power that



engine works, and what amount of good or of evil it is capable of producing. In proportion to its power is the responsibility of those who are engaged in its service. To whichever side of the Atlantic we direct our attention we may find much to approve and much to admire in the language of the Press. But there is also room for censure, and at times even for shame. If there is to be an earnest competition between the Old and the New Country, let it shew itself in clearing away prejudices, in doing justice to each other's claims, and in promoting a love of peace and mutual goodwill. We, who take class among the peaceable part of society, are entitled to expect that a sound moral feeling shall pervade the Press wherever its sphere of action may be, and that moving in harmony with those moral instincts, which in every sense are superior to material and commercial interests, it should foster and bring out those feelings which afford the best security for peace. With regard to the less fugitive kind of literature in the two countries, I cannot but acknowledge the progress which has of late been made by the more gifted sons of America. In justice we must not overlook the merits of our own countrymen in that respect. The names of distinguished authors in every department of science, art, and literature crowd in upon the memory, and, most assuredly, the United States have contributed a fair proportion to the number. If we have our Scotts, our Froudes, our Macaulays, our Whewells, and our Tennysons, they have their Irvings, their Prescotts, their Motleys, their Coopers, and their Longfellows. (Cheers.) And if our list is somewhat larger than theirs, we must remember the shortness of their

independent career, the interruption of their literary leisure, and their comparative distance from the old depositories of human knowledge. Whatever degree of blame may justly attach to that policy which roused the spirit of resistance in our American possessions, I cannot altogether assent to the censure expressed this evening on our conduct toward the United States when they declared war against us some fifty years ago—but let that pass. It was my lot in earlier life to visit the United States. I was British Minister at Washington during three years at a period when the remembrance of our previous quarrels was still fresh, and when the use of steam in navigation had not as yet shortened the extent and diminished the risks of an Atlantic voyage. Whatever were the drawbacks, I rejoiced in the opportunity of making acquaintance with a new state of society, of seeing with my own eyes the working and progress of a great people, and of studying the character of their expansive institutions. Brought thus into personal contact with the most instructive part of the New World, I took a lively interest in all its concerns, and retain to this moment the impression which I derived from it. The time was one of peace ; but questions pregnant with future misunderstanding remained to be settled, and I now look back with pleasure on the efforts I made to bring the two Governments into negotiations for their settlement. I so far succeeded that a serious negotiation was set on foot, but untoward circumstances marred its progress, and its only benefit in the end was, that it laid the groundwork of amicable arrangements at a later period. But, gentlemen, I need not weary your attention with these personal reminiscences. If the share I had in bygone

transactions between the two countries is indifferent to you, as it may easily be, you will feel, nevertheless, with me how naturally the Atlantic Cable, and all its prospective advantages, bring to mind that state of things which formerly estranged us from America, and threatened the interruption of those friendly relations which so many motives of interest and sympathy concur in urging both parties to maintain and improve. Mr. Cyrus Field has called forth our present expressive tribute to his character and merits by the signal exertion he made, at so much hazard and self-sacrifice, to realize the grand conception of the Cable. He crossed the Atlantic more than forty times in pursuit of that glorious object, and I, who have crossed it but twice, have learnt thereby to appreciate the results, as well as the perils of so immense an undertaking. (Hear, hear.) Eternal honour to him, and also to those of our countrymen who, in concert with him, have enabled the two worlds to converse with each other. Honour, at the same time, to those who stand in more immediate relation to the toast I am charged to propose. They have extended and exalted that body of literature which owes its existence to a language, familiar alike to the Briton and to the American. Their works, whether of research or of genius, can hardly fail to strengthen the sympathies of a common origin, and to perpetuate the triumphs of a concurrent civilization. With respect to the daily and periodical Press, which makes its influence felt so powerfully on both sides of the Ocean, I can only express, in conclusion, a fervent hope that those who wield its gigantic energies may ever bear in mind the responsible nature of their duties, and

employ their multifarious talents in the service of peace, and in the cultivation of goodwill, good feeling, and good faith between the kindred children of the Atlantic. (Loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with much cheering.

SPEECH OF MR. PARKE GODWIN.

Mr. PARKE GODWIN said : It is a striking evidence of the aptness of the toast which has just been drunk that this occasion, like many other occasions, would be almost sterile and unprofitable without the aid of that instrument the Press which it so justly compliments. This assembly, numerous and respectable as it is, would be but a little secluded conclave, its most pregnant sayings no more than a confidential whisper, its weightiest doings scarcely a public event, if the Press did not repeat and multiply the words of the eloquent lips we have heard, did not record the honourable deed we do. But for it beyond these walls those lips would be mute ; but for it beyond these walls our testimony to a noble and distinguished service find no responsive echoes. It is the Press that will multiply our proceedings for the minds of others, so that they shall be known and read of through all the earth. Coeval with the birth of our modern civilization, it has become, through the progress of that civilization, " the fountain-light of all our day, the master-light of all our seeing." What the richest fancies of the poet but the silent, unfruitful broodings of his own mind ; what the discoveries of science but a worthless picking up of gems in a desert ; what of the debates of Senates more than the wrangling of choughs and crows ; what even the richest deliveries of the historic muse more

than dull monkish legends, without the mighty engine which communicates them to the admiration, the sympathy, the memory of the world. (Loud cheers.) The printing art has been well called the art-preservative of all other arts. The proudest monuments of architecture may crumble, the grandest pictures fade, the statues of bronze and marble in which we fondly seek to perpetuate the past, fall into "the portion of weeds and outworn faces," but the printed book, "the precious life-blood of the noblest spirit, is treasured up to a life beyond life." Paper, an emblem of frugality, which an infant's hand may tear into a thousand pieces, which an infant's breath may scatter to the winds, when passed through the transmutation of this weird instrument, takes on the hardness of adamant, acquires the durability of the poet's "perennial brass." A conservative of all that the human mind or the human heart has produced of the noblest, the press is no less the reformer of all that they have produced of basest and worst. The heroic and manly Luther, to whom the Germans have just raised a memorial which the English Queen so fitly and gracefully recognises, when he was struggling with the dark powers of evil, saw the Devil in person, and flung an inkstand at his head, which caused him to disappear. It was the symbolic act of the Reformation, and, I may add, of all reformations. (Hear, hear.) No exorcism of the foul shapes of wrong more powerful than the mystic scrawls of the printer's hand upon his broad white sheet. No batteries more effective against the strongholds of error than the cylinders of Hoe, which fling out round shot and long shot, 10-pounders and 300-pounders, with a rapidity that surpasses Snider or

Chassepot, and with a smiting, penetrating, smashing force that puts Armstrong or Rodman or Dahlgren to the blush! No army, however equipped or caparisoned, so vital and incessant, so invincible and overwhelming, as the innumerable squadrons of the Press-gang, nor any which has

“So far within old Darkness’ hostile lines  
Advanced, and pitch’d the shining tents of light.”

(Cheers.) Now, not to dwell further upon its effects, let us ask what is the secret of this power of the Press? The question may be answered in a word. It is the utility which it has of bringing every thought, aspiration, word, feeling deed of our common humanity, within the focus of universal human consciousness, there to expose them, to sift them, to purify them, to dry up and wither what is noxious in them, and to appropriate what is sweet, succulent, nutritious in them, for the general good, and for ever more! From the blaze of that meridian beam all darkness flies, all vapours, miasms dissipate, all owls and bats and birds of ill-omen hie to their holes. And because this is the peculiar source of its power, you see in what way and how prodigiously the Telegraph is helpful to the efficacy of the Press. To its hundred Argus-eyes, to its hundred Briarean hands, which give it command of the earth, the Telegraph has added the winged feet of Mercury, who traverses the air, and the swift motions of the water-sprites, who flash along the coral ridges of the ocean as the lightning flashes in the bosom of the summer cloud. How greatly, then, is the sphere of the universal human consciousness enlarged, and with it the universal sympathies of mankind! No icy barriers, no

stormy seas, longer divide the people. My countryman three thousand miles away lays his ear to the ground, and hears the pulse beat of this mighty British nation. Must not his own heart soon beat in unison! While I speak the wire is sending the sound of the voices that have spoken before me over half England and over the continent of America! Must not the interest in a common cause beget common emotions, common convictions, common hopes, and common destinies? The spark that has burnt its way through the slime and rubbish of the ocean will no less burn its way through the slime and rubbish of prejudice, that are so apt to incrust the souls of nations. The intercourse of intelligence, now so frequent and instantaneous, will become more general still as tariffs are lowered and the circulation quickens, until we shall scarcely know whether the original impulse comes from an American or an English heart. We shall be one, as we were in the beginning, and continue to be one in a higher and superior signification than we have ever been two nations. (Loud cheers.)

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SPEECH OF THE EARL OF MORLEY.

The EARL OF MORLEY, in proposing the toast, "Success to Telegraphy," said:—My Lords and gentlemen, it is with feelings of great diffidence I venture to propose the toast which stands next on the list. I say with great diffidence, after the eloquent speeches we have heard to-night, and also because that there must be many persons in this room who would be much more capable of giving you valuable and

interesting information on this subject than I am. But though I am perfectly unable to do justice to this important toast, I feel sure it will commend itself to you, not only from its own intrinsic importance, but also from the connection in which it stands with our guest of to-night, by means of whose exertions the ocean has become, instead of a separating barrier, a means of communication between its opposite shores, and a scientific triumph achieved in which not only England and America may join, but in which the whole world may take part. It is, moreover, a most remarkable fact, and one which gives us the surest hope of the universal extension of Submarine Telegraphy, that the Atlantic Cable was laid under circumstances of perhaps the greatest conceivable difficulty. The science was still in its infancy, and its first essay was made in one of the deepest and most dangerous seas in the world. But owing to the perseverance, skill, and scientific knowledge of Mr. Cyrus Field and his associates, these difficulties, insuperable as at one time they appeared to be, have all been overcome (Cheers.) My Lords and Gentlemen, I look not merely to material and commercial benefits which these lines of Telegraph will bring, but to the great moral and social effects which must inevitably follow. A nobler feeling of exertion than we have hitherto felt must be induced, a broader spirit will prevail, and above all, the doctrines of political freedom, which we hold so dear, will by means of Telegraphy become more wide-spread and better understood. My Lords and Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer at this late hour. But I do hope, from what has been already said to-night, that a stimulus will be afforded to this branch of discovery and



enterprise, which has for its object scientific improvement and the education of mankind.

The toast was drunk enthusiastically.

SPEECH OF M. DE LESSEPS.

M. FERDINAND DE LESSEPS (who was received with loud cheers) said—Je vien d'être chargé de vous entretenir des avantages du Télégraphe électrique entre les diverses parties du monde. Les hommes ont toujours cherché à créer et à perfectionner les moyens de communiquer entre eux. Réunir les peuples par des voies rapides et abrégées, est un progrès véritablement chrétiens ; car il nous permet de nous aimer et de nous aider les uns les autres pour nous rendre meilleurs et plus heureux. (Cheers.) L'élément essentiel de ce progrès est la propagation de la pensée par la parole, par l'écriture, par l'imprimerie, par la presse périodique et journalière, enfin par la Télégraphie électrique, merveilleuse invention moderne mettant au service de l'homme la force que les anciens donnaient pour emblème à la divinité, et qui, au lieu de planer sur nos têtes en signe de menace, poursuit une marche bienfaisante jusque dans les profondeurs des mers. (Cheers.) La Télégraphie électrique est encore à son début et déjà elle enveloppe le monde. Son application la plus surprenante, celle qui a demandé le plus de courage et d'efforts persévérants a été la communication instantanée entre l'Amérique et l'Europe. Honneur à Cyrus Field, qui a été le grand propagateur et fondateur de la Télégraphie Transatlantique. (Cheers.) Honneur à ses compagnons de travail et de victoire. (Loud cheers.)

## SPEECH OF MR. J. H. LLOYD, Q.C.

Mr. JOHN HORATIO LLOYD, in proposing "The Health of the Ladies," said :—I have been entrusted with the next toast, which it requires little practice to recommend, "The Health of the Ladies." (Cheers.) But to-night this toast is a special toast, because of those ladies who adorn this room, and more especially as amongst them are the wife, the daughter, and the niece of our distinguished guest. (Loud cheers.) We can now flash across the Atlantic to the fair daughters of the West the greetings of the daughters of our own land. Those of us who have to fight the battle of life will be ready to bear testimony to how much we have been upheld by the smiles of woman. Milton says of Adam and Eve—

"They hand in hand,  
Through Eden took their solitary way."

And who can help feeling that in that there was a compensation for the Eden he was leaving, and that Paradise was not wholly lost. I give you "The Ladies." (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with all the honours.

## SPEECH OF LORD WILLIAM HAY, M.P.

Lord WILLIAM HAY, M.P., proposed the health of the Chairman ; he said :—Although the hour is very late, I am quite sure there is no one here who will not join with me in acknowledging the toast which has been kindly entrusted to my care. I am sure all present will allow that among the

many eminent public men in this country there is not one who by his public life and character is more qualified to preside on an occasion like the present than the distinguished nobleman who now occupies the chair. For, whether you refer to the speeches which he has delivered, with a view to direct the mind of our time to subjects of scientific utility—or to his speeches on domestic politics—or to those which he has addressed to us this evening—I think you will allow that they are distinguished not only by perfect mastery of the subjects of which they treat, but also by a generous sympathy and a large-hearted regard for people of all classes, whether dwelling within or beyond the borders of our own land. And, I may observe, this cosmopolitanism is a characteristic which has not always found favour in the eyes of everyone. It has been frequently urged against those who in the course of their public life have shown special good will for persons of all races, without reference to their creed or nationality, that this has been done at the expense of their own country. Now if it be true patriotism that a man is with blind prejudice to believe in the absolute perfection of everything that belongs to his own country, then I believe there is some truth in the allegation. But if true patriotism consists in striving with all your might to render your people and your institutions as perfect as it is possible to make them, rather than in believing they are already as perfect as they can be—then you would only have to look to many gentlemen around this table, and above all to the noble Duke who has presided over us this evening, to find examples of fidelity to this high conception of national and public duty. (Hear, hear.) I ask you, without further

ceremony, to drink the Health of the Duke of Argyll for his services this evening, and I hope you will respond to the toast in such a manner as will show an appreciation of his great qualities, and of the admirable manner in which he has discharged the duties of president. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk most cordially,

The DUKE OF ARGYLL said: I hope you will allow me to return my very sincere thanks. I confess I have been very much occupied during the last few days. (Hear, hear.) I was able to make very little preparation, and I am conscious of many shortcomings in my appearance here on this occasion. (Cheers.) I am happy to say that whatever was wanting in me was more than supplemented in the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Bright. (Cheers.) I hope you will allow me to read to you another thanks which I have received, by telegraph, from Miss Field, New York.—“I thank you most sincerely for the kind words you have spoken of my father, causing me to feel that we are friends, although our acquaintance is thus made across the sea and in a moment of time.” (Cheers.)

The Company then separated.

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES SENT AND RECEIVED  
DURING THE BANQUET.

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The Duke of Argyll transmitted the following message to his Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, Washington :—

“ I am now surrounded by upwards of 300 gentlemen and many ladies, who have assembled to do honour to Mr. Cyrus Field for his acknowledged exertions in promoting telegraphic communication between the New and Old World. It bids fair for the kindly influences of the Atlantic cable that its success should have brought together so friendly a gathering—and in asking you to join our toast of ‘ Long life, health, and happiness to your most worthy countryman,’ let me add a Highlander’s wish, that England and America may always be found in peace and in war ‘ Shoulder to shoulder.’ ”

At a later period of the evening an answer was returned by the Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State, Washington, and read by the Duke of Argyll :—

“ Your salutations to the President from the banquetting-hall at Willis’s Rooms have been received. The dinner-hour here has not arrived yet; it is only five o’clock; the sun is yet two hours high. When the dinner-hour arrives the President will accept your pledge of honour to our distinguished countryman, Cyrus W. Field, and will cordially respond to your Highland aspiration for perpetual union between the two nations.” (Cheers.)

The Duke of Argyll sent the following message to his Excellency Viscount Monck, Governor-General of Canada :—

“ I am now presiding over a banquet of upwards of 300 gentlemen and many ladies, to do honour to Mr. Cyrus Field, of New

York, for his devotion to the interests of Atlantic telegraphy. It is a good omen of the influence which the submarine cable between the New and Old World can exercise in our offering this homage of respect to a most worthy American; and I shall be glad to find you reciprocate the sentiment from the table of the Governor of the Canadian Confederation."

The Duke of Argyll read his Excellency's answer, which was received with applause :—

"From Lord Monck, Quebec, July 1st, to the Duke of Argyll, Chairman of the Dinner to Cyrus W. Field, Esq., London.

"In the name of the people in the dominion of Canada, I desire to express our hearty sympathy with the compliment which you are now paying to Mr. Cyrus W. Field. It is specially happy and appropriate that I am enabled to do so by means of that mighty instrument with which his name is inseparably connected, the success of which, and the consequent advantages to humanity and the progress of civilisation are mainly due to the self-reliance, enterprise, and energy of your distinguished guest."

His Grace sent the following telegram to His Excellency the Governor-General of Cuba, Havana :—

"As president of a banquet, attended by upwards of 300 gentlemen, to do honour to Mr. Cyrus Field, of New York, for his eminent services in assisting the promotion of the Atlantic Telegraph, I invite you to join in the compliment offered to him this day, and to ask you, while drinking his health and happiness, to add the good old Spanish congratulation, 'May he live a thousand years!'"

The Governor-General of Cuba forwarded the following reply to the Duke of Argyll :—

"Uno gasteso mi felicitacion y mi voto a la felicitacion y a brindis de v e pronunciado en este memento en honor de ma Cyrus Field por sus emenates services prestados para el estableci-

mento del telegrafo Atlantico, y el saludar a esa honorable concurrencia pido al ciclo que conserve a tanylustre varon y que vipan v v muchos anos."

(Translation.)

"I am happy to add my good wishes to yours and to the health which you drink at this moment in honour of Mr. Cyrus W. Field, for his eminent services lent to the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph. I present my respects to the distinguished company, and pray heaven to preserve this illustrious man, and to cause him to live many years."

The following was sent to the Governor of British Columbia :—

"Willis's Rooms, London,  
"Wednesday Evening, July 1st.

"The Duke of Argyll to his Excellency the Governor of British Columbia.

"I am president of a banquet of upwards of 300 English gentlemen, met to pay a homage of respect to Mr. Cyrus Field, of New York, for his exertions in promoting the laying of the Atlantic Cable. Its success enables the Old World now to talk to the New, and we shall be gratified to find that English colonists, divided from us by thousands of miles, are ready to join in so worthy a compliment to an American citizen, and ask you to drink his good health."

His Excellency sent back this answer :—

"From Frederick Seymour, Governor, Victoria, Vancouver Island, *via* Valentia, to his Grace the Duke of Argyll.

"Columbia joins heartily in the cheers with which the toast 'Cyrus Field' will be received. We owe much to the telegraph; three days' news from England; instantaneous communication with gold mines six hundred miles distant: thus police strength virtually doubled. Weather fine here; mines and farms flourishing; wages high; revenue improving. Your son, Lord George, with us, and well."

This message was sent to the Governor of Newfoundland:—

“ Willis’s Rooms, London, Wednesday Evening, July 1.

“ The Duke of Argyll to his Excellency the Governor of Newfoundland.

“ I am surrounded by upwards of 300 gentlemen and many ladies, to do honour to Mr. Cyrus Field, of New York, for his well-known services in promoting the Atlantic Telegraph. I ask you to join in drinking his health and happiness, and that every prosperity may attend him in all his important pursuits.”

His Excellency A. Musgrave telegraphed the following reply to the Duke of Argyll:—

“ I join with pleasure in toasting my friend Mr. Field, whose name is so indissolubly associated with the great work which draws these provinces still more closely to Great Britain, and I sincerely wish him prosperity in all his undertakings.”

The following message was forwarded to Mr. Field’s Daughter in New York:—

“ Willis’s Rooms, London, Wednesday Evening, July 1.

“ The Duke of Argyll to Miss Mary Grace Field and Brothers, New York.

“ I have upwards of 300 gentlemen round me to do honour to your worthy father for all his past labours in connection with the Atlantic Cable; and in asking you to join us in drinking his health, let me offer you my congratulations in being blessed with so excellent a father, and also to express the hope that his example may inspire all his children to follow in the good path he has hitherto led them.”

A very graceful answer was returned by Miss Field, which was greeted with loud cheers:—

“ New York, July 1st.

“ I thank you most sincerely for the kind words you have spoken of my father, causing me to feel that we are friends, although our acquaintance is thus made across the sea, and in a moment of time.”



This message was received :—

“ From Professor Samuel F. B. Morse, Poughkeepsie, New York, July 1, to his Grace the Duke of Argyll, Willis's Rooms, London.

“ Greeting to all met to perform an act of national justice. May this divine attribute ever be the companion of the telegraph in its true mission of binding the nations of the entire world in bonds of peace! Special greeting to the guest, to Cooke and Wheatstone, to Sir Charles Bright, and to Whitehouse.”

A telegram was sent to New York, to which the annexed answer was returned :—

“ From Peter Cooper, President, New York; July 1st.

“ The Duke of Argyll, Willis's Rooms, London.

“ The Directors of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company are rejoiced that the services of their associate, Mr. Cyrus W. Field, are recognised in England, as they have long been recognised in America. They beg leave to join you in congratulating him, and they trust that his highest claims to the gratitude of the world will be found to consist in the communication which will bind together the nations of the world in perpetual peace.” (Cheers.)

The following is a message from Alexandria addressed to Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., C.B. :—

“ Wednesday, July 1st, 6 P.M.

“ No news, political or commercial. Hale, American Consul-General, and Stanley, correspondent of the *New York Herald*, from Abyssinia, join me in greeting Cyrus Field from the banks of the Nile and the shadow of the Pyramids. A grand ceremony, in which a Sheik on horseback rides over the bodies of hundreds of prostrate Moslems, and the faithful are eating snakes and glass, and passing sharp instruments into their bodies, is taking place at Cairo, on the safe return of the Mecca caravan. Cairo is lighted with gas from the new works established by an English company. Quays, breakwater, and graving-dock in Alexandria Harbour will augment the facilities for Eastern commerce. Half

a world, blind in the civilisation of forty centuries, anxiously awaits Eastern telegraphic extensions to cement union with the Western millions.

DOUGLAS GIBBS."

From San Francisco this telegraph was despatched to Mr. Cyrus Field:—

"San Francisco, July 1st.

"The Governor of California presents his compliments and congratulations."

The Hon. George L. Woods, Governor of Oregon, telegraphed to Mr. Field:—

"Salem, Oregon, July 1st.

"The people of Oregon salute you as the world's benefactor, and offer you their hand across the waters as a token of their high appreciation of the services which you have rendered to mankind. Let our kindest wishes in your behalf be our representative at your meeting."

From the Hon. William Orton, President:—

"New York, July 1st.

"To the Duke of Argyll, London.

"The Western Union Telegraph Company respectfully ask permission to so far participate in your festivities as to add their hundred thousand miles of wire to that which is represented, a grateful tribute of the telegraph to one who has been mainly instrumental in achieving its final triumph. Your courtesies to one American citizen we claim as compliments to and evidence of friendly regard for all. The telegraph, which is bringing all peoples within the reach of friendly voices, is doing more for universal peace than diplomacy, and rapidly making democrats of all. Health and long life to your Grace, and a cordial greeting to your guest and friends."

## THE PRESS ON THE BANQUET.

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(From THE TIMES.)

The Atlantic Cable represents one of those great achievements which the world will never be weary of honouring. It not only forms, as was said at Wednesday's banquet, the culminating point of a long series of discoveries, but it marks an epoch, and begins a new era. It has proved, and has brought home to our minds, the possibility of a communication between all countries of the world more close and intimate than had ever been conceived before. Mr. Field showed a just sense of the real value of his work when he directed the mind of his audience to this future prospect. Until the Atlantic Cable had been completed, the telegraph, however powerful, was but partial in its influence. It is now universal, and alters the condition, not only of nations or of continents, but of the whole world. It is the discovery of a new sense. This fresh nerve of sensation will now spread its fibres over the whole globe, and create new conditions of life. The change which a few years has witnessed was strikingly illustrated at the banquet. There was one guest there who remembered being six weeks crossing the Atlantic, whereas he was then witnessing the instantaneous exchange of compliments with all the Governments of America, from Cuba to Vancouver's Island. Such communications become more common every day, and we may believe that their employment is still in its infancy. The Atlantic Cable, however, will remain the first great step in this revolution—the step which implied all

that followed : and Mr. Bright was scarcely guilty of exaggeration in comparing it to the discovery of the New World. It will practically make a new world out of both the Old World and the New.

This great achievement is due in a very great degree to Mr. Cyrus Field, and he has amply earned the honour which was paid him on Wednesday. He himself, indeed, took care to do justice to the other great names which are associated with the work. There have been extraordinary feats of scientific research and patience in the history of electricity and the electric telegraph. These have been the eyes of the great enterprise, and perhaps, like the eyes in the body, though they see for others they are comparatively unseen themselves. But that which occupies a large space in the world's eye generally more or less deserves it, and mere science, it should always be remembered, cannot achieve these great results. The practical genius, the administrative skill, the labour and patience which are necessary to translate science into fact are far greater than is generally appreciated. It is one thing to know that if a copper wire be stretched from England to America communications can be transmitted along it; but it remains to lay the wire, and that is, perhaps, at least, half the whole achievement. It is sometimes thought hard that those who accomplish the final step in these triumphs receive so large a portion of the glory, and eclipse the fame of others, who had dreamt of, and had even planned, the same result, and had all but reached it. But the truth is, that in such matters a thing half done, or all but done, remains not done at all, and the man who supplies the last link needed, or who discerns the necessary combinations, or whose energy and faith animate the successful effort, deserves the credit of making a reality out of a mere speculation. Many men, doubtless, had dreamt of America before Columbus, but the energy which organised a voyage of discovery and actually

found the new continent won and deserved the fame. Mere knowledge is itself a great possession ; but we want things done as well as known, and we are impelled by an irresistible instinct to honour the men who actually do them, or get them done. This is Mr. Cyrus Field's distinction. By general confession it is to him we owe it, that the science of men like Faraday and Wheatstone was utilized, and that philosophers and sailors and capitalists and Governments were all united to produce one great result. It is surprising even now to read his enumeration of the agencies which co-operated in the work. Scientific investigations above and beneath the sea, the survey of the Atlantic basin, the manufacture of the cables, the mechanical appliances for laying them, the skilful seamanship, the great ship, the enterprises of capitalists, the ability of directors, the resources of Governments—"in a word, the unexampled combination of nautical, electrical, engineering, and executive resources"—all these were necessary to stretch that piece of wire from continent to continent. We may imagine what energy, determination, and skill were needed to set all these agents at work and to maintain them in working order, in spite of disappointments, and it is as having been the principal cause of this perseverance and co-operation that Mr. Field received so handsomely acknowledged the other evening.

The occasion naturally prompted an interchange of those mutual good feelings which every one desires to cultivate between England and America, and which are, perhaps, best cultivated by common enterprises, such as the Atlantic Cable. Englishmen and Americans both shared in the work, but it would be out of place to apportion the fame, for, as Mr. Field happily observed, they are all of the English race. If there be a nation greater than ourselves at the other end of the Cable, and if, as he predicted, it will have increased to three times our number within our own generation, we may remember with

pride that it has sprung from our soil, and they, like Mr. Field, may be proud of their English ancestry. It is to be hoped, as the Duke of Argyll expressed it, that the two countries will always stand "shoulder to shoulder" as firmly as in this achievement, and the Cable will be one of the most powerful means for strengthening this useful friendship. But it may be remembered that with all the passion and the blindness of human nature to contend against, it will, after all, be as great a work to establish and maintain such a brotherhood as to lay Atlantic Cables. Orators like Mr. Bright may detect the electric current of affinity, and may discern, like him, noble visions in the distance of the blessings it will confer on the world; but to accomplish the result will still require the long and patient labour of statesmen. As Mr. Bright lamented, a general pacification is still a dream, because the practical means of settling national disputes without an appeal to the sword has yet to be created. If England and America, working in harmony, can discover that bond of union, they will have done a greater work for mankind than by any of the triumphs of science. The Atlantic Cable is a great achievement; but such a system of arbitration as Mr. Bright desired would be infinitely greater, and the honours of Mr. Cyrus Field would be trivial compared with the blessings which the author of such a reform would receive from the world. The idea, it is true, now seems Quixotic; but so would the Atlantic Cable have been thought fifty years ago. Will any one venture to say that as important discoveries may not be awaiting us in the political as in the scientific world? The hope may be destined to disappointment, but few can bring themselves to discard it entirely.

*(From THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.)*

Amongst the countless gatherings, political, social, or fashionable, which have been held in Willis's Rooms few can have

been more memorable in the occasion of their assembling than that which took place last night. The company collected was no unworthy epitome of the rank, fortune, talent, and energy which compose the world of London. All classes, all professions, all shades of politics, all branches of commercial enterprise were represented in the crowd which met to celebrate the most striking achievement of our time. In the present day, we grow so rapidly accustomed to anything which is once established that our sense of wonder is marvellously shattered. It now seems as natural and common-place an affair to send a message from London to New York in the space of a few minutes as it does to travel by train between Charing Cross and Dover. An effort of the imagination is required to realise the fact, not that the transmission of news by telegraph between England and America has become possible, but that two years ago it was impossible. It would be idle, therefore, to recite the wonder and the greatness of an undertaking which, for all purposes of communication, has practically annihilated the distance between the Old World and the New. No amount of fine writing, no exercise of oratorical ability, can add anything to the magnitude of the fact whose accomplishment was, so to speak, the "first cause" of last night's demonstration. Of the living masters of English eloquence none stands higher than John Bright; and yet even the great popular orator could say nothing about the Atlantic Telegraph, more telling and more wonderful than the common-place fact that any person may walk to-day into a score of offices in London and send a message to the far Western world, whose shores are separated from our own by thousands of miles of desert ocean, and may receive a reply in the course of an interval measured by minutes rather than by hours. If there are sermons in stones, surely in a telegram despatched from New York and published in our London papers on the same day, there is a lesson which needs no com-

mentary to point its moral, no exposition to enforce its grandeur.

It is characteristic of our English nature that two full years should have elapsed before any worthy public recognition was given to the authors and promoters of the enterprise. Even after the experiment had been proved possible, its practical success had to be established by the working of experience before the public opinion of England could pronounce the final verdict of approval. Moreover, abstract truths need to be personified before they come home to our Anglo-Saxon nature. It is not in us to get up a demonstration in favour of an idea. The rule of our public banquets holds good with reference to all manifestations of public enthusiasm, and with every sentiment there must necessarily be associated the name of an individual. The name which the general estimate of the public—an estimate seldom erroneous in such matters—has associated with the idea of Transatlantic Telegraphy is that of Mr. Cyrus Field, the guest of last night's dinner. The credit of the undertaking is far too vast to be monopolised by any single name; and common justice, as well as a regard for national honour, bids us remember that the material resources of the enterprise were due in the main to English energy, English wealth, and English perseverance. The organised power of an old country was required to accomplish an undertaking too immense to be successfully grasped by the not less powerful, but less concentrated resources of a new community. Still, if the glory of the ultimate achievement rests with England, the credit of having conceived and initiated the enterprise must be ascribed to America. And, of the American pioneers of the work, there is none who has laboured so indefatigably as Mr. Cyrus Field. The distinguished guest deserves to be numbered among the "representative men" of his own country. If you want to understand how it is that America has grown to be what she is, you



must seek for an explanation in the fact that men of the Field type are not only to be found among her citizens, but are able to develop their peculiar powers after a fashion impossible in an old-fashioned country like our own.

We English do not lack men of genius, energy, and enterprise; but with us such men are compelled, perforce, to labour each in his own groove. In the Old World, the battle of life is often too active, the struggle for existence too keen, for a person to choose the work which he shall set himself to do. Partly by chance, partly by birth, partly by inclination, each is guided to some pursuit, and each must struggle on as best he may, knowing that if he turn out of the beaten track he can scarcely hope to regain his place on the highway of life. But across the Atlantic, morally as well as materially, there is more elbow-room. If you stumble in the race you can pick yourself up again with scant loss or injury. If you have got hold of an idea, you can follow it out bravely without heeding much how much its pursuits will fit in with the regular business of your life. The dread of falling out of the race, of being left stranded, which operates so powerfully to keep Englishmen constant to their appointed labour, hardly influences Americans perceptibly. All pursuits are practically open to the inhabitants of that vast half-unoccupied continent. If you fail as a preacher, you may become a corn-factor; if politics play you false, you can go in for oil; if you "crack up" in the East, you can start afresh in the West; and so when men like Cyrus Field get hold of an idea, they follow it with a pertinacity and disregard for consequences scarcely to be paralleled in the old mother country. Probably in no other land is the number of patents annually taken out so great, in proportion to the number of people, as in America; and yet, to be a patentee is not there, as it is here, a synonym for disappointment and a wasted life. Of course, only one in a hundred succeeds; but the ninety-and-nine un-

successful discoverers are not much the worse for their lost labour, while the hundredth successful patentee achieves a fortune not to be won with us except in the regular routine of trade. It must be many a long year ago now since Cyrus Field became interested in the scheme of connecting England and America by submarine telegraph. The scheme took hold of his mind. In the slang of his country it was a "big thing," and he resolved to "see it through." Numbers of our fellow-countrymen have taken up the same notion, and have wasted time, fortune, and energy in its prosecution. The difference between them and their fellow-worker in America was that the attempt was merely an episode in their careers, while with him it was the business of a life. Through good and ill fortune, through bad times, through periods of disappointment, through long intervals of inaction, Mr. Field was steadfast to the belief that the enterprise was, not only feasible, but easy of accomplishment. When even friendly critics began to doubt whether a cable could be laid down from shore to shore, Cyrus Field, "faithful among the faithless," remained a very Abdiel of telegraphy. For years he was always crossing the Atlantic in the interests of the various schemes designed to carry out the project, and no small portion of its success was due to the confidence in its ultimate triumph which he managed to impart to all who came within the range of his influence. His faith has been rewarded. Unlike most devotees of an idea, he has lived to see his dream accomplished, while he is still able to enjoy the public recognition of his services in the cause of science and human progress. Well, indeed, has he merited the honours paid to him last night. But of all the tokens of respect which there and then were offered to him, none was equal to the silent testimony of the fact, that last evening, in answer to despatches that were sent from Great Britain, there came messages from all parts of the great Western World,

greeting the man whom that goodly company had assembled to honour.

(From THE MORNING STAR.)

Mr. Cyrus Field is too earnest and energetic a man, too completely devoted to great projects and great success, to have much of mere egotism left in him. A life so thoroughly absorbed in pursuits which belong to the business and benefit of the whole world can have little time for the indulgence of vanity. But one might well excuse a little self-gratulation and pride on the part of a guest entertained as Mr. Cyrus Field was at Willis's Rooms last night. Not often, certainly, is such a banquet given in England to a man who is neither a politician nor a soldier. It is an old complaint that the arts of destruction win so much of the world's glory as to leave little or none for the men who labour to heal and to repair. So, too, it is as old a complaint, or nearly so, that the power which makes a man a ruler in the political world wins a far louder and more universal worship than that which expresses itself in the development of science and thought. Certainly, of all great labours which have benefited the world, that to which Mr. Field has devoted himself has hitherto been the least recognised in its day. Proverbially mis-prized have been the discoverers. *Sic vos non vobis* might in most cases be their stereotyped and mournful motto. In England we are, perhaps, slower even than any other civilised people to recognise and do homage to the genius which works for our benefit by the way of scientific discovery and adaptation. Mr. Field, when he glanced around that splendidly filled banquet-room last night, may have felt but little personal pride in the well-merited honours he received. But he must have felt gratified at the evidence thus practically and brilliantly afforded that the public of civilised nations are at last trying to unlearn the fatal habit which made them so long ungrateful to some of their best benefactors.

We never remember to have read of a public demonstration to any individual in London which had less of a sectarian or sectional character. The Duke of Argyll, one of the most advanced of our Liberal peers, one of the most enlightened of our scientific thinkers, was hardly more prominent in doing honour to Mr. Field than was Sir John Pakington, the steady-going Tory of the old, old school. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the great Elchi of Mr. Kinglake's delightful sensation romance, sat side by side with Mr. Bright, who denounced in such powerful and unsparring eloquence so much of Lord Stratford's policy and conduct during the Crimean war. Mr. Layard joined with Sir Stafford Northcote in the compliment to the guest. Two common sentiments animated the whole of the company—a company representing politics, science, literature, arts, and commerce—the sentiment of personal admiration for Mr. Field's labours and character, and that of cordial friendship towards the great people of whose indomitable energy he is so striking an illustration. The speaking was all, or nearly all, as unexceptionable in good taste as it was in good feeling. The Duke of Argyll spoke with that clear and thoughtful eloquence which becomes one of the only living peers—might we not, perhaps, say the only living peer—who has made pure science and philosophy a genuine study. Sir John Pakington was good-humoured and appropriate in his anecdotes and reminiscences. Sir Stafford Northcote was at once earnest and genial; nothing could be in better tone than the short and seamanlike speech of Admiral Sir A. Milne. Mr. Bright made the occasion one for a noble and thrilling lesson of peace, friendship, and civilisation to both peoples. Not ignorant of what public demonstrations of honour usually look like, we must say that it would be hard indeed to point to any occasion when so large and miscellaneous an English company was so sincere and so enthusiastic in paying homage to a distinguished guest.

Much of the honour of course was entirely personal. It was tendered to Mr. Field because he individually had deserved it. Mr. Bright, in a few words, accurately described Mr. Field's position as regards the Atlantic Telegraph. Other men may have thought of the project; other men may, for aught we know, have thought of it even before he did; other men may have mentally planned it out, and proposed schemes for its realisation. Other men have actually contributed by their science, their skill, their patience, their capital, their genius to make the idea a success. The idea is not exclusively Mr. Field's; nor is the success exclusively his. But, assuredly, his was the energy, the prodigious strength of will, the unconquerable perseverance which forced the scheme upon the intellect, the activity, and the influence of England and America, and never desisted until the dream had become a reality. A slight and delicate allusion was made once or twice last night to the sacrifices Mr. Field had made, the responsibilities he had incurred, the risks he had run, to bring forward his darling scheme again and again after each new defeat and disaster. There are more men by far who could bear to make the sacrifices than men who could raise their heads as Mr. Field did, undismayed after every defeat, full of new hope after each disaster. Certainly that glorious vitality of hope is one of the rarest as it is one of the grandest of human attributes. Mr. Field brought to the great project with which his life will be identified more than the genius of a discoverer—he brought the courage, the energy, the heart and hope of a very conqueror. Therefore was his share in the work so unique; therefore did the company at Willis's Rooms last night do him special honour. But in honouring him they honoured also his country. Better words, holier messages of peace and brotherhood, were never sent along a wire than those which thrilled last night through the depths of the Atlantic, from the Englishmen around Mr. Field to the brethren of their race in America.

(From THE DAILY NEWS.)

It is gratifying to witness the eagerness which is now manifested in this country to recognise the services of those among our American kinsmen who have distinguished themselves either by their writings or their deeds. A year ago a brilliant company composed of men of every rank in life and school of thought, assembled to honour the victorious abolitionists of America in the person of Mr. Lloyd Garrison, their heroic leader. At this moment controversies have been occasioned by the desire to pay merited respect by proffering choice hospitality to Mr. Longfellow. The Banquet just given to Mr. Cyrus Field is another mark of the same praiseworthy feeling. He is a type of the commercial spirit, rather than of the politics or the intellect of America. To his energy the successful laying of the Atlantic Cable is probably due. Others certainly furnished the scientific knowledge, and displayed the practical skill, without which no mechanical work can be prosecuted to a triumphant close; but to Mr. Field belongs the merit of stimulating those who were lukewarm, and communicating his own well-founded convictions in the feasibility of the enterprise to men whose faith had waxed cold after repeated failures. The entertainment at which he was the guest was a compliment of which he had good reason to be proud. There are few occasions on which the Duke of Argyll could count on the support of Sir John Pakington and Sir Stafford Northcote; still more exceptional is it for Mr. Bright to respond to a toast proposed by a Tory Secretary of State. Mr. Field deserved the praises he received; still we may believe that not a little of the heartiness of kindly sentiment exhibited by all the speakers was partly due to the fact of his nationality. Sir Stafford Northcote proposed as a toast, "The peace and commercial prosperity of Great Britain "and the United States." Amid hearty assenting cheers, Mr.

Bright interpreted this to mean "that we are all in favour of a "growing and boundless trade with America, and, at the same "time, of an unbroken friendship with its people." We anticipate that the country will fervently reciprocate this sentiment. On both sides of the Atlantic there is something to forgive and something to remember. Old enmities and prejudices have to be consigned to oblivion. Feelings of brotherhood, amity, and mutual respect have to be cherished. If this demonstration should tend to undo what is reprehensible, and to cement a friendship at once noble and desirable, the Atlantic Cable, in addition to facilitating commercial intercourse, will prove a true link of union between the Great American Republic and the British Empire.

*(From THE STANDARD).*

The triumph of Ocean Telegraphy was complete at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday night, when Cyrus Field enjoyed an honorary banquet. On that very evening messages of mutual congratulation were exchanged between London, the United States, Canada, and Columbia. On that very day dividends had been paid on every description of Atlantic Telegraph stock; so that, mechanically and financially, the cables are working without a fault, and the expectation is that year by year, as their tariffs slacken, their value as properties will be enhanced. But there is an importance on this subject above that of shareholders, and even of politics or commerce. The great strain of the world, at present, notwithstanding races and creeds, wars and temporary disruptions, is towards an amalgamation of interests through facilities of intercourse. One part of Nature, it would almost seem, becoming impatient of herself, resorts to another for relief. The map gives us isthmuses, mountains, channels, deep-sea beds; but we are opposing to them canals, tunnels, and telegraphy. The American Oceanic Railway, the Suez excavations,

the proposals for piercing the central joint of the American continent ; the scheme of a direct overland communication between India and China, through Burmah and Thibet; the hundred projects for digging a way, under water, from Dover to Calais, all belong to the same category ; and, in the end, this impatience of obstacles, this desire to economise time, and submit as little as possible to the exigencies of space, may safely be predicted to work one extraordinary revolution after another in our relations with the physical world. It was not a new, and yet it was an astonishing circumstance, at that King Street dinner on Wednesday, to have the chairman corresponding, each half-hour or so, with quarters of the globe which, in other ages, it was deemed heretical to believe in—with New York, Quebec, and Victoria. Still, the motive instinct of the whole discovery, with its results, enters into the most ancient history of men. It was represented by the classic beacon-fire, flashing from cape to cape ; the modern courier, killing his horse rather than fail of time ; the post, the express, the steam-engine, the sea-signal, everything that could quicken the intelligence of one circle of community in reaching another. As, however, Sir John Pakington reminded the guests assembled in honour of Mr. Cyrus Field, it is not long since the Atlantic voyage was an affair of at least six weeks ; then the finest packets, impelled by the most powerful machinery known, could not reduce it to within less than ten or eleven days ; but now, Mr. Field, at dinner, sends greeting to his daughter at New York, and his daughter, from New York, sends greeting to him at dessert.

Yet it is not to reiterate our self-congratulations, already familiar, over the victories of the electric wire, that we refer to the celebration of Wednesday evening. It is rather to follow the train of suggestions pointed out by the eminent American gentleman whose services in connection with the Atlantic Telegraph were then most justly eulogised. The time has gone by for



marvelling, as for doubting. We know what an instrument is in our hands ; we have exhausted comparison with the past ; our question is henceforth of the future. This submarine agency is not merely for the promotion of trade, for explanations between Cabinets, for the enrichment of gossip, for the stimulating of table-talk, or, as some think, for the paralysing of speculation. That cargo which, as Mr. Bright said, was not intended for any port, but to be sunk in solitary depths, brings in a thousand ways the two vast swarms of the Anglo-Saxon brood together, and with what purpose ? With a purpose precisely akin to that of the Post Office, of the Exchange, of the common promenade, of the friendly gathering, in all civilised countries. It has an immense social meaning. Mr. Field is right in recalling the difficulties that had to be encountered before he, or others who had gone before, or acted with him, could plan and carry out the full scheme of a cable between two distant continents, from its conception to its mechanism ; through the closet, the laboratory, the furnace, and the forge ; through the inevitable succession of blunders and the equally inevitable financial collapses, through the crisis of unparalleled feats in navigation, and under the eyes of that monstrous sceptic, Public Ignorance. But what is yet to come now that we have won the secret of success and wear its trophies ? We have to remember, says Mr. Field, India, Australia, China, Japan, South America, and the Islands of the Sea, all of which have to be brought into instantaneous relation with Great Britain and the United States. That is the practical point. Having done so much, what more may we expect to be done ? Russia finds now that her dispatches travel slowly from circle to circle within her ever-expanding range of empire. We learned the same lesson in British India long ago. It has been taught, indeed, wherever civilisation—of that kind, at least, which the nineteenth century acknowledges—exists. To be without the Electric Telegraph is, in the United Kingdom, to be

behind the age. We are actually looking for it as a machinery of daily domestic correspondence. How much greater its influence, however, when its light pierces amid the vast and dissolute dominions, hitherto unconquered and uncalmed, of Eastern Asia—is visible at Peking, transmits news from the huge Oriental continent to the “still-vexed” islands of Japan, and even reaches the lonely groups of Polynesia. It is a proverb concerning projectors that they dream. Galvani had a dream generations ago. Mr. Cyrus Field had a dream, when he was a young man, and has crossed the Atlantic forty times in order to help in fulfilling it, and he accepts his share of the glory with a generous desire that others should, as they deserve, amply and equally share it with him. However, we cherish his prophecy, for it is a practical one, that the Electric Telegraph, whether over land or under sea, has yet a splendid work to accomplish, and will accomplish it, no matter what may seem “insuperable,” for the benefit of mankind.

*(From THE MORNING POST).*

The banquet given to Mr. Cyrus Field on Wednesday last was a tribute honestly and hardly earned by that gentleman by the great services he has rendered in the establishment of a telegraphic communication between the European and American continents. We get accustomed to everything very soon in these times, and the Atlantic Cable is already coming to be looked upon with as little concern as if it were a legacy from the ancient Britons, but yet it does still awaken a little interest when we are told that a number of gentlemen, seated at dinner in London, have transmitted toasts to the other side of the globe and received answers to them before rising from table. The President of the United States, indeed, had to postpone his acceptance of the toast, for he reminded those who asked him to drink it that the telegraph had outrun the sun, and that “the dinner-hour

“ here is not arrived yet ; it is only five o'clock ; the sun is yet “ two hours high ;” and the whole series of messages which were sent over the continent of America, and answered in the space of a dinner time, were calculated to bring clearly before us the full magnitude of the work to which Mr. Cyrus Field has so largely contributed. The Duke of Argyll paid an appropriate tribute to the purely speculative philosophers who march in the van of all progress, and to the difficulties they have to encounter, when he remarked that the most annoying question such men ever have put to them is, “ What use are these discoveries ?” and suggested that the banquet at which he was then presiding should be enough to answer all such objections once and for ever. But the Atlantic Telegraph, as he also pointed out, is a triumph not only of pure, but also of applied science, involving as it has the greatest strain upon the engineering, mechanical, and nautical skill of the two nations which are foremost in the world in those matters. Furthermore, it is a great triumph for what is called the “ spirit of commercial enterprise,” which is also in its way an applied science, and which has never before brought men to hazard more boldly, to persevere more courageously, or to succeed more triumphantly than in the case of the Atlantic Cable. The confidence of its promoters must have been great indeed, for no failures seemed to daunt them and Mr. Cyrus Field himself, as we learn, was so certain that sooner or later, it must succeed, and so anxious that it should, that he not only gave up his time and talents to the enterprise, but “ risked every farthing of his own private fortune in promoting its success.” It is no empty phrase to call this “ the mightiest achievement which human intellect, in our knowledge of the world, has ever accomplished,” and it is no unmeaning compliment to describe Mr. Field, as Mr. Bright does, as “ the Columbus of the 19th century,” for what he has so greatly helped to bring about does, in fact, amount to nothing less than a new

discovery of America. Mr. Field himself appears to bear his honours most gratefully, for he recalled the names of those who have preceded and worked with him as entitled to an equal meed of praise and with characteristic readiness took advantage of the occasion to remind his hearers that the work of universal telegraphic communication cannot be considered as complete so long as India, Australia, China, and all other countries are not in "instant communication with England and America."

But the chief interest of the meeting, after all, to the general public, is to be found in the opportunity it gave for the expression of the kindly feelings which have happily now replaced the irritation long felt between this country and America. The Duke of Argyll, in his message to the President, expressed "a Highlander's wish that England and America may always be found, in peace and in war, shoulder to shoulder;" to which the President hastened to "cordially respond;" and Mr. Bright remarked that "men have forgot that, after all, we are but one nation having two Governments. We come of the same noble and heroic race. Half the English family is on this side the Atlantic in its ancient home, and the other half, there being no room for them here, are settled on the American continent." He declared that the only chance of war between the two countries arises from the fact that, "in dealing with nations we do not adopt the basis of morals which we apply in our dealings with individuals," and that, in fact, it is our fleets and our armies which alone prevent us from being good friends, just as "two hundred years ago almost every gentleman went about armed with a deadly weapon, and in those days there were duels and deeds of violence." There is no doubt that the possession of a deadly weapon is likely to be attended by a temptation to use it, but it is also true that there are times when it would be the height of madness to cast it away; and any man who, two hundred years ago, would have walked about without

his sword, would not thereby have done anything to diminish the general occurrence of "duels and deeds of violence," but would only have rendered his own risk of damage in such events greater than that of other people. But though, as the Duke of Argyll said, it is not likely the time will soon come when men will beat their swords into ploughshares, it is certain that the completion of every work like the Atlantic Cable is a step towards that time, and nobody will disagree with Mr. Bright's assertion that "he is an enemy of our English race, and of the human race, who raises the slightest obstacle to permanent peace and friendship between the members of our great English-speaking family." There are at the bottom of all our quarrels with each other the strongest cords of union between us, and it is grateful and pleasant to us to hear an American say, as Mr. Field did on Wednesday, that "he, an American, felt pride in remembering that his ancestors were English citizens, and lived and died under the English flag." And we are, as he says, proud to think of the great nation which has gone forth from among us and has planted itself so firmly in the West. The feelings of our two countries cannot fail to beat in unison, our interests are identical, our objects not antagonistic, and both of us owe a debt of gratitude to those who, like Mr. Cyrus Field, have worked out an enterprise which has done much and will do more to cement the good feeling between us.



