

## APPENDIX.

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### SAMUEL F. B. MORSE,

of New York.

SAMUEL FINLEY BREESE MORSE is the inventor of the American-Electro-Magnetic Telegraph. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, D. D., the author of *Morse's Geography*. He was born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, on the 29th of April, 1791. His mother's name was Breese. She was a descendant of the Rev. Samuel Finley, D. D., a former President of Princeton College. From this ancestor and his mother, Professor Morse derives his Christian name.

He graduated at Yale College in 1810.

Young Morse had a passion for painting so strong that, in 1811, his father sent him to Europe, under charge of Mr. Alston, that he might perfect himself in the art to which he desired to devote his life. He had letters to West and Copley, and soon had the satisfaction to excite the peculiar regard of the former, who was in the zenith of his fame. In May, 1813, his picture of the "Dying Hercules" was exhibited at the Royal Academy, Somerset House, eliciting much commendation. Auxiliary to the painting of this picture, he had moulded a figure of "Hercules" in plaster, which he sent to the Society of Arts to take its chance for a prize in sculpture. His adventure was successful, and, on the 13th May, 1813, he publicly received a gold medal with high commendation from the Duke of Norfolk, then presiding.

Thus encouraged, the young artist prepared a picture representing the "Judgment of Jupiter in the case of Apollo, Marpessa, and Idas," to contest the prize of a gold medal and fifty guineas offered by the Royal Academy in 1814. Being called home before the exhibition, his picture was denied admittance, because he could not attend in person. West, the president, to whom he exhibited the picture after it was finished, advised him to remain, and after the public exhibition wrote him that he had no doubt it would have taken the prize.

In August, 1815, Morse returned to his own country, flushed with high hopes, based on his success abroad. He opened his rooms in Boston, where he exhibited his "Judgment of Jupiter;" but for a whole year he did not receive a single offer for that picture or a single order for any other of an historical character. This was a cruel disappointment, for in that direction his ambition lay. Having thus far depended on means derived from his father, and seeing no prospect of independence in that line, he betook himself to portrait-painting, and in that pursuit visited various towns in New-Hampshire. In a few months, he returned with a considerable sum in money acquired by painting small portraits at fifteen dollars each.

On that trip he became acquainted with Miss Walker, whom he afterward married. He also fell in with a Southern gentleman, who assured him that he could get abundant employment in the South at quadruple prices.

On writing to his uncle, Dr. Finley, of Charleston, that gentleman gave him a cordial invitation to his house while he made the trial. He complied, and although for a time his prospects were gloomy, a portrait of his uncle finally attracted so much attention that orders at sixty dollars each came in much faster than he could execute them. With three thousand dollars in hand, and engagements for a long time to come, he returned to New-England and married Miss Walker. For four successive winters he returned to Charleston, in the practice of his art, where he was not only successful, but was respected and beloved.

In January, 1821, Morse, in conjunction with John S. Boydell, originated the "South Carolina Academy of Fine Arts," of which the late Joel R. Poinsett was president. It was incorporated, and had several exhibitions; but has been broken up for lack of adequate support.

Circumstances awakened anew Morse's ambition for distinction as an historical painter. He conceived the idea of painting the interior of the representatives' chamber in the Capitol at Washington, and raising a revenue by its exhibition. He located his family in New-Haven, and devoted eighteen months to the painting of this picture. It measured eight feet by nine, and contained a great variety of figures. Its exhibition, however, instead of producing an income, resulted in a considerable loss, and this with contributions, in common with his brothers, to discharge their father's pecuniary liabilities, swept away all he had accumulated at Charleston.

Morse then sought employment in New-York, and finally obtained from the corporation an order to paint a portrait of Gen. Lafayette, who was then in the United States. For that purpose he visited Washington; but in February, 1825, he was called home by news of the death of his wife. His labors upon this picture were further interrupted by the sickness of his children, and the death of his excellent father and mother.

Morse now made New-York his place of residence. In the fall of 1825, he was active in organizing a drawing association, which constituted the germ of the "National Academy of Design," of which he was president for many years after its organization. Though gotten up under great difficulties and amidst much controversy, this institution was eminently successful.

In 1827, Morse delivered, before the New-York Athenæum, the first course of lectures on the fine arts ever delivered in America.

In 1829, he again visited Europe, spending three years among artists and collections of Art in England, Italy, and France. In Paris, he painted the interior of the Louvre, copying in miniature the most remarkable paintings hanging on its walls. In the fall of 1832, he returned to the United States, and resumed his position as President of the National Academy of Design, to which post he was elected every year during his absence.

When American artists were to be employed to fill with a picture one of the vacant panels in the Rotunda of the Capitol, the American artists, it is believed without exception, considered Morse best entitled to the honor; and great was their disappointment when another was selected. They exhibited their sense of the wrong done him by voluntarily raising a subscription to pay him for a picture suited to such a national object. A considerable sum was collected and paid over to him, but not enough to enable him to complete the design in a manner satisfactory to himself. Determined that no man should have an opportunity to charge him with

appropriating his money without an equivalent, he resolved to refund the amounts paid over to him ; and though sorely pressed never ceased his efforts until he had paid back the last cent.

Professor Morse, under the most straitened circumstances, had an insuperable repugnance to contracting debt, or living on the bounty of others. His dying mother, after encountering much suffering from the kindness of his father in lending his name to friends whom he trusted, exacted a promise from her son that he would never thus endanger his own peace of mind and the comfort of his household, and to that promise he has religiously adhered.

During his collegiate course, ending in 1810, Professor Morse had been instructed by Professor Silliman in all that was then known on the subject of electricity, and the formation of electric batteries. During the residence of his family at New-Haven, or about 1824, enjoying the friendship of Professor Silliman, and having free access to his Laboratory, he obtained from those sources full information of the progress of electrical discovery and science from 1810 up to that time. In the winter of 1826-'27, he attended a series of lectures on electricity, delivered by Professor Dana in New York, and there saw the first Electro-Magnet which probably was ever exhibited in America. Dana was an enthusiast on the subject of Electro-Magnetism, and being an intimate friend of Morse, made it a topic of constant conversation. Had not death struck him down, in the spring of 1828, he would probably have become the leading electrician of America.

In the month of October, 1832, Mr. Morse sailed from Havre for America. It was on that voyage that he invented the telegraph. He made drawings of the apparatus. The Supreme Court of the United States has on file conclusive proof that the subsequent telegraph was identical with the drawings made in his sketch-book on board of the ship Sully in 1832. The particulars in regard to the progress Mr. Morse made in his telegraph subsequent to 1832, have been given elsewhere in this work, and their repetition is unnecessary.

In 1837, he commenced active efforts to get his system adopted for the government use. He filed a caveat for his invention in the Patent Office in October of that year, and at the subsequent session of Congress he applied for the aid to test its practicability, but in this effort, however, he was not successful.

In 1838, the Hon. F. O. J. Smith, then a distinguished member of Congress, from the State of Maine, abandoned his seat and entered into the new enterprise with Prof. Morse ; and in May of that year they sailed for Europe, having in view the procuring of patents and the selling of the invention to the different governments.

In England, the patent was refused, because a description of the invention had been published prior to the application. In France, a patent was granted, but by royal order it could not be placed in operation before its expiration. Efforts were made to get it established in Russia, but without success. Having remained in Europe for about a year without effecting anything, Prof. Morse abandoned further effort and returned to America.

In 1840, he procured his first American patent, and he then, in co-operation with his partner, Mr. Smith, endeavored to get the telegraph established by the United States Government.

At the session of Congress, ending in March, 1843, the bill appropriating thirty thousand dollars to test the practicability of the telegraph on an experimental line to be constructed from Washington to Baltimore was passed and became a law. This line was completed in May, 1844, and the successful operation gave evidence to the world of the most complete triumph.

In the year 1845, Professor Morse again visited Europe, for the purpose of getting his telegraph adopted by Russia or some of the other governments. Having arrived in Hamburg, late in the summer, he found that he could not make the visit to Russia and return before the close of navigation. He abandoned his intentions, and visited Paris, and in a few weeks thereafter returned to America.

While Professor Morse was at Paris, he made the acquaintance of Mr. Daguerre, and saw his wonderful discovery. As was natural with a devoted and discriminating artist, he soon found himself an enthusiast in the new art. He supplied himself with the necessary apparatuses and brought them to America.

Not long after his return to his home, he commenced the art of daguerreotyping. It was the first introduction in America of that novel art. He continued in this new vocation about one year, when he abandoned it to others, and from that time he has devoted his life to the telegraph.

The progress of the telegraph was a part of the career of Professor Morse. To embrace its advancement over the continents would require more space than is possible to be given in this volume. Wherever his system is seen—and they are scattered nearly over the whole civilized world—the instruments serve as orators, speaking praise to his name and honor to his nation.

The Morse system has become nearly the sole telegraph used on the American lines. Throughout Europe it is in general employment, most of others having been abandoned. Nations have laid aside their pride for their own peculiar contrivances, and adopted the Morse telegraph as the most practical for governmental and commercial purposes. These are manifestations of honor, deserving of the highest appreciation.

Besides the honors just above alluded to, Professor Morse has had conferred upon him, by the voluntary will of the respective sovereigns, various medals and orders. He has been created knight of the first class of the Turkish order, Nishan-Ifichar, Knight of the Danish order of the Danebrog, Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, Knight Commander of the Spanish Order of Isabella the Catholic, &c., &c. He has been constituted a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm; of the Belgian Academy of Fine Arts; and honorary member of various American and Foreign Scientific societies.

Wherever Professor Morse has visited, in either hemisphere, and the isles of the seas, he has been received and respected with the greatest distinction. Many ovations have been given in his honor, and society has appreciated his presence as one of the greatest of the age. His fame has spread throughout the world, and it will stand with increased lustre as long as time lasts.

The most distinguished honor that has ever been conferred upon any one person, has been awarded to Professor Morse, in the assembling of the representatives of ten of the governments of Europe, in special Congress, for the purpose of testifying to him their appreciation of his telegraph.

This Congress met at Paris in 1858, and was composed of representatives from France, Russia, Austria, Sweden, Roman States, Turkey, Sardinia, Holland, Belgium and Tuscany. The Congress refused to look at the subject as to value, because a commercial consideration would have given Morse millions, but as an honorary testimonial for the good he had done man, they awarded to him the sum of four hundred thousand francs. This result was announced "*de titre une gratification honorifique, et tote personnelle.*"

Professor Morse married Miss Lucretia Pickering Walker, 20th of

September, 1818. He had five children by this wife, three of which are still living. Mrs. Morse died on the 7th of February, 1825. This sad occurrence was a heavy blow to the companion of the departed. On the 10th of August, 1848, Professor Morse married his second wife, Miss Sarah Elizabeth Griswold. He has four children by this lady.

Professor Morse now resides in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie, New-York, and he has everything around him calculated to render his later days happy. He is blessed with an amiable wife and promising children. He is surrounded with friends, and no one can be found that wishes him an unpleasant pang. His life has been one of temperance, industry, and religion. His benevolence has exceeded his abilities through his whole career. A reward awaits him, richer and purer than all the world can bestow.

## AMOS KENDALL,

Of the District of Columbia.

AMOS KENDALL was born in Dunstable, in the State of Massachusetts, on the 16th day of August, 1789. His ancestors were farmers, and he labored on his father's farm until he was about sixteen years old. His fondness for books, and progress in the free schools of the neighborhood, excited in his father a desire to give him a collegiate education.

He was fitted for college, partly in New Ipswich, N. H., and partly in Groton, Mass. In August, 1807, he entered the freshman class of Dartmouth college, and graduated in August, 1811. For want of means, he was unable to attend the fall terms, and having supplied himself by teaching school in the winter, and kept up with his class by studying in the long evenings, he joined the class in the spring, so that he entered college five times within the four years. He graduated at the head of a large class.

Immediately after graduating, Mr. Kendall commenced the study of the law, at Groton, Mass., in the office of Wm. M. Richardson, Esq., who afterward became chief justice of New-Hampshire. This step was taken at the instance of Mr. Richardson himself, who learning that young Kendall was without means, proposed to take him into his office and family, allow him sundry perquisites, and depend entirely on the future for his compensation.

In consequence of the war with Great Britain, the practice of the law was very much depressed in New-England, and having no prominent family to sustain and advance him, Mr. Kendall determined to seek his fortune in the South or West. Mr. Richardson was then in Congress, and in February, 1814, Mr. Kendall went to Washington, and after spending there a couple of weeks, collecting information by means of his friend and patron, started for the West. He travelled to Pittsburg in the stages, spent two weeks there, descended the Ohio river in a flatboat to Maysville, Ky., thence in a skiff to Cincinnati, and thence he went most of the way on foot to Lexington, Ky. Accident there made him acquainted with the family of Henry Clay, who was then in Europe, and under an arrangement with Mrs. Clay, he became family tutor to her children for nearly a year. He then settled in Georgetown, Ky., in the practice of the law, and was soon afterward appointed postmaster there. It was not until after he settled in Georgetown, that he first saw Mr. Clay.

A slight incident here gave direction to his subsequent life. A club of young men, associated for mutual improvement in speaking and composition, existed in the neighborhood, which he joined upon invitation. A piece of composition read by him in the club, attracted attention, and produced solicitations that he would write for the village newspaper. His productions attracted attention, and led to an invitation to purchase an interest in the State paper at Frankfort, called the "*Argus of Western America*." After some hesitation he made the purchase, and in the fall of 1817, became in effect the sole editor of that paper. It was not his purpose to abandon the practice of law, though by no means pleased with it; but one exciting question after another arose in State politics which engrossed his mind and weaned him from the law altogether.



1810

*Amos Kendall*

1788 - 1864

1810 - 1864

1810 - 1864





In the contest for the Presidency, which ended in the election of John Quincy Adams, Mr. Kendall supported Mr. Clay, avowing that General Jackson was his second choice. In the subsequent contest between Mr. Adams and General Jackson, he zealously supported the latter. In March, 1829, he was, without solicitation on his part, appointed by General Jackson, Fourth Auditor of the Treasury Department at Washington. There was much confusion and corruption in this office, all of which was rectified by Mr. Kendall, who held the office five years. He was then unexpectedly solicited by General Jackson to take charge of the Postoffice Department, whose affairs were much deranged. Reluctantly, and only because the President placed his request on personal grounds, Mr. Kendall undertook the herculean task of reforming that department. In one year it was efficiently organized, purged from abuses, and freed from debt. He held the office until 1840, when he resigned. He was much persecuted by malicious suits instituted by certain mail contractors whose exactions he had resisted; but, after years of annoyance, they ended in his triumphant vindication, and the payment to him by the unanimous concurrence of all parties in Congress, of all costs and expenses which they had occasioned.

Much has been said about Mr. Kendall's influence with General Jackson. That the General had great confidence in him, is shown by the trusts committed to his hands. But in his public measures, General Jackson was a man, who, having once formed his opinions, might be *aided* but not *influenced*. That Mr. Kendall did aid him by his pen and counsel, particularly in his warfare with the Bank of the United States, there can be no doubt. Mr. Kendall's opinions in relation to that Bank were fixed as early as 1818, and perfectly accorded with General Jackson's, and he considers the aid he was able to render the General in destroying the Bank the highest title he has to the gratitude of his country.

Mr. Kendall left public life poor, and betook himself to the publication of a newspaper for subsistence. In this he was but partially successful; and not being able to transfer his establishment to a more promising field, on account of embarrassments arising out of the malicious suits already alluded to, he discontinued his newspaper, and resorted to the prosecution of claims against the government, to him a most irksome business.

While thus employed, he fell in with Professor Morse, who was endeavoring, with little prospect of success, to get an appropriation from Congress, to extend a line of his telegraph from Baltimore to New-York, it being already in operation between Washington and Baltimore. Finding the Professor much discouraged, he inquired whether he had no project to render his telegraph profitable as a private enterprise if he should fail in obtaining further aid from the government? On being answered in the negative, he rejoined that if the appropriation failed, he would be glad to talk further on the subject. It failed, and Professor Morse asked Mr. Kendall for a proposition to take charge of his telegraph business. It was made and at once accepted. It vested Mr. Kendall with full power to manage and dispose of Morse's patent rights according to his discretion. A similar arrangement was made with Professor L. D. Gale, who owned one sixteenth, and Mr. Alfred Vail, who owned two sixteenths of Morse's patent. Without going into the details of his management, suffice it to say that it has placed Professor Morse in a condition of pecuniary independence, has profited in the same proportion the other owners of the patent, and has secured to himself and family the means of comfort.

Mr. Kendall was married at the age of 29, lived with his wife five years, and had four children, of whom only one survives. After living a widower two years, he was again married, and by his second wife has had ten children, of whom four with their mother still survive.

His habits are domestic, and he has always been happy in his family. Though of a feeble constitution, and often disabled by sickness, Mr. Kendall is nearly "three score and ten," with apparently as good a prospect of life's continuance as he has had for the last thirty years.

It is nearly twenty years, since Mr. Kendall abandoned active political life, though he has never lost his interest in the nation's welfare, and he still holds to the same political doctrines which he advocated with great power in his earlier life. The duties devolving upon him as the attorney for Professor Morse, have engaged the whole of his time and energies. None, save those who have been connected with the telegraph, can have a correct idea of the immense amount of labor performed by Mr. Kendall in the enterprise. He has travelled thousands of miles, to various parts of the country, and at all seasons of the year, attending negotiations, or trials in the federal courts in the States, and ably defending the rights of his client as the inventor of the American telegraph. It has been to Mr. Kendall a period of most extraordinary labor, and yet he has performed his whole duty with the most remarkable skill.

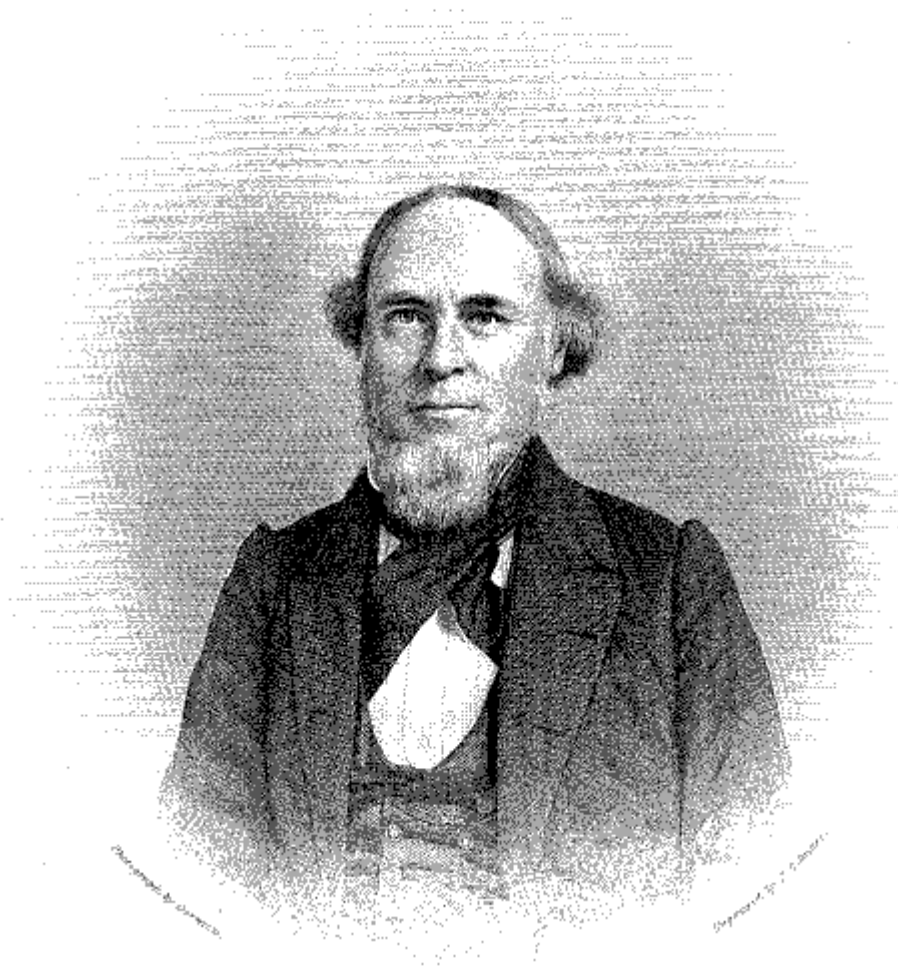
For upward of twelve years, I have been connected, more or less, with Mr. Kendall in the extension of the Morse telegraph lines throughout America, and in all the various relations in which I have been called to act, wherein he has been concerned, I have always found him to be correct and undeviating, ever maintaining a rigid adherence to truth, and opposed to its distortion or slightest evasion. I confess myself much indebted to his example for the course of my own life, and in asking his advice from time to time, whether upon public or private affairs, I have always found his views sustained by the highest points of morality. He has been prompt and strictly faithful in the discharge of all his obligations. He has never been known to deviate from an engagement for his own gain, but on the contrary he has been liberal in the interpretation of contracts resulting unprofitably to others.

In society, Mr. Kendall has exercised much influence. His moral teachings are fully appreciated by all who know him. He is not a professional member of the church, though a constant attendant of the Christian service.

In concluding this brief sketch of the Hon. Amos Kendall, it is proper to add, that it is impossible to do the subject justice in the small space allowed in this work. His life has been remarkable. He has probably been the most persecuted man in the nation, and yet his pathway through his whole life has been lighted by principles of high toned morality, so brilliant indeed, that his opponents seem to have been blinded by their reflecting rays.

The annals of the nation may be searched in vain for his superior in patriotism, or for one more illustrious and worthy of example to coming generations.





*Francis O. Smith.*

FRANCIS O. SMITH.

OF MAINE

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## FRANCIS O. J. SMITH.

*Of Maine.*

THE subject of this memoir was born in Brentwood, in the county of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, on the 23d of November, A. D. 1806. His ancestors, on both the paternal and maternal side, were among the early settlers of that township, and the township of Greenland, in the same county, bordering upon the Piscataqua river. They are believed to have originated in Scotland. The maternal family name was Bean.

The father of Francis O. J. Smith was educated for mercantile pursuits (which he subsequently followed) at Phillips' Exeter Academy, where so many of the sons of New Hampshire and of other States acquired the rudiments of their subsequent distinction in life. This his only son also was educated through the regular courses of study at the same institution, for admission as junior to a collegiate class; but alike from disinclination, and want of the requisite pecuniary means, he pursued that system of education no further, but entered upon the study of law, at about the age of fifteen, in the office of the late Hon. Ichabod Bartlett, in Portsmouth, N. H., with whom he continued nearly two years, and thence accompanied the removal of his father's family to Westbrook, in the immediate vicinity of Portland, Maine. Shortly after, he recommenced the study of the profession of law in the office of Messrs. Fessenden & Deblois, then, and for many years subsequently, a leading firm in the profession, in Portland. His father's residence in Westbrook was about two miles from the office of Messrs. F. & D., in Portland, and, to indicate the toil of the upward progress of this then young man, I may remark, that for months in succession he walked to and fro that distance, morning and evening, limiting himself to two meals per day whenever he did not elect to double his daily travel. Necessity beget the inclination, and both doubtless contributed to his welfare. His uniform habits of sobriety and industry, and his marked familiarity with and turn for business, and total seclusion from social indulgences, very early secured to him the special confidence of his professional tutors, and imparted to him the consideration, among all his acquaintances, of much more advanced years than he had actually attained. These characteristics, probably, operated to shut out all questions respecting his *age*, at the time he submitted his claims and qualifications to the members of the Cumberland bar for a recommendation to the court for admission to practise; and no rule of qualification, founded in age, was then in force, to render any disclosure on his part necessary. In March, 1826, preceding his arrival at the age of twenty years in the following November; or, when he was only about *four months in advance of nineteen years of age*, he was honorably admitted to practise as an attorney at law, by the justices of the Common Pleas Court for Cumberland county. He immediately opened an office in Portland, and soon found himself favored with an encouraging practice, which brought him, however, into professional antagonism with those who were by many years his seniors, and among them the ablest advocates at that bar, then, the most eminent in the State. He has often acknowledged the forbearance with which these leading minds of the profession, with whom he was thus early brought in contact, must have treated him, and encouraged his aspirations. Of this number, besides his own immediate

tutors, Messrs. Fessenden & Deblois, was the astute Longfellow, the learned Hopkins, the sagacious Greenleaf, the facetious, yet thoughtful and dignified Emery, the courtly Kinsman, and the benevolent Adams. The records of the courts in that county bear testimony, that our strippling minor stood in the midst of those professional Goliaths without suffering any retrograde in his reputation as a student or an advocate, but, with a constantly increasing practice, approximating that of the largest among them, up to the period when he yielded to the engrossments of politics.

I learn, that at that early day, he entertained an exalted idea of the vigorous growth that awaited the Western States, and had resolved to seek his home and fortunes in them. From this purpose, however, he was most unexpectedly diverted, by being drawn into an embittered feeling of personal hostility toward himself on the part of a score or more of lottery ticket venders, whose business was then of commanding influence in Portland. It arose from his being professionally retained against one of these firms, by a simple but honest man from an interior town, who was believed at the time to have been designedly defrauded in the purchase of a fictitious lottery ticket. But a common cause was made by the venders, first against the complaining man, and next against his professional adviser, accompanied, in respect to the latter, by threats of personal violence, professional ruin, and remediless disgrace; all of which awakened in the young lawyer a resolution and an energy, of which his assailants had taken but a partial reckoning. In fact, he had not himself measured his own vigor previous to that occurrence. Many of them had been esteemed previously among his professed friends, which made their treatment of him so much more exasperating to his unsubdued and resentful spirit. He was young, and dependent on his own reputation wholly for success, without family influence to protect him. But he felt the more keenly this attempt to force him to abandon an innocent and injured client against his sense of duty. Passing over many details of this acrimonious contest, suffice it to say, that it resulted in the indictment and conviction for illegal sales of tickets, of about twenty of the leading and wealthy lottery venders, then in full influence over the business and sentiments of the town, and in a triumphant vindication of himself throughout all his unpleasant relations to the controversy. This sudden assault upon his personal independence was the occasion of his first attempt at *pamphleteering*; as the large advertising patronage of the ticket venders shut his side of the case entirely out of all the newspapers in the town, and secured the use of them against him, leaving him for being heard at all by the public ear, the sole alternative of publishing a pamphlet at his own expense, and exposing the dangers, corruptions, and ruinous policy of the whole lottery system. It was a full and elaborate dissection of the whole trade. Whether this production had or not the effect to awaken the public judgment to an acknowledgment of those fearful influences of the lottery system, I do not undertake to decide. But sure it is, that the public mind became aroused on the subject, and the entire system was soon after swept away by legislative prohibitions, and has never been reinstated in any part of the State, and much less had any sanction of law.

It is a notable fact, indicative of the well-balanced temperament which at that early day characterized Mr. Smith, that of nearly twenty principals, who were thus arraigned under his complaints, amidst the most excited feelings of personal hostility toward him, in subsequent years with a single exception every one of them became his decided friend, and the excepted one sent from his dying bed to Mr. Smith, his "forgiveness and blessing!" One only of the number survives at this day, and bears willing testimony to the accuracy of this presentment of the facts.

It will be remembered by men of that day, and by the student in political history, that immediately upon the election of Mr. Adams as President of the United States, by the House of Representatives of the United States, over General Jackson, an active campaign was commenced at Washington, and soon after was lighted up in the South and West, to question the integrity of their action, and to arouse the public mind against Mr. Adams' administration and to secure the election of General Jackson in 1828. This feeling found but little active sympathy in the Eastern States, for the first two years of its progress in the South and West, and middle States.

At that time, political party lines had not been restored from the buried condition into which they were sunk by the general understanding of the people of Maine, as the basis of their concurrence in securing the admission of Maine into the Union as an independent State. This hostile animosity between the old contending parties of federalism and democracy was still in force in 1826-'27, when Mr. Smith's attention was first drawn to public measures. The government of the State, and its representation in both Houses of Congress, were consequently then made up indiscriminately from the ranks of both old parties. There was, nevertheless, a strong tone of dissatisfaction perceptibly pervading the popular mind of the State, toward this mongrel character of the politics of the State. There seemed, however, to be no commanding mind in the State, apart from those holding satisfactory positions under either the State or federal government, all of whom were, of course, contented to let things alone that were well enough for them, to embody into argumentative form the popular impulses upon this subject; and were consequently bold or rash enough to prepare the way for an organized sympathy with the popular agitation elsewhere, in support of a new organization of the old democratic war party of 1812, to battle for the hero of New Orleans, as a leader in the presidential election of 1828.

The active and discriminating mind of Mr. Smith, could not but abhor this apathy. He early conceived, therefore, the laborious project of giving organization to the dissatisfied impulses of the popular mind, to which we have alluded, and to revolutionize the political relations of men in the State. He believed it was in this way only, amid the agitations which began to move the Congress of the United States in both Houses, that Maine could be felt in the Union, and command the respect of others, and the influence that belonged to her as an integral member of the Union. He accordingly conceived the plan of embodying the considerations that tended to such a result, in a series of articles for publication. And he at once set about the execution of this purpose, "solitary and alone." They were upon the amalgamation of political parties, and appeared in the leading paper of democratic antecedents in the State—the *Eastern Argus*, published in Portland, then the seat of State government, and the germinal source of State politics.

These papers were anonymous, and for some time the author was unknown to even the publisher or conductors of the paper. They, however, had a vigor and fire sufficiently unusual to early attract public notoriety, and were read and copied extensively through the State. As an evidence of their estimated ability, they brought down no small amount of personal criticism from other sources, upon several successively, of the leading and ablest public men in the State, who were alone supposed capable of their authorship.

But Mr. Smith's authorship was at length traced by the publisher of the *Argus*, who at once sought an interview, and earnestly invited him to continue his contributions to the paper. After several interviews, he consented to do so, on condition he should be permitted in another series

of articles, to gradually approximate to an open advocacy of General Jackson for the Presidency.

This second series was in due time commenced, under the title of *HICKORY* No. 1, and with the motto, "*Strike, but hear me!*"

From the fact, that the active political and officeholding men in this State, and the masses also, had been, and were still the supporters of Mr. Adams, after the withdrawal of Mr. Crawford from the canvass, it can easily be conceived, that the title chosen by Mr. Smith for this series of articles, was indicative of a revolutionary movement in politics, while the motto bespoke a consciousness of presumption, but fortified by the right.

These articles began far back in the history of parties, and of opinions and men connected with the federal government, and approached slowly and temperately to the intended issues. Being written with studied candor, yet with pointed energy and decision, they soon awakened the listless, and startled the timid among politicians, both in and out of the State. They were copied far and wide, entire or in portions, in many of the States, and acquired a circulation more extended than any other articles written during that memorable political canvass of Jackson against the Adams administration. And this fact testifies to the influence they exerted upon the public mind of the Nation.

As a necessary consequence, these articles shortly began to draw down upon the author, especially in Maine, a full share of commendations on one side, and condemnations on the other, leading him deeper and deeper into the wranglings of the party organizations that were generated. He soon became, by other arrangements, but without any pecuniary compensation whatever, the principal editor of the *Argus*, and through that paper imparted the tone and energy of his own mind and preferences to all who had either democratic or Jackson proclivities in the State. As an inevitable consequence, he made many strong and chivalrous friends, and correspondingly determined opponents. He had nothing of the craven spirit in him, toward either supporters or opponents.

What marked historically and with emphasis the extent and energy of Mr. Smith's labors at this period, while yet so young and inexperienced, was the fact, that the county of Cumberland, which had been the stronghold of Mr. Adams in the State, from the withdrawal of Mr. Crawford, up to the hour when Mr. Smith unmasked the *Eastern Argus* in support of General Jackson's election, was the only district in New England which at the ensuing election in 1828 gave General Jackson a majority, and elected the only elector from whom he received a vote in the electoral colleges, north and east of New York! This gave this District the distinguishing *sobriquet* among politicians, of *THE STAR IN THE EAST!* All concurred in awarding to Mr. Smith pre-eminent credit for this result.

The biography of Mr. Smith, from the year 1828 to 1840, enters so largely into the political history of the State of Maine, that to do justice to the one it is quite indispensable to go into the other—which would extend far beyond the limits contemplated by the present notice. We must content ourselves, therefore, with the remark, that in 1828 he wrote a very triumphant pamphlet, entitled "*Vindication of the Land Agent and Refutation of Anonymous Remarks; addressed to the Governor, Council, and Legislature of the State of Maine. By Honestus.*"

This was published in pamphlet, and was successful in protecting the land agent of the State against a powerful and influential essay for his displacement from office.

In 1830 he wrote "*A History of the Proceedings and Extraordinary Measures of the Legislature of Maine, for the year 1830,*" which was at the time conceded to have secured the triumph of the Democratic party



of the State, at the then next ensuing election, and possessed them of a power which they successfully held until the memorable year of 1840, when Mr. Smith separated from their organization, and confessedly contributed far more potently than any other man in the State toward carrying the State for the first time against that party. He introduced "stump speeches" into the State at that time, opening the campaign in an interior town on the 4th of July of that year.

In September, 1830, Mr. Smith was elected one of the representatives of Portland, to the Legislature, on the democratic ticket—the first successful contest of that party since its reorganization in the State. In 1832 he was elected on the democratic ticket a senator to the Legislature from Cumberland District, and by that body was elected president, although many years the junior of all the members at that board. His conceded talents and early political advancement gave countenance to the imputation by his opponents, of a vaulting ambition for preferment on his part. But so far from this being his characteristic then, or since, I learn that after having been nominated in caucus for the presidency of the State Senate, he declined accepting the proffered distinction, that a colleague very much his senior in years might be selected for the position; and retired from the meeting to give greater freedom to the discussion. On returning, however, he found himself again selected with entire unanimity, when he acceded to the request, and his selection was accordingly confirmed by the official election of the Senate on the following day. He served the term with the fullest approbation of senators of both political parties, whose expression at the close of the session was full, cordial, and gratifying to that effect.

On the ensuing election, in 1833, Mr. Smith was elected from the Cumberland Congressional District, member of the 25th Congress, and was twice re-elected, serving through the consecutive years from December 1833, to the 4th of March, 1839. On entering Congress, he again found himself the youngest of his associates. His influence and appreciation in the House is traceable through the different standing and special committees to which he was appointed—being successively on the Committee on Naval Affairs, the Committee of Ways and Means, and Chairman of the Committee on Commerce. He was a leading member of the special committee appointed by order of the House in 1836 on the West Point Academy, and was the author of the report of that committee, although it was submitted by its chairman. He was a member of the memorable committee which visited New York city on the *Swartwout* defalcations and wrote the majority report of that committee, after the points to be elaborated were determined. And I have heard it remarked by a member of that committee, as an evidence of the facility and dispatch with which Mr. Smith wields the argumentative pen, that the labors of the committee were unavoidably protracted until the very close of the session of Congress, by reason of the voluminous nature of the testimony, so that the majority report had been only in part prepared when the final meeting of the committee to dispose of the subject must be holden, and the reading of the report commenced. The reading consequently was so close upon the writing of the report, that two members of the committee were busy in receiving and conveying from Mr. Smith's lodgings to the committee-room, alternate parcels of the report as fast as produced from Mr. Smith's pen, so that no hiatus was had in the reading until completed. It was in this rapid manner that he produced a large portion of the committee's report upon the huge mass of testimony they had taken, and as it now stands in the printed volume of the House, and with no other revision.

Pacing over numerous incidents in the congressional life of Mr. Smith,

which would help to elucidate the vigor of his intellect and his energy of character, I recur to the session of 1838-'39 as the period of peculiar interest in the history of the American Electro-Magnetic Telegraph.

It was at that session that Mr. Secretary Woodbury, of the Treasury Department, submitted a letter to Congress, communicating the circular which he had previously issued and disseminated widely, seeking information on the subject of the best modes of telegraphing between distant places. To this call, Prof. Morse forwarded, as did many others theirs, his plan of an *Electro-Magnetic Telegraph*. Mr. Smith was then chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House of Representatives, and it was to that committee the letter of Mr. Woodbury was referred by the House, carrying with it the various answers which individuals had submitted to him on the subject.

Mr. Morse appeared in person to ask permission of the chairman to be heard by the committee, in explanation of his plan, which was readily granted, together with the use of the committee's room for exhibiting his full-sized telegraphic apparatus, as it had then been matured. The huge hog-trough-looking Cruikshanks voltaic battery, and two immense wheels of insulated copper wire, estimated to be ten miles in length, and a rude arrangement of mercury cups and forked wire levers for breaking and closing the voltaic circuit, and saw-toothed plates of lead, called type, used for breaking and closing the voltaic circuit by imparting to them mechanically a motion forward, under one end of the forked wire lever, and to regulate that breaking and closing, and kindred crudities, all needful for marking the effects of the operation in forms selected to signify the different letters of the alphabet, and through which words and sentences were to be formed for communicating definite intelligence at pleasure, were soon lodged in the committee-room, preparatory to the proposed illustrations by the inventor.

I have heard Mr. Smith remark, that, at the next succeeding meeting of the committee, when these repulsive looking appointments were first seen, a general expression of incredulity characterized the judgment of the members, as to the merits and practicability of the professor's plan. But Mr. Smith had, in the meantime, studied the scientific laws pertaining to the telegraph, and had also acquired a deep sympathy with the professor's story of his travails and poverty, and of his friends' discouragement and apathy on the subject of his invention, and each was such a struggle against odds, that the story was calculated to incite the mind of Mr. Smith to render every aid in his power to advance the inventor's experiment. Had it been an enterprise full of light, and easily understood and readily aided by everybody, the natural inclination of Mr. Smith's judgment is such, that he would have probably at once said, Let everybody give their help, and that his own was not required. However, the hidden power of the crudely-formed agencies employed by the professor were seen and appreciated by Mr. Smith's searching perceptions, and their sublimities and subtleties seemed to challenge his admiration and aid. He felt the awe of a divinity's wisdom and presence as he contemplated the mysterious writings of this invisible but swift messenger of thought; the same he expressed so happily and correctly in the report which he drafted, and induced all his colleagues in committee to unite with him in attesting by their signatures, contrary to all precedents of Congressional Reports. He explained to his associates on committee, the positive and wonderful truths which the clumsy apparatus before them was capable of demonstrating, and he interested them to pledge a full and punctual attendance at a special meeting, to listen to the explanations, and witness the trembling and half-confident manipulations of the inventor himself. This earnest and voluntary interest on the part of Mr. Smith, in-

spired Professor Morse with a new hope, and a new life, and the prospect of such aid was to him, as the undoubted guaranty of a complete ultimate success.

The time for the appointed exhibition to the full committee arrived. Professor Morse was there with punctuality, and filled with new animation by the continued manifestations of a purpose on the part of the chairman, to render him every possible support, from conviction that the theory of the invention was a reality, and deserving of the liberal patronage of the government in hastening its development practically.

Suffice it to say, the exhibition was convincing and conclusive to the committee, and the chairman obtained the necessary instruction to report in its favor, with an appropriation bill for *thirty thousand dollars*, to construct an experimental line between Washington and Baltimore cities. Mr. Smith proceeded at once to draft the report and bill—the same report which has been given elsewhere in this volume. It was unanimously approved and signed by the committee, and this dawning of a future so much brighter than all previous encouragements had opened up to him, so electrified Professor Morse, that, had Congress never acted further upon the subject, he would still feel that he had not lived in vain.

It was this report that gave vitality, "habitation, and a name," to the Morse Telegraph. Its language spoke in the tones of a positive conviction of the reality of the invention, and of the diversity of its powers, and the grateful inventor owned then, that he had been providentially guided to a friendship in the zeal of Mr. Smith, such as he had most wished for, but had never before attained among his fellow-men. And, he insisted on having the author of this report accompany him to Europe and to stand by his side through all the coming struggles for the inauguration into practical use by the world, of this new and wonderful agent of intercourse. It was thus, and then, that Professor Morse proffered Mr. Smith the ownership of one fourth of the entire invention in the United States, and five sixteenths of all its advantages and the interests that might be acquired under it abroad, he furnishing the requisite means of outfit for the visit to Europe together, to prosecute its adoption there by the public. Mr. Smith, filled with admiration of the invention, crude as it was then in form, accepted of these proposals; and in May following, (1838) he having obtained leave of absence from the House for the remainder of the session, embarked with Professor Morse at New York for Liverpool. Having arrived in London, they immediately set at work reviewing the outposts of inventions on foot there in the same line—visited Mr. Davy's Electric Telegraph, then on exhibition, also the Patent Office, and believing the way clear to the procurement of a patent for the professor's invention, submitted the application in due form. To their astonishment, notice shortly was received of its disallowance by the Attorney-General: upon what precise grounds was not explained, so as to subject the opposition to a full and open contest. But upon the fullest insight that could be had, at the request of Professor Morse, Mr. Smith framed a concise argumentative letter addressed to the Attorney General, which was copied and signed by Professor Morse, in which a further hearing was sought, and was finally obtained; but with no more success than before. This letter, while it successfully refuted every objection, as is still believed, to the just claims of Professor Morse to a patent from the English government for *the mode* of operating an Electro-Magnetic Telegraph which he had invented, without claiming all modes, presents also the exact sum of perfection to which the professor's invention had reached at that period; and for this purpose it is the best historical exposé of the subject which exists, for substantiating the claims of the professor to inventive genius in practical telegraphing.

With this unsuccessful result upon them in London, Mr. Smith next accompanied Professor Morse to Paris (July 1838), where an original, and subsequently an additional patent was obtained. But the French government, jealous of this mystical agency, subsequently interposed a prohibition to the establishment of it under the patents, so that they expired before made available to the proprietors. As an act of justice, the government of France has recently interposed to raise, conjunctively with some other of the continental governments in use of the system, a donation of \$80,000 in acknowledgment of the great merits and utility of the Morse system over all others—a tardy, but merited compliment.

While in Paris, as early as October, 1838, Mr. Smith brought out an article in the *Observer*, published by Galignani, containing the *first idea ever* announced of the uses that were destined to be made of the telegraph for astronomical purposes. Even Professor Morse did not then fully comprehend this important element of its ultimate utility. In fact none at that early day appeared to measure the immense scope which the invention had in the future uses of the world with the same clearness as did Mr. Smith. His early report to Congress and his contemporaneous writings attest fully this fact. Mr. Smith embarked at Liverpool for the United States, in November, 1838, in the ill-provided steamer *Liverpool*—the newest of the ocean steamers put into service by the first ocean steam company. An almost unprecedented storm set in on the same night, which continued without intermission until the morning of the sixth day, when the ship had become so disabled, having been swept fore and aft by the sea of everything on deck, including most of her boats, and been in the most perilous condition for many hours, was then put about and run with the storm into Ireland, where she arrived on the morning of the 9th day from Liverpool. The passengers were landed at Cork, and Mr. Smith with most of them returned to Liverpool and re-embarked in one of the regular line sailing packets for New-York, where he arrived the latter part of December, too late to resume his position as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce in the House. Mr. Morse, remained in the meantime and until the following spring in Paris to foster the interests of the infant telegraph, with alternate hope and despair of success. Flattering expressions in the fulness of French coquetry were showered upon its, to the multitude, inscrutable performances, but nothing more substantial resulted to the proprietors.

The session of 1838-'39 of Congress terminated without reaching the Telegraph Bill on the calendar for action; and Mr. Smith's acquired interest in the enterprise forbid his moving the subject out of its order. His split, moreover, from the dominant administrative party on the Sub-treasury Bill, deprived him of his accustomed influence with the majority party on any measure, and he preferred biding his time out of Congress with the Telegraph, to any injudicious crowding of it in Congress against well-measured probabilities.

He retired from Congress at the close of the session; and in the following year entered with heroic zeal upon the determined purpose of overthrowing the power of the Van Buren Administration in Maine, and wherever else it might be favorable. It was in appearance not only a Herculean but a forlorn task, in a State so thoroughly drilled and solidified under party organization as Maine then was. But Mr. Smith had been part and parcel of that organization too long—had aided too largely from its inception, to give it consistency and strength—not to understand all its elements and workings, and ins and outs to popular feeling, to be wasting power in blind assaults upon battlements which he knew had become hollow, enfeebled, and destructible at certain points; and it was at these he made and led on the rush of the opposition forces. Federal

and State patronage did their utmost to crush him out. He established, at his own expense, a semi-weekly paper in the city of Portland, entitled the "Argus Revived"—opened the campaign in full blast for the nomination and election of General Harrison against Mr. Van Buren—took the stump at the first formal stump meeting ever called in the State, held on the 4th of July, 1840, in an interior town of his old congressional district, and made a clear and decided success of the meeting for the opposition forces, and inspired doubting and timid minds with confidence to follow, and opened up a sense of alarm in the ranks of the administration party which could not be suppressed. As a public speaker he had no superior in the State; and his fervid eloquence, and his long and intimate acquaintance with the whole people of Maine, through their politics, enabled him to draw multitudes at the meetings he appointed, which no one else could command.

In conclusion I need only remark, that at the gubernatorial election of that year, to everybody's surprise, an overwhelming administration majority was annihilated, so it was in doubt whether any election of governor had been made by the people; and at the succeeding November presidential election, the State was carried by a small majority for Harrison and Tyler.

It was everywhere and by everybody freely conceded, that this result in the State, was accomplished by the indomitable energy, labor, tact and eloquence before the people, of Mr. Smith. It was an unparalleled revolution that was effected in September; and it had a most signal influence for hope and courage upon the supporters of General Harrison in every other State. But the revolt in November was complete, and the one man power in it was indisputable. For this sore defeat the democratic leaders of Maine never forgave Mr. Smith, and he was not of stuff to ask forgiveness where he conscientiously believed himself in the right, although the world were in arms against him. His self reliance has ever been a remarkable characteristic of his life, and equalled only by the cool, self command which, under all circumstances, he succeeds in maintaining, and as few men are capable of doing, and none but men of marked intellectual strength. I have heard it remarked, that one of the chiefest characteristics of General Jackson was, a skilful knowledge of "the exactly right time to get mad," or at least, to appear so, to exert the greatest effort upon an adversary. It is doubtless a species of mental strategy worthy the study of all men in all the relations of life. A cool, imperturbable temper, carries most potent advantages to its possessor over all others.

It was at the session of 1843-44 that Professor Morse succeeded in getting favorable action by Congress upon the original thirty thousand dollar appropriation reported by Mr. Smith, and thus enabled the proprietors to construct the first experimental line of telegraph in the United States. It was in the expenditure of this appropriation, involving previously untried plans that gave rise to some differences of views between Professor Morse and Mr. Smith, which led to a reciprocal coldness and distrust which has never been subsequently removed; and which under varying aspects of personal interests, operated powerfully to retard the progress and productiveness to the proprietors, of the invention in the United States. I do not propose to enter into a discussion of these matters here, as it would be out of place to do so, and the time for an impartial judgment on the subject of these personal differences, which all friends to the parties deeply regret, has not perhaps arrived.

In 1844-45 Mr. Smith enlisted a few friends, and labored to enlist the public generally, in raising the necessary funds for extending the telegraph from New-York city to Boston, and thence to Portland. He gave one or

more public lectures upon the interesting characteristics and destined influences of the system, which all were pleased in listening to, but few had faith to hazard their money in putting them into practical use. The consequence was, he added all of his own then limited means to so much as a few friends and a few citizens of intermediate towns would risk, and at length succeeded in completing the first line between New York and Boston. This line he subsequently extended to the city of Portland, at his own cost exclusively. From Portland east, the successful working of previously constructed lines, operated to encourage others to invest in, and he, with less difficulty, through private partners, obtained the needful capital for building as far the eastern boundary of New Brunswick.

But few can appreciate the struggles and delays which the early projectors of this now important institution had to encounter in getting it before, and into the use of, the public. Men who saw with their own eyes the telegraph in actual operation, would turn round and yield themselves up to doubts of its reality—still suspected, there was some undefined and unseen devilry about it, that made it unsafe as an investment.

From 1838 until the present time, Mr. Smith has continued prominently engaged in the organization and working of the system, laying its details aside now and then for a season, to indulge his tastes and preferences in the politics of a presidential election, but returning speedily to his general supervision of the business, in conjunction with the Hon. Amos Kendall, as the representative of the other patentees.

In the meantime, Mr. Smith has displayed the diversity of his powers and genius in his profession as a lawyer, attaining instances of as startling success to his adversaries, as have at different junctures marked his labors in politics. By far the largest verdict ever obtained in his State, and I think the largest obtained in New England, was won and held by him for a client through seven years or more of sharply conducted litigation, in a railroad suit that had become famous in Maine. In the meantime, however, he became the sole owner of another active railroad, of some thirteen miles in length, and extended it, with his own capital, some six miles further into the interior; also constructed mills in another region, and a steamboat for inland navigation, and within a year or two has become principal proprietor and manager of a canal commanding some fifty miles of inland navigation from the harbor of Portland; he also constructed, mainly in the first instance with his own capital, the public gas works in the city of Portland, amidst great but unsuccessful opposition; and concurrently with these diversified cares and labors, he has been so mindful of the pleasures and comforts of a home, as to construct and support one of the most finished architectural dwellings and little village of out-buildings that any man of moderate ambition could desire. For this he selected a site where a forest of ancient oak and of evergreen trees admitted of utter seclusion from the world, although within two miles from the city of Portland, and where for twenty years he has been accumulating a library that is second to none of a private character in the State; and, unlike the purposes of many such accumulations, more for actual use in the varied pursuits of the owner, than for show to others.

Elaborate as has been this notice of Mr. Smith, as due to the primary founder of the now extended telegraph system of the United States, I claim for it but the merit of a limited outline of his "battle of life," evincing a diversity of talent, and an energy of character, and a steadfastness of purpose when once formed, rarely equalled, and perhaps never surpassed as a whole, by any man. Of course, such a man cannot have been without earnest opponents, more than devoted friends. But whether in friendship or otherwise, his acts, as all men accord, have been uniformly

open, manly, consistent, and resolute. To have been always in the right, would be more than fallible man can claim; nor probably can it be claimed for Mr. Smith. But the claim of right motives at all times on his part, is best attested by the fact, that the most determined of his enemies have invariably become in time, and on better acquaintance, his fast friends; and I know not the man in this time who can count among those disposed to praise him for his attainments, qualifications, and integrity of purpose, so many who, under other views and less intimate acquaintance with him, were either strongly prejudiced or openly hostile to him.

He is comparatively yet a man of only matured years, of vigorous health, of careful habits, and untiring industry. And with these characteristics I need not doubt, but sincerely hope, he is yet to make new works of usefulness to mankind, as well as of advantage to himself and family.

He has been twice honorably connected by marriage, and has offspring surviving by his first, as well as second marriage. Of these the future will speak honorably, if kindness and devotion as a parent and husband can on his part merit that gratification.

## WILLIAM M. SWAIN,

of Pennsylvania.

THE subject of this brief sketch was born in 1809, in Manlius, Onondaga county, New-York. It was but a few years after the birth of Mr. Swain that the last war with Great Britain took place, and his father was among the brave patriots of that day, who at once left their comfortable and well-supplied homes to take part in that struggle for their country's honor. While in the performance of his duties as a soldier, Mr. Swain's father caught a very severe cold, and was brought home. He died from its effects, leaving his son William but three years old. Fortunately for Mr. Swain, his mother was an uncommon woman of that day. She was well educated, and possessed the ability and experience necessary for the proper management of domestic affairs. In his earlier years Mr. Swain received a liberal education, and his clear and discriminating judgment of the present time was manifested then. He studied his Euclid with assiduity and the most complete success, and the evidences he gave of a well-cultivated mind in after-years induced his friends to urge him to give to the young the benefits of his richly stored mind by opening a school. He was thus employed for several years, but the life of a teacher did not harmonize with his tastes, and he abandoned it. In 1826, he selected the art of printing as the most congenial to his disposition as an affair for life, and in due time he was found standing at the case. The superior talents of Mr. Swain could not be confined, however, to the labors of the compositor, and a greater range for the exercise of his thought was necessary. In a few years thereafter he occupied a position in the establishment which gave him an opportunity to exhibit his singularly well matured administrative powers.

His abilities seemed to be diversified and capable of commanding the whole routine of a publishing establishment, and the evidences given secured for him the charge of the New-York Sun. As an editor he was talented and vigorous. As manager of its business affairs he had no equal. He toiled day and night in the discharge of his duties. The dawning of day often found Mr. Swain at work, having passed the whole night in the service of the establishment. He discharged his business first, and his personal comforts were the last matters that he cared for.

In 1837, Mr. Swain, in company with two others, Messrs. Abel and Simmons, started the "Public Ledger" in Philadelphia, and subsequently the "Sun" in Baltimore. These were "penny papers," and were opportune for the laboring classes of the country. In establishing these papers the gentlemen were not adventurers, without means, abilities, and experience. Mr. Swain had become a perfect master of the publishing business, and, as well as his partners, brought into the company his proportion of capital. The "Ledger" was thus introduced to the world for patronage; it was founded with ample means by gentlemen energetic and talented.

The Ledger was not long an experiment, but it soon commanded the confidence of the public and the most extended patronage. It still continues to wield an influence unsurpassed by any other paper.





*Eng. by R. H. Dudley*

*Wm. M. Swain*

WIFE 20. 1850 & 1851.

DE W. H. H. G. A. G. G.

*Engraving by R. H. Dudley*



I much regret the impossibility to do justice to the career of Mr. Swain in this outline. His life has been full of usefulness, and his example is worthy of imitation.

In the administration of the affairs of the "Ledger" Mr. Swain never yielded the responsibility. He was known as the "Ledger man," and he was the master of the enterprise in every particular. He always exercised the right of determining what was suitable for publication, and no one has ever had the authority to publish in the columns of that paper a line, editorial or otherwise, except by his sanction, implied or expressed. Mr. Swain was the "Ledger man" and he was alone responsible for the contents of that paper. It has been owing to this fact that the tone and tenor of the "Ledger" has been so uniform and judicious.

Mr. Swain has been, on all occasions, a liberal patron of new and useful enterprises. When the electric telegraph had given proof of its commercial utility, on the experimental line between Baltimore and Washington, he was among the first to appreciate its merits. In due time efforts were made to extend the line to Philadelphia, and in order to command the necessary capital, each of the cities through which the line was to pass, was allotted a certain proportion of the stock. To Philadelphia was given four thousand dollars. Mr. Swain was urged to promote the enterprise among his friends. Their efforts in obtaining the capital required at that city were crowned with success, though that success was due entirely to the "Ledger," and the "United States Gazette," the former subscribing three thousand five hundred dollars, and the latter five hundred dollars. Commercial men could not be induced to embark in the new and to them untried enterprise. They did not appreciate the prospective usefulness of the telegraph. With Mr. Swain it was no adventure, because his comprehensive mind and practical sagacity enabled him to look into the future. History has since demonstrated the correctness of the judgment he exhibited, in the extraordinary and most liberal subscription above given.

Early in 1846, Mr. Swain was elected a director of the Telegraph Company, and he gave to the new enterprise the benefit of his commercial experience. He fully appreciates the grandeur of the invention, and of its transcendent position as an art; but, as in all other things, Mr. Swain has studied it as an element of commerce, as an art for the useful purposes of man; and no one has done more toward perfecting the telegraph for business relations than he. The influence of his teachings has spread throughout the whole country.

In 1850, Mr. Swain was elected President of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, extending from New-York to Washington. He sought not the position, but the friends of the enterprise desired his experienced and well-methodized mind in the perfection of the system. The telegraph was new, it had not established itself in the affairs of trade, and it required an organization commensurate with the wants of the age. Mr. Swain yielded to the wishes of his friends, and accepted of the presidency, though it was to him a great pecuniary sacrifice. He contemplated limiting his services to a single term. He entered upon the duties of the office, with his usual resolve, to be the master of his vocation. He travelled over the line, and reviewed its whole structure, and aided in the perfection of its outdoor organization. In this new and novel labor he shared with others, and soon became as thorough in his knowledge of the construction of the lines, as though he had taken part in its original erection. Having become fully informed as to the exterior department of the service, he next gave his attention to the administration of the stations. He soon found opportunities to present improvements, and as the science and art of telegraphing became more and more developed, Mr. Swain was prepared to

meet any emergency, with a commercial talent that was productive of good results.

Contrary to his wishes, Mr. Swain was induced, by the unanimous desire of the company, to continue as president until 1858, when he felt constrained to terminate his services as its executive.

Mr. Swain continues as a director of the old pioneer telegraph company, for which he has done so much as its founder and constant patron. He has, also, extended liberal aid to other companies, pecuniarily and intellectually.

Among the changes made by Mr. Swain, in the management of the stations, may be mentioned, the more prompt delivery of dispatches. It was the former practice for the manager of the station, to send out his messengers every hour, or at such times as an accumulation of dispatches would require. Mr. Swain discovered that messages were received from places, a thousand miles distant, in less time than was required to deliver them a few squares from the station. This delay seemed to him out of proportion, and contrary to the very spirit of telegraphing. He directed that the messengers be increased, and that as soon as a dispatch was received, it should be delivered. This change in the delivery, was as effective as a revolution in the art of telegraphing, and the benefits resulting were at once observable, by the increase of dispatches, and of the revenues of the company. The same rule was soon after adopted by all the other companies throughout America, and it has been productive of the best results.

Besides Mr. Swain's transcendent powers as a business man, he is one of the most liberal, enterprising, and benevolent men of the age. He has distributed his gains in thousands of ways, that neither he nor any one else can ever account for. What he has done, has been without display—without heralding it to the world. His charities stand unrecorded in the annals written by man, but they are engraven on golden tablets by One whose ken fathoms the "innermost recesses of the heart."





Engraved by E. C. Ladd.

*W. T. Towner.*

WILLIAM T. TOWNER.

1850.

NEW YORK: G. W. WOODS.

## WILLIAM TANNER,

Of Alabama.

MR. TANNER was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, in 1802, and is, consequently, fifty-seven years of age, though he does not look so old by several years. When a boy not fifteen years of age, having as good an education as the schools near him, at that time, could afford, he was placed in the printing office of the *Argus of Western America*, a newspaper published at Frankfort, Kentucky, and edited by the Hon. Amos Kendall, then a young man, where he learned the printing business. Mr. Kendall was then the public printer of the State, and his paper the leading Republican journal of the West, which, doubtless, had its influence in making the subject of this sketch a firm democratic politician all his after-life. It is worthy of mention here, and alike creditable to both parties, that from the time Mr. Kendall was a young man and Mr. Tanner a boy, they have continued to be warm and confidential personal friends, now more than forty years, and much of the time in some way associated in the same pursuits.

From a respectably educated printer the transition to an editor was almost a matter of course, and as early as 1823, Mr. Tanner entered upon the life of an editor and publisher, before he was quite of legal age, and so continued, with occasional intermissions, until 1854. At that time he was the oldest editor, in point of time, in Kentucky. He published the *Western Monitor*, at Lexington, the first semi-weekly paper printed in the State, next the *Morning Post*, at Louisville, the first daily paper, and in 1843 he started the first daily paper published at Frankfort, the capital of the State. During several years of the time he was sole editor and publisher of the *Kentucky Yeoman*, the present State journal at Frankfort; it was unquestionably the organ of the democracy of that State, and, besides the influence it exercised in national politics, it wielded an influence over many questions of local and State policy, the defeat or success of which have left their impress upon the permanent destinies of his native State. I may mention, as the leading measure of this kind, of which he was the earliest, most persistent, and devoted advocate, the adoption of the present Democratic Constitution of the State. In 1845-'6, he found the State government not only in the hands of his political opponents, as it had been for a long series of years, but nearly all of the public offices of every description were in possession of persons who had either inherited them from generation to generation, or who had purchased them in open market for a stipulated price, to be paid in hand or out of the annual profits arising from abuses of the office. Through his own paper, the *Kentucky Yeoman*, and another paper which he caused to be established and published, almost entirely at his own expense, devoted to that particular subject, he not only exposed the venality of the official corps of the State, but made such appeals to the pride and patriotism of her chivalrous people, that he soon had enlisted in the cause the leading men of both parties, and upon the submission of the question to the people by the Legislature, they voted for a new convention with almost unexampled unanimity. The result was, that in 1849 delegates were chosen by the people from the best men of the State to form a new con-

stitution, and, to the surprise of the whole country, a majority of them were democrats. The Legislature, which had provided in advance for defraying the expenses of the convention, appointed Mr. Tanner and a gentleman of opposite political views, to provide for having the debates of the delegates to the convention reported, and the convention, when it assembled, appointed him and the same gentleman the printers and publishers of their proceedings and debates, all of which services were faithfully performed. The liberal constitution which at the present time controls the destinies of the proud State of Kentucky, contains but few leading provisions not recommended to the people and advocated by Mr. Tanner before the delegates met in convention. The feature which requires the election by the people of all public officers he insisted on with more vehemence than any other, and, for a time, in opposition to the wishes of some of his own political friends. The election of the judges was particularly objectionable to many of the new convention lawyers.

I have referred to this particular period in the life of the subject of this sketch, so much in detail, because I know he takes more pride in the acknowledged influence which he exercised on the occasion than in any other of his political achievements.

A few years before the success of Mr. Tanner and his friends, on the question of the constitutional convention, I was his senate reporter in Legislature of Kentucky, and I well remember his unceasing efforts in behalf of that important political measure, and I know, from personal observation, that Mr. Tanner then enjoyed, as he had done for many previous sessions, a large share of the confidence of men of all parties in the Legislature, and that he oftener exerted his influence with the members to secure the success of measures for the benefit of the State and his friends than to promote his personal interests. But that course has been one of the chief characteristics of his life.

In 1837, after about twenty years' service in a printing office in one capacity or another, Mr. Tanner went to Washington City, where he served for about two years as a corresponding clerk in the Postoffice Department, under his old friend and editorial preceptor, Mr. Kendall, who was then Postmaster-General. There, in the following year, he married Miss Orme, his present amiable wife. The subordinate position and dull routine of a clerk's life were not agreeable to his active mind and sanguine temperament, and he has often told me he could not fall into the sluggish ways then, and perhaps yet, so prevalent in the public offices at Washington. To relieve himself from the mental tedium and bodily inertness consequent upon his dull public duties, he not only became the regular Washington correspondent of several distant newspapers, but took the principal charge, privately, of an independent daily democratic paper called the *Metropolis*, where he enjoyed himself by keeping members of Congress of both parties, and other official personages, uneasy in their high places. The paper, while he controlled it, enjoyed much popularity in subordinate official circles, and received a good deal of attention from some high functionaries. It was much in favor of the Canada patriots during the so-called rebellion of 1837-'8, and Mr. Tanner received the personal thanks of Passonne, one of the McKenzies, Wolford, and others of the leaders of that movement, for his advocacy of their cause.

Becoming tired of Washington he was offered a more congenial business because it gave more active employment, and was made one of the four Special Mail Agents which the Postoffice Department then employed for the whole United States. With a good salary for that time, and freed from official surveillance and subordination, with the enjoyments incident to constant travel over a large portion of the Union, this was an employ-



ment not only agreeable to the taste, but suited to his peculiar capacity, and consequently he continued to serve the department in that office until the political wheel of fortune changed the national administration.

Twice afterward, however, Mr. Tanner received commissions as special agent. As an evidence of the confidence then reposed in him, at Washington, it may be stated that he was sent to Wisconsin and Iowa under special appointment, when those present States were still territories, to collect large sums of public money, without being required to enter into any sort of bond, or to give any security. He filled the delicate duty thus intrusted to him, so much to the satisfaction of the department, that his return and account were received without the detection of an error or the change of a figure, and called from the Auditor, Peter G. Washington, Esq., a letter of thanks.

Soon after, in 1846, Mr. Tanner was sent by the Postoffice Department, to Texas, to arrange the mail service of that new State, after its annexation to our constellation, and to bring that service under our government. There, for nearly six months he travelled over most of the then settled parts of the State, making postmasters, establishing post-offices, collecting money from postmasters, letting out mail contracts, and doing everything in his own person which belonged to the several bureaux in the Department, and finally making out the first advertisement calling for proposals for mail service, which also furnished material for the first post-route bill passed by Congress for the State of Texas, a bill which was afterward very much in the way of some politicians who voted for it, for it denied them the privilege of asserting the claim of Mexico over the territory between the Rio Grande and the Nueces. This duty performed, during which the correspondence to his paper gave a view of Texas theretofore unknown in "the States," Mr. Tanner continued to hold the commission of special agent, performing the duties required, and to publish his paper in Frankfort until the autumn of 1847, when he resigned his commission for the purpose of again joining his old friend, Mr. Kendall, in the then almost untried telegraph experiment.

And here commences the only legitimate part of Mr. Tanner's career in life, which it is the province of this work particularly to chronicle, except as collateral, to show what kind of persons it was who originally took hold of an enterprise then of doubtful success, but which is now exercising so vast an influence over the social, commercial, and political destinies of the world. But aside from this reason, I give as another, that as an associate in this great enterprise, it is to me a source of great pleasure to acknowledge Mr. Tanner, now as during nearly twenty years past, my steadfast friend, and whose superior years and more matured judgment, I never failed to respect. And in giving this brief biographical sketch of one of my earliest friends as well as one of the earliest adventurers in the great field of telegraphic enterprise, I but discharge a duty I owe to myself, to Mr. Tanner and to my countrymen, who have chosen the pursuits of telegraphy as the vocation of their lives.

In the fall of 1847, Mr. Tanner and myself became joint contractors for building the first section of two hundred and seventy-five or eighty miles of the present "National Line," from Lexington, Kentucky, to Nashville, Tennessee, the first telegraph line constructed south of the Ohio river. We finished that section in three and a half months from the time the first post was cut in the forest. The wire then put up, and many of the posts are those now standing, and in use on that line. Afterward Mr. Tanner was successively secretary, treasurer, president, and superintendent of the whole line, from Pittsburg to New-Orleans, part of the time before the line was completed, having no one to aid him in any of those capacities. He yet holds the nominal position of president

of the old New-Orleans and Ohio Company, the stockholders in which, or their successors, will be the owners of the "National Line" at the expiration of the present lease. Like most others of the Western Companies, the fortunes of this one were disastrous. And like most of the great improvements of the age in this country, it is probable the pioneers, those liberal-minded and free-handed men whose money constructed, and whose energies pushed it to the paying point, are not destined to reap the rewards due to their enterprise. It is not an exceptional case for any one company to be placed in this category, as the history of two thirds of the great enterprises of the age, on this side of the Atlantic, will show that it has been the fortunate second or third owners of such property who have secured the profits which in the ordinary course of events, should have been due to those who first inaugurated and carried *nearly* to a successful completion, the greatest improvements of the time.

Mr. Tanner, yet in the vigor of life and health, is now engaged in the telegraph service as a local superintendent of the Magnetic Telegraph Company's great Southern line, and the present success of that company South, as elsewhere, is testimony in favor of his efficiency in the discharge of his duties.

Of this world's goods, after a life of more than usual industry and toil, devoted to useful and meritorious pursuits, Mr. Tanner may not have a superabundance; but in the affections of an estimable wife, and several charming, intelligent children, he is as rich as the Roman matron, who so proudly pointed to her jewels; and, with a respectable income and moderate desires, we are pleased to learn he lives contented, in the enjoyment of all the comforts essential to a united and happy family, in a comfortable home in the "sunny South."





*J. J. Speed & Co.*

120 N. 3rd St. Phila. Pa.

1857

Printed by J. J. Speed & Co. Phila. Pa.

## JOHN JAMES SPEED, J R.,

Of Michigan.

ON the 20th of July, 1803, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, was born the subject of this brief memoir.

His parents belonged to a very old family of that ancient Commonwealth; and were known as high-toned in sentiment and of the old patriotic school.

With a view of expanding his means for the best ends, Mr. Speed's father emigrated from the thickly inhabited Old Dominion in the year 1807, to the more sparsely settled county of Tompkins, in the State of New-York, where he had full opportunities to develop his wealth and enterprise.

In the education of the son, the father devoted all the attention possible, and every opportunity was afforded him common to that time.

Having arrived at his majority, he commenced his career in the world as a merchant, but he soon returned to the more genial pursuits of his earlier years, and fixed himself upon one of the largest farms in that part of New-York, containing some 950 acres, of which he cleared 700 acres for cultivation. He continued in the tilling of the soil until the year 1836, when he sold his farm and stock for the very respectable sum of \$26,000, which amount, in that day, as well as the present, was amply sufficient to afford a moderate disposition all the comforts and luxuries enjoyed by the millionaire of the Old World.

In 1836, Mr. Speed established himself as a merchant at Ithaca, New-York, where he continued for some ten years. In the meantime, however, he liberally embarked with other citizens in all the enterprises calculated to promote the welfare of the city and the respective individuals engaging their services and capital. Among the most noted branches of industry to which Mr. Speed gave much of his energy and means, was a woollen manufactory, at that time one of the most extensive in America.

In 1846, Mr. Speed commenced his career as an active telegrapher, and to this day his mind and energies are directed in the same pursuits. In 1847, he removed to Detroit, Michigan, as a more central place in the network of telegraph lines with which he was connected.

In domestic affairs Mr. Speed has been fortunate and singularly blessed. He married an estimable daughter of Mr. Charles Morrell, in 1829, and at the present time his fireside is ornamented with the bright smiles of eight intelligent and affectionate children.

Though not an ambitious man, Mr. Speed has made his mark as a politician. In 1832 he was elected to the Legislature of New-York, from the county of Tompkins, and in 1840 he was the presidential elector of the then great Whig party, whose signal triumph in the national government has distinguished the time as an era.

In military affairs Mr. Speed has always taken an active part, having a view to the perfection of the militia system of the country; and he has

passed through many of the official positions, holding a commission from De Witt Clinton.

The purposes of this work do not allow of an extended notice of the many distinguished services rendered by Col. Speed in the advancement of the Arts and Sciences. I will, therefore, more particularly notice his connection with the telegraph, in the service of which he has been recognized as one of the most distinguished.

From 1832 to 1846, Col. Speed made many experiments, having in view the perfection of telegraphing. He was aided by Mr. Charles J. Johnson, of Oswego. Their attention at first was directed to the visual system, and they succeeded in making some very valuable improvements, greatly facilitating the transmission of intelligence by the semaphore. In 1837, they sent their improvements to the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, and in return they received a highly complimentary letter, fully appreciating the invaluable services they had rendered the imperial government.

These gentlemen devised means of communicating intelligence by electricity, but as they did not press their inventions and discoveries to an early fruition, other systems were introduced and became generally accepted—the most distinguished of which was the apparatus invented by Prof. Morse.

In 1846, Col. Speed became associated with Mr. Ezra Cornell, of Ithaca, New-York, in the extension of the Morse telegraph lines, in the northeast and northwest. These gentlemen united their energies and talents in the perfection of the various apparatuses of the system; and to them, perhaps, more than any other two telegraphers, we are indebted for the successful operating of the lines. They invented innumerable simple and useful contrivances, effecting rapidity and convenience in the manipulation of the telegraph.

The united energies of these gentlemen and their conjunctive associates, Messrs. J. H. Wade, S. W. Hotchkiss, Tower Jackson, and others, in a short time erected and successfully operated some five thousand miles of lines, traversing New-York, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

At the present time Col. Speed is associated with Mr. Henry O'Reilly in the extension of the telegraph westward of the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean, traversing the widespread plains of the far West, and the meandering passes of the Rocky Mountains. He is also connected with Mr. Tal. P. Shaffner in the consummation of the telegraph between the eastern and western hemispheres, via Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroe Isles.

Col. Speed continues in the enjoyment of full vigor, good health, and energies as active as the youth of twenty. Through his co-operation the world may confidently expect to see the Atlantic and Pacific oceans united by the lightning cord, and the continents connected by the fiery chain beneath the bosom of the ocean.





*J. H. Smith*  
SIGNATURE OF MAN.

Engraved by J. H. Smith. Published by J. H. Smith.



## JEPHTHA H. WADE,

of Ohio.

MR. WADE was born August 11th, 1811, in Seneca county, New-York. At an early day of his life, after having a very fair education, Mr. Wade commenced his career as a mechanic, and his ingenious mind gave many proofs of more than ordinary powers. His perceptive faculties were not only active, penetrating the whole of a subject, but he had a singular power of discriminating between the relative forces of things. These early characteristics gave unmistakable evidences of the power of his mind and his future career in life.

From 1835 to 1846 Mr. Wade assiduously devoted himself to the study of portrait and miniature painting, in which he gained considerable celebrity. I have said he was engaged in the *study* of the art, because the term seems to comport with Mr. Wade's views, as he considered the perfection of the art unattainable, save by Him who gives brilliancy to the sun, and circles the heavens with the rainbow tints.

Mr. Wade entertained the highest appreciation of the beautiful art of painting, but he found it necessary to change his pursuit to one of more activity. In 1846, he abandoned the alluring art, and entered the profession of telegraphing. In this new vocation he had an opportunity of giving his physical energies an activity commensurate with the powers of his mind. He seemed to be singularly fitted for the telegraphic enterprise, and in a short time he distinguished himself as one of the most successful administrators engaged in telegraphic affairs.

Mr. Wade was in telegraphic connection with Col. John J. Speed, Jr., and Mr. Ezra Cornell's lines, and he aided materially those gentlemen in the extension of a large range of telegraphs in the Northwest, extending over New-York, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Mr. Wade was very successful in getting subscriptions for stock, as every one who knew him had unlimited confidence in his opinions. He constructed the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati line, and the Cincinnati and St. Louis line, and also several branch lines, occupying duplicate routes, for the benefit of his main lines.

In 1854 Messrs. Wade and Speed consolidated their lines with the Western Union Telegraph Company, then operating the House apparatus. By this important union of lines, the great Northwest was brought into a more immediate connection with the city of New-York, a consummation, for many years previous, "devoutly wished."

The new organization secured the invaluable services of Mr. Wade as a general agent, intrusting to his superior skill and negotiating tact, the consolidating other lines into the Western Union Company. The end desired has been accomplished to the full and complete satisfaction of all parties interested, and now the consolidated company has within its jurisdiction the vast range of lines running from the east and northeast to the west and northwest.

Though the field of Mr. Wade's negotiations was not enrobed with the splendor of the careers of Talleyrand, Metternich, or Nesselrode, yet I presume no one will deny but what the diplomatic skill necessary to be

exercised in his pathway was as intricate as any duty ever discharged by those stars of European political diplomacy.

I have enjoyed the acquaintance of Mr. Wade for many years, and the utterance of these truths is but just, and I confidently believe they are in full consonance with the universal opinion entertained of him by others wherever he is known.

Mr. Wade has filled the various positions of the practical telegrapher, and he failed not to comprehend at an early day a thorough knowledge of the whole science and art.

As a result, springing from his untiring energies, and the correct administration of his affairs, he is blessed with this world's goods enough to comfort the remainder of his days and those of his estimable family.

In 1853, I wrote of Mr. Wade as in the annexed paragraph, and in the sentiments and opinions then expressed I now concur, and reiterate with increased confidence in their entire correctness :

“ By his indomitable energy, and punctuality in all his engagements, he has succeeded in securing for himself an ample fortune, and his reputation as a successful and energetic telegraph superintendent, is permanently established. The companies over whose affairs he has been called to preside, have been eminently fortunate in obtaining his services. He manages their interests with wonderful industry and skill, and has secured for them a reputation and prosperity second to none in the country.

He is a capital business man—ready, active, and vigilant—shrewd and penetrating, but honorable, fair, and conciliatory. He is liberal in his arrangements, and commands confidence by punctuality, and a generous disposition to divide the field of labor with others. Possessed of that rare quality known as *tact*, he seldom errs in his arrangements, which are, for the most part, eminently fortunate. As a financier, he is prudent, skilful, and punctilious. The fine points in his character endear him to his friends, and his courtesy and affability have rendered him most acceptable to his agents, by whom he is universally respected, and held in high esteem ; and he has rendered himself peculiarly agreeable to the managers of other lines, whose personal regard and fullest confidence he has won, and which materially contributes to his signal success.”





Engraved by A. Kneller

*S. S. Saddle*

*of the County of ...*

*...*

*...*

## LEVI LINCOLN SADLER,

of Massachusetts,

LATE Secretary and Treasurer of the New-York and New-England Union Telegraph Company, is the subject of this brief memoir.

Mr. Sadler was one of the remarkable men of his age, and most peculiarly fitted for the speciality of telegraphing, in which he had been engaged for some years prior to his death.

I cannot more truly present the character of Mr. Sadler than as recorded in the journal of proceedings of the telegraph company above mentioned, viz. :

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the New-York and New-England Union Telegraph Company, holden at New-York city on the 17th of November, 1857, the following merited tribute to the memory of the late L. L. Sadler, an associate Director, and Treasurer and Secretary of the Company from its origin, was unanimously adopted :

*Whereas*, it hath pleased Almighty God to remove by death from our midst our associate Director, Treasurer and Secretary, the late L. L. Sadler, since the last monthly meeting of this Board; and it is befitting that at this first succeeding meeting we should express our sense of the exceedingly great loss which has befallen the interests and business of this Company, and ourselves, his associates in office, by this sudden dispensation, therefore,

*Resolved*, That to profound respect for his memory, we bear cheerful recollections of his uniform urbanity and exemplary worth, as a man, and of his scrupulous integrity, carefulness, and promptitude, as an officer; faithfully and perseveringly discharging all his varied duties with ability and fidelity, and maintaining a character for manly uprightness in all his relations, and toward all men.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely lament his death, and mingle our sympathies with those of his bereaved widow and immediate relatives, in appreciation of their irreparable calamity in this event.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be, and is hereby directed, to continue the monthly salary to the widow of the deceased, which would have been payable to him, for the remainder of the official year for which he was elected Treasurer and Secretary, terminating on the thirtieth day of June next.

On motion of Mr. Lefferts—

*Resolved*, That as a further testimonial of the great regard we entertain for the memory of the worth and exemplary character of the deceased, the President and Mr. Smith be constituted a committee to prepare an appropriate memoir of his life, and that the same be extended upon the records of the Directors.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the Directors, and that the President be requested to communicate a copy of the same to Mrs. L. L. Sadler, the widow of the deceased.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held in the city of New York, March 20th, 1858, the following proceedings transpired :

Pursuant to the vote of the Directors, November 17, 1857, the Committee report and place upon record, in behalf of the Company, the following brief memoir of the late L. L. SADLER :

The remains of Rev. LEVI LINCOLN SADLER, who died somewhat suddenly (though for years an invalid), in Brooklyn, N. Y., at the residence

of his brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Munroe, on the 29th of October, 1857, were borne to the city of Portland, Maine, on the Monday following, and entombed, under the charge of two sorrowing brothers, and his brother-in-law (Hon. F. O. J. Smith), and Charles F. Wood, Esq., Superintendent of the "New-York and New-England Telegraph Company," of which Company the deceased was a Director, Secretary and Treasurer, from its origin. The funeral ceremonies were held in Brooklyn by the Rev. E. H. Chapin, of New-York city, and Rev. B. Peters, of Brooklyn, in a manner solemn, instructive, and every way consistent with the known convictions and quiet judgment of the lamented deceased.

Of the life, and performance of its duties throughout, of Mr. Sadler, others, to whose service in the ministry, as well as in secular affairs, he was devoted, will hereafter speak more becomingly than we can here; but a brief allusion to his characteristics is an appropriate tribute to his past relations to this company. He resided several years in the city of Portland, Maine, among numerous devoted friends. There he was also married in 1841, and there, also, he ably discharged the duties of pastor of the First Universalist Society, until broken health imperatively demanded that he should somewhat change his pursuits. None knew him but to respect him to the fullest extent of their knowledge of him, whether in secular, social, or temporal relations.

Previous, and down to the time of his call as pastor in Portland, Maine, he resided, and for some period of time he officiated as pastor of the Universalist Society, in New Bedford, Mass., where still survive many, very many, to whom his memory will be forever endeared by associations of profound mutual esteem and attachment.

From his early manhood he was deeply imbued with a mastering love and reverence for the teachings of the Gospel, and became a sincere convert to the doctrines and faith to which he clung throughout after life, and in which he felt ever prepared to encounter the demands of death.

Among his first labors, we believe, when scarcely having reached manhood, was a mission of his own conception, that occupied many months in execution, through western New-York and Ohio, in the formation of numerous local religious societies of the Universalist denomination, looking forward in them to what has since been, his judgment joyously realized in various localities, the growth of vigorous, and useful, and permanent associations of worshipping communities, where tall church-spires attest the footprints of this early pioneer of the doctrine of man's ultimate redemption from a condition of sinfulness and sin.

We allude to these sectarian labors of Mr. Sadler only in illustration of his life and character, and not as the sponsors of his religious views, nor to sit in judgment upon their merits or demerits as a creed. It is our high gratification to believe that in him, however, they never suffered detriment by affectation or abuse in any way. He was always tolerant, however decided for or against the views of others.

He was engaged for some time as pastor of the Universalist Society in Columbus, Ohio, which we believe was one he had organized; and at another period, before ministering as a permanent pastor in Portland, he was engaged in like duties in Bangor, Maine. But we leave to others, more conversant with his labors in the ministry, to particularize them. In the funeral service, Rev. Mr. Chapin alluded to them as within his own knowledge, in the most feeling and eloquent terms of eulogy and pleasurable remembrance. Suffice it to say, everywhere he resided he commanded the respect, and love, and confidence of his acquaintances in all his associations, both social and religious, for his ardent and sincere convictions, for his scrupulous advocacy of the right, under all circumstances, and in respect to every being and every creature, of every condition, under God's providence.

It was not choice, but seemingly necessity, imposed by the state of his health under an increasing bronchial affection, caused by his public speaking, and which laid the foundation of his final illness, that induced him to leave the cares and service of the ministry, for the most part, and engage in secular affairs. It was some eleven years since that he was thus circumstanced. Attracted by the beautiful mysteries of the Electric Telegraph, as a thing of curious art, as well as of unmeasured utility in the business world, he consented, upon the ardent solicitations of his brother-in-law, Mr. Smith, to become an extensive supervisor of its operations, in which he has ever since continued, winning alike the respect and confidence of the numerous business communities with whom he was brought into intercourse, and imparting a systematic responsibility and character to the operations of the lines which have been under his charge, unsurpassed, if equalled, by the services of any other individual engaged in the business.

Few men can ever know the embarrassments and perplexities which attended the inauguration and establishment of this new agency in the commercial and social world. It was like grasping and holding *the nerves* of a sensitive, jealous, untrained world of men, where the individual *most seen*, and not the yet untutored, inscrutable agency, and yet imperfectly adjusted physical means, would alone be recognized as the responsible author of every disappointment, as, perhaps, the contriver of every failure. The acting man it was, therefore, who became the focal point of every distrust—the accused exponent of every mystery connected with the great new agent. It is only those who have been, like Mr. Sadler, centrally circumstanced in the introduction and adaptation of this wonderful agent to the public comprehension and use, that can appreciate this fact in all its truthfulness and force. Nothing short of a well proved personal integrity, a calm endurance of angry suspicion without untimely resentment—a perseverance, with a will to repair whatever might have resulted from a mistake, accident, or ignorance, and a promptitude in reproving whatever might be of wrong in the operation of telegraphing in its earliest stages of use, coupled with clear knowledge of electric agencies and of mechanism, could succeed in winning to a telegraphic administration general confidence as a great business agent, and maintaining for it the good will of every class of the community. In all these needful capabilities Mr. Sadler proved himself a master, and a master so practically and so pre-eminently successful, that, at the close of his labors, to the widest extent of those interests that were intrusted to him, every associate of his, in whatever position, was ready to bear witness that no living man can make good to them his place and his usefulness. The records of his company, a company that now ranks among the fixed institutions of the country, bear an undying testimony to his fidelity, and industry, and grasp of practical superiority, that will not only forever speak to his honor, but remain an instructive example to others. His administration of the financial department of his company was exactly suited to the going down of every day's sun, and is a model record for others to imitate. But a few days only previous to his decease he attended the monthly meeting of his associate Directors in New-York, and enjoyed the high satisfaction, as the crowning performance of his official life's duties, of submitting to them the largest results of his financial administration that any month had wrought for his company, and although the settled gloom of pecuniary distress was still upon every other branch of industry, and upon almost every other industrial institution in the country; in view of this fact, coupled with his reports of other recent successful measures intrusted mainly to his official execution, gratefully did he remark to his friends just then, "I believe my star is at last in the ascendant for my friends."

Yet a better, a less troubled star of his glory, was then about to rise upon his vision, and bear him calmly, peacefully, resignedly, and confidently upward, even to the bosom of his everlasting God.

To his friends, and especially to those who knew him best, there is left this undying consolation, that never did man pass, in a useful sphere of activity, through the duties, obligations, and trials of life with more uniform composure and evenness of judgment and temper, with less of the taints of the pollutions of the world upon him, than did our departed and lamented friend. As a son, as a brother, as a husband especially, and as a friend of his kind everywhere and however circumstanced, his life was unexceptionable, and in every phase exemplary. His own home was the abode of his soul's pleasures and yearnings, and, without ostentation, it was the fulness of human happiness to every inmate. Although without children to weep his absence, the tears of a devoted wife, and the hallowed thoughts of endeared friends, will forever linger there, until the changes of earth and time shall order all hence and away.

Mr. Sadler was a native of Grafton, Mass., and was aged a few months more than fifty-one years. He has a brother, Judge E. B. Sadler, residing at Sandusky, Ohio; another, Mr. C. C. Sadler, a merchant in Philadelphia; another, Mr. Wm. W. Sadler, in New-Haven; another, Mr. Manlius Sadler, in Brookport, N. Y.; and one other, whose name we have not, residing in Buffalo, N. Y.—to each and all of whom the deceased was greatly endeared. Besides his labors to which we have alluded, he was, at times, a contributor to the editorial department of two or more religious periodicals, and published one or more treatises upon his religious doctrines. But in nothing of his productions is there any mark of acerbity or other feeling inconsistent with a well-disciplined benevolence and forbearance toward all men.

And it was the will of his Master in heaven, that was ever present to his mind as the ruling guide of all his actions. Well may the loss of such a man be deplored within and without the circle of his labors.

As a mark of regard for his memory, the officers of each of the six connecting railroads between New-York city and the city of Portland accorded to his remains and their attendants the freedom of their roads on their sorrowful mission to and from his tomb.







ENGRAVED BY A. H. MASON

*Anson Stager*

JOHN W. WALKER

1856

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

## ANSON STAGER,

Of Ohio.

THE subject of this memoir was born in Ontario county, State of New-York, April 20th, 1825, and for the first twenty years of his life he resided in the city of Rochester.

At an early age, and during the progress of his education, Mr. Stager entered the printing establishment of Mr. Henry O'Reilly, for the purpose of learning the "art preservative of all arts." His expertness soon became observable by his employers, and to him was intrusted service in the business, which, in most instances, required greater experience. His singular and perfect discriminating powers, gave him the advantage of readily determining matters, requiring the exercise of that peculiar talent necessary for success in the art of printing.

In 1846, Mr. Stager abandoned the vocation of printing, and adopted the telegraphic profession as an affair for life. He gave this new field of labor his whole mind, and he was not long in attaining an eminent position as a practical telegrapher, and to this day he holds the recognized honor of being the most expert manipulator in the service. He has been ambitious in the perfection of his profession, and his labors have been crowned with the most signal success. His career is worthy of imitation. He bid adieu to the art of printing, though with some reluctance, and followed in the service of his old employer, Mr. O'Reilly, in the then new and novel enterprise of telegraphing.

Mr. Stager entered into the new service with energy, and having become "quite an expert," as he was then called, he was placed on the first link of the O'Reilly lines, between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, in October, 1846. On the extension of the line west of the Alleghany mountains, he was transferred to the Pittsburg station. When the lines were extended west of Pittsburg, their manipulation at Pittsburg was placed under the care of Mr. Stager, and in their management he exhibited administrative abilities fully equal to the important and responsible position.

When the O'Reilly lines were extended to the Mississippi in the west, to the Lakes in the north, and to the Gulf of Mexico in the south, the Cincinnati station was the most commanding on those lines, requiring the first skill in manipulation and talent in administration. In the selection of the superior men for that station, Mr. Stager was among the first chosen, and at an early day thereafter he was made Chief Operator, having in charge the manipulating department of the respective lines centering in Cincinnati. No operator ever discharged the trust reposed in him more faithfully than did Mr. Stager, reflecting not only credit upon himself, but upon the enterprise.

Through the indefatigable energies and superior expertness of Mr. Stager, the modes of operating the apparatuses in the transmission and reception of despatches, both as to celerity and correctness, were perfected, so much so in reality that the Cincinnati station was then, and since, considered the model station on the American lines. He practically combined mechanical contrivances, coupling circuits together, so that the necessity of re-writing was dispensed with. This is not novel at the present moment, and its universality takes from the feat the greatness of the then recognized achievement. Those of us who commenced to toil

in this enterprise, at an early hour of the day, know well how to appreciate the consequence and merit of the success.

It was during his services in this station as chief operator, that he devised the plan of working any number of circuits, or lines, from the one voltaic organization. He was the first to accomplish the end by practical demonstration, notwithstanding others had theorized that it could be done. It was accomplished, however, by novel modes, original with Mr. Stager, essentially differing from the supposed theories advanced by others. He arranged the battery and the wires according to the laws of electrical phenomena, as manifested from time to time in the manipulation of the telegraph, observable to the operator. He connected the various lines centring at his station with the one battery, and successfully worked all of the different lines at the same time from the one battery. This was an achievement far ahead of any other progress of the age, and one entitling the inventor to more honor and reward than has fallen to his lot to realize.

During the years of 1848, '49, and '50, Mr. Stager was employed as an auxiliary in the Coast Survey Department of the United States Government. He was the telegrapher for the service, and was under the direction of the late Prof. Sears C. Walker, in "determining longitudes," "wave time of electric currents," and in testing the astronomical clocks of Profs. Mitchell and Locke. In this important service he won new laurels; and his ability was duly appreciated by the United States government.

In January, 1852, Mr. Stager was appointed superintendent of the new line of telegraph, constructed by the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. The line extended from Buffalo to Louisville, and operated the House Printing apparatus. During the same year his administration as superintendent was extended over the line from Buffalo to New-York City. These respective lines, and others east and west of Buffalo, were ultimately united, by lease, purchase, or otherwise, under the name of the Western Union Telegraph Company. This new organization has grown to be the largest and most extensive telegraph company in the world. Its lines extend over the northwestern states, and proximate fifteen thousand miles in length, and it is extending its lines with wonderful rapidity. This vast range of the telegraph has a centralized administration, under the direction of gentlemen of distinguished telegraphic ability. Each department is placed in charge of those competent for the discharge of the speciality; and in this manner it has gone on, like the rivulet that rises in the Rocky Mountains;—at its source very small, but ere it reaches the ocean it is gigantic in proportion and power, and is hailed as the "Father of waters."

The immense range of lines under the Western Union Company is supplied from one central station with all the various equipments, such as magnets, batteries, sounders, insulators, &c., &c. As general superintendent of these lines, Mr. Stager has done well for his company in the adoption of the "Supply Department," as great economy must result therefrom.

In connection with Mr. Wade, his sterling coadjutor, Mr. Stager completed a system of Railway Telegraphs which are now in successful operation throughout the northwest. He has had arranged all the necessary contrivances to effect the most good for that important public enterprise, having in view the welfare of the people and the interests of the respective companies. I have seen the various railway telegraph systems in Europe, the most prominent of which are the French, the Belgian, and the Prussian. But they are far behind the arrangements operated under the direction of Mr. Stager. No system of telegraph works with more perfection than that established on the American railways above

referred to. It is impossible to enter into an explanation of their utilitarian organization in this sketch, though nothing could give greater evidences of Mr. Stager's merits than its comprehension by the reader.

I have referred elsewhere in this work to the fact, that the operator on the American lines frequently cuts the wire on the route, and communicates with the distant station by manipulating the two ends of the wire together. This has been frequently done, but the most remarkable feats performed in the art of telegraphing have been by Mr. Stager, in the *reception* of messages by the motion of his tongue. One of these feats was, some years since, thus noticed by the press, viz :

"An engine on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad broke down last week, at nine o'clock at night, nine miles distant from a station. The conductor went on foot through the snow to get another machine. A telegraph operator on one of the cars, named Stager, hearing the cause of the detention, got out and taking down the main wire from the pole alongside the track, cut it, 'dotted' the distress of his train to the Pittsburg and Brighton stations, and putting one of the brass points to his tongue, read the answer that an engine should be immediately sent, and then talked off this pleasant lightning to his anxious and impatient fellow-passengers."

It is difficult for one not acquainted with the art of telegraphing to appreciate this remarkable feat. In 1746, Muschenbroek received the first shock from the Leyden vial, of which he said, that "he felt himself struck in his arms, shoulders, and breast, so that he lost his breath, and it was two days before he recovered from the effects of the blow and the terror," and that "he would not take a second shock for the kingdom of France." One century thereafter, the shock became intelligible, giving information from miles distant! The thought is too sublime!! Did I not know it to be true, both by observation and as a philosophical fact, I might question the truth of the record.

Mr. Stager projects his tongue so that he can see it, and then places one end of the wire above, and the other end below it. The operator three hundred miles distant, manipulates with the key of the apparatus, and the electric current when passing through the tongue from the end of one wire to that of the other, produces a convulsion which answers to the motion of the armature of the electro-magnet. These motions are intelligible to Mr. Stager, and in this manner he has received various messages at different times and under different circumstances.

Mr. Stager has never been an ambitious man for public notoriety. He has not sought office, but the office has sought him. In all his obligations with others he has performed his faith with the most complete satisfaction. He is young, and his future career cannot be else than one of usefulness and honor. At morn, noon, and eve, he can break bread with an estimable companion, and with those treasures given only by God to man. His home is decorated with ornaments purer and richer by far than the pearls gathered from the depths of the sea.

## TALIAFERRO P. SHAFFNER,

of Kentucky.

[In giving place here to the following brief biographical sketch of himself, the Editor deems it proper to say that he yields to the solicitations of friends, by one of whom it was written; he would also add that one prepared for and published some years since in *DE BOW'S REVIEW* and *HUNT'S MERCHANT'S MAGAZINE*, formed the basis of it, with such additions and emendations as seemed called for by the lapse of time since the publication referred to.]

MR. SHAFFNER was born in Smithfield, Jefferson county, Virginia, and the earlier part of his life was spent in that ancient commonwealth. At the age of thirteen he accompanied a relative to St. Charles county, Missouri, and participated in the establishment of the town of Flint-hill, in that county, and was actively engaged in all the varieties of western forest life. In the store, driving the team, at the plow, with the axe, he toiled faithfully—enduring with patient and becoming fortitude the privations and wearying cares and labors of the pioneers of the great West.

Having advanced sufficiently in his preparatory education, Mr. Shaffner, in 1840, commenced the study of the law, and in April, 1843, he was admitted to the Maryland bar. He returned to the West, and commenced the practice of law in Louisville, Kentucky, where he had previously resided some three years during his preliminary studies.

During the several years in which Mr. Shaffner was engaged in his studies, he did not devote himself exclusively to Blackstone, Coke, and Chitty. Under the especial instruction of the principal of the Alleghany Academy, he applied himself to the perfection of those attainments which he had commenced under his own guidance, and which were to invest him with those advantages which were most essential aids in the development of his energetic character.

By way of relieving the monotony of close and steadfast application, Mr. Shaffner, in time of vacation, undertook pedestrian tours to neighboring States, visiting all the institutions of learning and of interest in the States, north, south, and east. In these excursions he rendered himself familiar with the history and character, the statistics and people of every important town or city in the middle, eastern, and southern States. His topographical knowledge alone has to him been invaluable, and his impressions of the whole eastern and southern portion of this great republic are almost as thorough and perfect as if they were the result of laborious and scientific surveys. His motto seems to have been: "What is worth understanding at all, is worth understanding well;" and consequently he has not been content with less than a thorough knowledge of all he has investigated.

Early in his career as a practitioner at the bar, Mr. Shaffner employed his spare hours in writing for various magazines, annuals, &c. In 1844, he was selected to act as an editor of the leading publication of the Order of Odd-Fellows.

In 1845, he was selected to edit the official organ of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Kentucky.

In 1847, Mr. Shaffner prepared a small volume, known as the "Kentucky Register," containing statistics and much useful information for the officials of the government and others.

In 1844, Mr. Shaffner was elected Secretary of the Kentucky Historical Society, and for several years he continued to perform the duties of that important position with much credit. In the same year he was selected as Recording Secretary of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, South.

The various labors, above recited, were enterprises in which Mr. Shaffner engaged his spare hours, having in view the perfection of his education in general.

In 1844, he was in Baltimore, and witnessed the operation of the telegraph, then under the direction of Prof. Morse. From the moment of first seeing the apparatus, he commenced the study of its operation. On his return to Kentucky, he commenced his efforts for the extension of the telegraph to the West. The enterprise was new, and Mr. Shaffner's labors did not receive the appreciation they merited. So little confidence was placed in the telegraph, that when, about 1846, he sought for the passage of a bill by the Legislature of Kentucky, for the protection of the telegraph, it only passed by one vote in the affirmative, and none in the negative, in the Senate, all the other senators preferring not to vote, than to oppose the measure, so energetically pressed by Mr. Shaffner.

In the year 1846, Mr. Shaffner commenced active efforts for the extension of the telegraph to Louisville, and places south. In 1847, in association with Col. William Tanner, he commenced the construction of the first line south of the Ohio river, the first section being from Louisville to Lexington, Kentucky, and the second to Nashville, Tennessee, both of which were completed early in 1848.

In the fall of 1848, Mr. Shaffner, in association with Messrs. Thomas C. and William L. McAfee, commenced the construction of the St. Louis and New-Orleans telegraph, which was completed in 1850.

In the spring of 1850, he associated with him Mr. Isaac M. Veitch, and commenced the construction of the telegraph from St. Louis to St. Joseph, Missouri, connecting the principal river towns.

On the organization of the St. Louis and New-Orleans Company, Mr. Shaffner was elected President of the Company, and was successively re-elected until he resigned the position, a few weeks after the annual meeting in 1853.

During the same years he was an active assistant to Mr. Veitch in the administration of the St. Louis and Missouri River Company.

In the spring of 1852, he was unanimously elected Secretary of the New-Orleans and Ohio Telegraph Company, extending from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, through Louisville to New-Orleans.

Although Mr. Shaffner was thus at the same time singularly connected with three companies, extending over several thousands of miles, yet his duties to each were fully discharged to the satisfaction of the respective companies.

In the spring of 1853, he was elected Secretary of the American Telegraphic Confederation, an association formed at Washington by representation from the different companies in America. Having accepted the above position, he returned to the West, resigned the various offices he held there, and arranged his affairs for taking up his residence in the East; previous to doing which, however, and during the summer months, he submerged cables across the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee rivers. In the fall he entered upon the duties of his new position at Washington.

In regard to his labors in the West, a publication thus spoke of them in 1853:

"From having been one of the most prudent and energetic men of the age, Mr. Shaffner has not toiled in vain. In addition to the accumulation of other interests, he has become proprietor of the largest amount of telegraph capital in the Western and Southern country, and, except the patentees, doubtless the largest in the United States. This immense interest demands and receives his constant attention; and his whole time and undivided labors are devoted to the exclusive duties he owes as sole conductor of the management of the one line, and the co-operative services he most assiduously renders as secretary of the united lines. In both stations he employs that prudent economy and untiring energy which have distinguished him in every station he has occupied; and the beneficial results arising therefrom are visible in the improved condition of the resources and revenues of the lines, as far as he controls.

"It was remarked that Mr. Shaffner devoted his whole time to the fulfillment of his official undertakings. Perhaps such another instance of complete absorption in the performance of what he considers his duties, is not to be found. Without hesitation, he enters upon and prosecutes the most arduous and difficult, not to say hazardous, tasks that could be imposed. In the office, he is unremitting, and consequently performs an enormous amount of labor. But when he deems it expedient, he is out upon the line, partaking of the toil and exposure, and braving the severest weather and the most perilous situations. His efforts to keep up the telegraphic connections between New-Orleans and St. Louis, with uninterrupted regularity, while the Ohio river was filled with floating ice, crashing and grating against the shores—constantly crossing, while steam navigation was entirely suspended—when the common ferries plied no more, and laborers and men, used to exposure, refused to encounter the hazardous enterprise, even for the certainty of rich reward—commanded the admiration of every beholder. He was not to be deterred by danger or severity of weather. Succeeding in securing the services of two of his men, he daily crossed the Ohio, battling with the floating ice, that momentarily threatened to crush his frail bark, and consign him and his companions to a watery grave. But Providence smiled upon these unparalleled efforts to preserve a telegraphic connection; and he had the satisfaction of knowing, while his general health was unimpaired, that he had performed a great service, from which one of feeble temperament and less determination would have shrunk as a thing impracticable.

"The acquaintance and connection of Mr. Shaffner with the Hon. Amos Kendall and Professor Morse, have been intimate and most agreeable to all parties. He has on all occasions, and with the earnest eloquence which distinguishes his conversations or public addresses, defended the rights of the latter to the profitable results of his great invention; and to his ability and persevering energy, much of the favorable feeling which exists throughout the community toward that desideratum is decidedly due.

"As a financier, Mr. Shaffner has exhibited a prudence and foresight which have commanded the confidence of the many large banks and banking houses with which he has had business transactions. The revenues of the lines with which he is connected as president or secretary, amount to about three hundred thousand dollars per annum, and this large sum comes under his special supervision in its disbursement. That it has been scanned with unwavering fidelity and consummate ability none can for a moment doubt, who witness the unflinching and active zeal with which he pursues the difficult and intricate labors by which he is surrounded, and which would puzzle and confuse, if not overwhelm



any one less methodical and less indefatigable. The system is to him a science, and he comprehends it in general and particular. There is nothing beyond the grasp of his quick perception, and no *minutiae* too small to escape his penetration.

"Mr. Shaffner is a young man, notwithstanding his active life has devolved the performance of more labors upon him, and caused him to encounter more vicissitudes, than ordinarily fall to the lot of twice his number of years. Strictly temperate in his habits, undeviating in the performance of the duties which the laws of God and man inculcate, blest with all that can make home happy, he can be pointed to as an example worthy of all imitation."

Early in 1854, Mr. Shaffner visited New-York city, to aid in the re-organization of the Newfoundland Telegraph Company, the secretaryship of which had been offered to him with a salary of twelve thousand dollars per annum. The new company was organized, having as proprietors some ten members, of whom Mr. Shaffner was one. Not satisfied with the administration of the company's affairs, he withdrew from the company forever.

Mr. Shaffner had entered into the Newfoundland enterprise with a view of carrying out his ocean telegraph, which he had commenced the year before. About the same time the phenomenon of the retardation of the electric force, transmitted through sub-aqueous conductors, was announced by Prof. Faraday. This new development in philosophy caused Mr. Shaffner to abandon his idea of a telegraph from Newfoundland to Ireland, and he commenced his labors for a telegraph to run from Labrador to Greenland, to Iceland, to the Faroe Isles, and, with branches, to Norway and Scotland. To this end he visited Europe in 1854, and obtained a Royal Concession from His Majesty the King of Denmark for the exclusive right to run the telegraph over the route above mentioned for the term of one hundred years. He also obtained concessions from Norway and Sweden for the same purposes.

While Mr. Shaffner was at Copenhagen, His Excellency Baron Stenberg, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for the government of Russia, notified him that His Majesty, the Emperor Nicholas, desired him to visit St. Petersburg, and that all the necessary facilities had been commanded. In accordance with the august behest, Mr. Shaffner visited St. Petersburg, and was received by the imperial government with distinguished honor, and after the fulfilment of his mission to Russia, he received from the Emperor evidences of appreciation for the services he had rendered.

Mr. Shaffner returned to America in the latter part of 1854, and continued his efforts for the perfection of his Atlantic Ocean Telegraph. In the spring of 1855, he was again requested to visit St. Petersburg, by order of His Majesty the Emperor Nicholas, for the purpose of aiding the imperial government to construct a railway to the Crimea. His visit to St. Petersburg in 1855 was crowned with success in some important negotiations, though the termination of the war, soon thereafter, interfered with the consummation of the railway and telegraphic enterprises in which Mr. Shaffner was engaged for the benefit of the imperial government.

During Mr. Shaffner's visits to Europe, in 1854-57, he was honored with the attention of the distinguished telegraphers of that continent. His Majesty, Louis Napoleon, Emperor of the French, accorded to him full honor, and directed the various officials to expose to Mr. Shaffner's inspection and information whatever he desired in the telegraphic service.

The officials in Belgium, Holland, Hanover, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden,

Russia, Austria, and the German States generally, and other parts of the continent, accorded to him due honor as one of the most expert telegraphers of the age.

Mr. Shaffner published his *Telegraph Tariff Scale* in 1853, and in 1854-'55 his *Telegraph Companion*, 2 vols. octavo. These works were the most extensive ever published concerning the telegraph in America.

When Mr. Shaffner entered the telegraphic service as a profession, in 1847, he abandoned the general practice of law, and his labors in that science, since then, have been confined to such cases as naturally spring from the new engagement. Having been admitted to the bars of the inferior and superior courts of the several States, Mr. Shaffner was duly admitted and qualified as a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1854, on motion of Mr. Crittenden, the honorable Senator from Kentucky. His knowledge of legal jurisprudence and its history, gave him great advantage in his negotiations at the different courts of Europe.

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