

# The OPERATOR

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## THE RAILROAD CONDUCTOR.

BY H. H. JOHNSON.

Straight of form, of knightly bearing,  
Quick of speech and stern of mien;  
Darkly dyed and drooping moustache  
On his upper lip is seen.  
Smiles he has for handsome ladies,  
Frowns for females old and gray;  
Speaks politely to the former,  
To the latter, naught to say.

What a search there is for tickets  
When the car he's passing through!  
How the brass buttons glitter  
On his coat and cap of blue!  
How some bashful maiden blushes  
When he asks her for her fare,  
While she tries to look so calmly—  
Just as if she didn't care.

Then some dismal, chronic grumbler  
Grows because the train is late;  
Wishes every cursed railroad  
Could be doomed to direct fate!  
Then some fidgety old woman  
Quickly grasps him by the arm,  
Asks if, at the speed they're running,  
Don't he think they'll come to harm?

Quick his arm he disengages,  
Passes briskly to the next,  
While the scowl upon his features  
Plainly shows that he is vexed.  
Then a timid, nervous person  
Seated on the news-boy's trunk  
Asks, in trembling tones sepulchral,  
If the engineer is drunk!

Do you think his lot is easy?  
Do you wonder that a scowl  
Sometimes overshades his features,  
And he answers with a growl?  
Do you know, those very questions  
Which you ask so thoughtlessly  
He has daily, hourly answered?  
Can he do it pleasantly?

Treat him like a human being.  
Think, if you were in his place,  
Could you answer all the nonsense  
With a pleasant, smiling face?  
He is nothing more than man.  
He is nothing less than man.  
For your comfort and your safety,  
He will do the best he can.

HYDESVILLE, N. Y., 1882.

was on a railroad line, and he filled several craft. His first venture as an operator offices on the Central Ohio and Pan Handle roads. Subsequently he went to Pittsburgh,

manager of the American Union in that city. After the consolidation Dr. Orr returned to Philadelphia, and opened a dental office there. He is now on the night force of the Associated



DR. HARRY W. ORR.

## OUR NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

X.

DR. HARRY W. ORR.

The subject of this sketch, Dr. Orr, is a gentleman of national reputation, and without a superior as a telegrapher.

Dr. Orr was born in Wheeling, W. Va., and is now 29 years of age. Like most of the best operators in the profession to-day, Mr. Orr commenced his career by carrying messages in Wheeling, and while following this occupation, he "picked up" his handi-

joined the splendid night force in that city, and for three years he worked the New York Western Press-wire to its full capacity. In the Autumn of 1877 Mr. Orr removed to Philadelphia, to study dentistry. Working there at night and studying at the college during the day-time, he spent two years until he graduated with honor as a Doctor. He then returned to his adopted home (Pittsburgh), and became night

Press in that city and attending to his practice in the day-time, proposing to follow this course until he is sufficiently established to justify himself in leaving the business.

Dr. Orr is, moreover, a cultured gentleman, whom it is a pleasure to know, and with his generous nature, admitted ability and indomitable courage and will-power, he has a brilliant future before him.

## CINCINNATI AND PITTSBURGH.

The Operators of America in Convention—  
A Voice that Cannot be Disregarded.

## AT CINCINNATI.

The national convention of telegraphers, announced to meet at Cincinnati, March 15, was called to order in Odd Fellows' Hall, in that city, at ten o'clock on the 15th.

The hall was tastefully arranged for the occasion, the walls on either side of the rostrum being graced with floral designs, one of which was a large wreath of evergreens, within which were suspended in red immortelles the figures "73." To the left of this was a large placard bearing the word "Welcome," also in red immortelles, and surrounded by evergreens.

Delegates were present from Cleveland, Buffalo, Toledo, Detroit, St. Louis, Chattanooga, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Louisville, Hillsboro', Denver, Cheyenne, Memphis, Nashville and Dayton.

Mr. George W. Boss, of Cincinnati, was appointed temporary chairman, and Mr. M. J. Burke, of Louisville, temporary secretary. The chairman, in a short and well-timed address, welcomed the delegations to Cincinnati, after which Committees on Credentials, on Permanent Organizations, and on Rules were appointed, and the meeting adjourned until 2 o'clock.

Upon reassembling, at 2 o'clock that afternoon, the Committee on Permanent Organization reported in favor of Mr. A. L. Baker, the Past-Counselor of the Chicago Brotherhood, as chairman, and Mr. George W. Boss, the Counselor of the Cincinnati Brotherhood, as secretary. The report was immediately adopted, and the permanent presiding officers were escorted to their respective seats, a unanimous vote of thanks being tendered to the retiring temporary officers.

Upon taking the chair, the permanent chairman, Mr. Baker, made the following remarks:

"GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: I appreciate and thank you profoundly for the honor you have bestowed upon me in elevating me to this position. Owing to unusual contending forces that I am informed are liable to be developed during the course of our proceedings, I fear that I may not be able to discharge satisfactorily the duties involved therein. However, I shall endeavor to do so. I need not tell you that I share the feelings of probably most of you of the great responsibility regarding the possible results that may be summed up at our adjournment. I feel that we hold the hopes and fears, not only of our immediate constituencies, but of the more than 10,000 telegraphers of America, whom I regret are not more fully represented here to-day. We are here, few in numbers, and that our work need not necessarily appear unprofitable of great good and great benefit to those who are absent and unrepresented, we should bear in mind continually that our responsibilities are tenfold increased; in other words, that we may feel reasonably assured that the will of this convention shall recommend itself to the sound judgments and worthy aspirations of the fraternity as a whole; we should feel that we are admonished by them at every step to act thoughtfully and temperately in arriving at all important conclusions; and that such conclusions may bear the stamp of such well tempered thought, I would suggest that if necessary we spend several days or even a week in full and earnest debate upon all points that may directly or remotely affect the ground-work of a great and glorious organization. In such a way our prospective Constitutional Committee will become fully charged with its duties, and every member present may return to his home fully and thoroughly informed and instructed. Let us hope that whatsoever questions may be brought forward for discussion, no matter how earnestly and heatedly advocated or condemned, all personal ill-feeling shall disappear with adjournment. I will close my remarks

with an appeal to an all-ruling Providence wisely and justly to guide our deliberations to a successful and worthy ending."

The remainder of the session was devoted to routine business.

## THE SECOND DAY.

The convention reassembled at Odd Fellows' Hall on Thursday, the 16th, and immediately resolved itself into a committee of the whole, with Mr. W. C. Long in the chair. After the transaction of some unimportant business, the permanent chairman, Mr. Baker, presided, and the Convention went into executive session. The greater part of the day was then consumed in a general interchange of views as to the most practical method for the formation of a National Association. After a majority of the delegates had submitted their especial plans, a committee was appointed on Constitution, which at once went to work. It was also decided to hold night sessions, and an adjournment taken until evening.

The evening session was held in one of the parlors of the Gibson House. The chief matter of interest was a thorough and able discussion of questions pertaining to the welfare of the telegraphic fraternity. The subject of telegraphic colleges was one of the topics, and it was, as may well be imagined, vigorously handled.

## THE THIRD DAY.

On Friday, the 17th, the convention was early in session, and at once took up the constitution *seriatim*, as reported by the committee (R. W. Ledwith, chairman), who were in continuous session in an adjoining committee room. The entire time up to 11 o'clock P. M. (when they adjourned till 9 A. M. next day), was devoted to the consideration of the constitution.

## THE FOURTH DAY.

The morning session of the fourth day was taken up by a reconsideration of the constitution, as reported back from the committee.

## THE GUESTS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At 12:30 P. M. the convention took a recess to give the delegates an opportunity to accept the courtesies extended them by the Chamber of Commerce.

## A PLEASANT DRIVE AND A GOOD TIME.

Then, after dinner, all being in the best of humor, the delegates accepted the hospitalities of their Cincinnati brethren in a drive through the suburbs and to points of interest. The ride extended about ten miles in a half circle of the city and through some of the most elegant and picturesque suburbs on the continent, every few minutes bringing to view a new surprise in the way of beautifully wooded landscapes, lofty hills, cosy valleys and miniature lakes and rivers. The delegates, after their wearying day and night work in convention, breathed the mild air and looked upon the freshly green and budding evidences of Spring and were filled with a restful and enthusiastic delight which they may not again experience for many tiresome days to come.

## AT WORK AGAIN.

After returning to the city, and tea over, all went to work again with an earnest will to finish the constitution and elect the officers of the Grand Council. At exactly one o'clock that (Saturday) night the task had been accomplished, and an adjournment *sine die* was cheerfully effected.

## A SKETCH OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The following is a synopsis of the Constitution adopted in convention, and which is now submitted by the delegates to the free and independent of the fraternity everywhere for their ratification, by acceptance, in the hope that, whatever its defects, they are not so serious that they may not be soon remedied, and that its merits may work a lasting protection and benefit to all. The preamble is in course of preparation, and after being authoritatively passed upon will duly appear.

The first article provides that the newly formed association shall be known as the Brotherhood of Telegraphers; that it shall be composed of districts and divisions, designated as "Councils;" that all power shall be vested in the Councils, based upon the will of a two-thirds majority of such councils; and that, for the purpose of gen-

eral communication as to the business, growth and essential interests of the Brotherhood, one Grand Council shall be constituted.

Article second defines the duties of the various officers of the Grand Council, who are to be selected geographically from the local councils, and who, with the exception of the Grand Secretary (who will receive \$25 per month), are to serve without pay.

It is further provided that the Grand Council may, when so instructed by a majority of the Brotherhood, employ one or more persons for canvassing, secret and any other work, decided to be essential, such person or persons to be paid a salary at the rate of eighty dollars per month. His expenses while so engaged must be itemized and presented to the Grand Council for approval and payment or amendment.

The districts of this Brotherhood shall be five in number, and shall be composed of one or more States, Territories or Provinces. The first district shall comprise the States of New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia and the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. The second district shall comprise the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Indiana. The third district shall comprise the States of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, Dakota Territory and the Province of Manitoba. The fourth district shall comprise the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Kansas and Missouri, and the Indian Territory. The fifth district shall comprise the States of California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Oregon; Washington, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona Territories, and British Columbia.

Any person over the age of 14 years, male or female, who previously or hereafter may be employed in any branch of telegraphic service, shall be eligible to membership in the Brotherhood.

The benevolent feature of the organization is defined as follows:

Every local council shall formulate and execute a minute plan of benevolence for themselves, and that upon the proper certification of a local council to the executive officers of the Brotherhood, that if any member in good standing is in absolute distress, or that by death his family is suffering, such executive officers may authorize an assessment of 25 cents from all members through the local officers; provided he has been a member for a period of six months.

The protective portion of this constitution provides that eight hours shall be considered a day's work and seven hours a night's work; that all employes in any telegraph office shall be placed on the regular pay-roll; that all "spit tricks" be discountenanced, unless by mutual agreement of employer and employe; that as many week days as are contained in a month shall constitute a month's work; that all extra work shall be paid for by the hour, at a rate to be agreed upon by the local councils and their employers; that all first-class work shall command first-class pay and that all gradations shall be based on ability, the question of ability to be determined by the local councils and their employers.

In regard to peremptory discharge, it is demanded that inasmuch as ten days notice is exacted in cases of resignations, a similar time must apply to cases of dismissal, unless for cause. Among such causes are frequent absence from duty because of strong drink. Such frequency of absence to be certified to in writing by any duly appointed official of any company for the information and guidance of the Brotherhood.

The important question of reduction of salary is dealt with in sweeping style, and if the fight on these points be well sustained, "sliding scales" will be no more. It is asserted that when a reduction of salaries is contemplated by the executive powers of any telegraph company the Brotherhood expects due notice of the same, and also a statement of the causes relating thereto. The executive officers of the Brotherhood shall then convene at some place named by the grand counselor and submit the same with full information to every local

council, and such council shall immediately express and forward their conviction to the said executive officers. The action taken by a two-thirds majority of the local organizations shall govern the actions of the executive officers of the Brotherhood. In case the executive officers of any telegraph company refuse or neglect to inform the executive officers of this Brotherhood of a proposed reduction, they shall, upon being informed by any local council of this Brotherhood of such reduction, proceed as hereinafter specified.

That species of lying scoundrel known as the "College Professor" receives the compliments of the Brotherhood in section 8 of article ix., providing that all telegraphic schools that, by false representations as to procuring situations for their students at prices in excess of current rates, shall be vigorously but legally prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretences. All local councils may act independently in such prosecution, or, if necessary to success, may call for the financial assistance of this Brotherhood through the proper officers, the amount and character of such assistance to be determined by each local council.

#### THE OFFICERS ELECTED.

The officers of the Grand Council are as follows:

Grand Counselor, Mr. George W. Boss, Cincinnati.

Grand First Vice-Counselor, Mr. A. L. Baker, Chicago.

Grand Second Vice-Counselor, Mr. J. M. Hogan, Denver.

Grand Secretary, Mr. M. J. Burke, Louisville.

Grand Treasurer, Mr. George E. Carlisle, Buffalo.

#### A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE OFFICERS.

Of the merits and fitness of the gentlemen named, for their respective positions, little need be said, as they are all known.

Mr. George W. Boss, a gentleman of irreproachable character, is a fine six-foot specimen of physical strength and manhood—a man unaffected in demeanor, and one seemingly created to inspire at sight all beholders with trust and confidence. His stalwart good sense and sound judgment were apparent throughout the proceedings of the convention, and—upon his election—among those of all faiths, there was no difference of opinion as to his being the right man in the right place.

Mr. A. L. Baker, one of the original founders of the Brotherhood—the benevolent work of which has been widely felt and appreciated—has long been identified with efforts and plans looking to the permanent benefit and protection of the fraternity, and may now be counted upon to do all in his power to further their interests. He may be relied upon for good work in the future, and the new organization has done well in putting so formidable a man well in front.

Mr. J. M. Hogan stands, by his gentle bearing, his abundant indorsements, and his excellent record in the convention, as one eminently qualified to further and do honor to the cause in the far West.

Mr. M. J. Burke enjoys a national reputation, not only as being one of the most artistically skilled operators in the world, but as a gentleman whose fair graces and earnest efforts for the Truth and for Right have distinguished him, and withal, recommended him as being a happy choice for secretary of our newly formed association.

Mr. George E. Carlisle has, by his earnest working and sincere manners, won friends on every hand, and then the impression early got abroad that he was, with all his talents, a strictly honest man. The gentlemen of the convention recognized the fact, and confidingly and fortunately named him for grand treasurer.

We regret that, even with a double-sized journal, we are unable to publish the excellent constitution in full. Having now started the bantling on its journey of life, we are anxious to hear it crow, though we trust it will do that in a judicious manner, and only at some appropriate time.

#### AT PITTSBURGH.

ANOTHER CONVENTION OF TELEGRAPHERS—MORE ENTHUSIASM AND FRATERNAL FEELING.

Pursuant to the call for a national convention

of telegraphers at Pittsburgh, published regularly in THE OPERATOR for some months past, operators from all parts of the country were arriving at Pittsburgh, Pa., all day on Sunday, March 19.

#### THE FIRST DAY.

The convention was called to order by Mr. John Campbell, of Pittsburgh, at 10 A. M., on Monday, March 20th. The chairman stated that he had just received telegrams from several delegates who had been detained by a wreck, and requested that the convention should await their arrival. A motion to take a recess until 2 o'clock was therefore adopted.

The convention reassembled at 2.20 P. M. There were then present over 100 delegates, including representatives from brotherhoods in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Oil City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Toledo, Columbus and other cities. Many railroad operators as well as commercial men were among the number. No delegates were present from Canada. Over 3,000 operators were represented. Letters were received from New Orleans, San Francisco, Boston and Montreal urging the convention to form a strong, affiliated association, and pledging the operators in those sections to abide by the results. Mr. John Campbell was elected temporary chairman, and Mr. James L. Mingle, of Philadelphia, temporary secretary. After appointing committees on Credentials, Resolutions and Permanent Organization, the convention took a recess for one hour.

Upon reassembling, the Committee on Credentials reported that 93 delegates were entitled to seats and the report was adopted. The Committee on Permanent Organization reported the names of M. D. Shaw, of St. Louis, for permanent president, and John Campbell, of Pittsburgh, for secretary. The report was adopted and the gentlemen were duly elected. On motion of Mr. J. L. Mingle, of Philadelphia, it was resolved that all resolutions should be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

A resolution was then adopted instructing the Committee on Resolutions to report a Constitution and By-laws for the government of the organization, after which the convention went into committee of the whole for the discussion of matters of interest to the fraternity. A number of speeches were made, and at 7 P. M. an adjournment was had until next day.

Later in the evening the Committee on Resolutions and Organization held a lengthy meeting in one of the parlors of the Central Hotel. They remained in session until the early hours in the morning; but when they adjourned it was announced that the main features of a plan for a permanent national organization had been agreed upon. It was stated, however, that the organization, as effected, would be secret and strongly protective, and that it would affiliate with other trade and labor organizations.

#### THE SECOND DAY.

On Tuesday morning, March 21, the convention reassembled at 10 o'clock, but the Committee on Resolutions not being ready to report, the convention adjourned until 2 P. M.

Upon reassembling at two o'clock, the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report of Committee on Resolutions. These resolutions were all disputed questions and very broad and comprehensive in their views; providing for all the purposes for which the convention was called. The resolutions were read and approved one by one, and, with but few amendments, the Constitution and By-laws were adopted.

The committee also offered the following resolutions, in the nature of a declaration of principles, which were adopted after some discussion: "Whereas, An organization, to be made effective, should not antagonize the interests of the companies by whom we are employed, and that we should in every way recognize our obligations to them, while at the same time we ask and request a fair and proper recognition; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this organization shall be known as the United Telegraphers of North America.

"Resolved, That we effect this organization to meet a long and imperative desire of the telegraph fraternity for an efficient and general association which shall embrace within its ranks

all employees connected with the service in the United States and Canada above the age of eighteen years; to secure a better and more respectable standing in the business community of the country; to weed out disreputable characters; to protect the public from fraudulent "telegraph colleges" and to insure to all who are dependent upon the profession for support that protection and fraternal feeling that will tend to elevate and ennoble its members.

"Resolved, That we recognize and fully appreciate the fact that the interests of the various telegraph and railroad companies are identical with our own, and that their interests should command our consideration, and that we pledge ourselves to, in every way, endeavor to deserve and secure their co-operation in our undertaking, asking only a fair and proper recognition of our rights.

"Resolved, That we earnestly deprecate strikes, and that we have no intention or desire to interfere with the business of our employers, and that it is our earnest wish that we may in no way interfere or interrupt the harmony and good feeling now existing between the telegraph and railroad companies.

"Resolved, That we cordially invite the co-operation of the delegates to the late convention at Cincinnati, and feel assured that the action of this convention should and will in every way meet their approbation."

The following officers were then elected, to serve until the next convention shall meet, or until their successors may be appointed:

Grand Chief Operator, John Campbell, of Pittsburgh; Grand Assistant Chief Operator, J. H. Vestal, of Chicago; Grand Treasurer, John A. Hartman, of Philadelphia; Grand Secretary, Thos. N. Hughes, of Pittsburgh.

The minor officers are to be appointed by the Grand Chief Operator.

On motion it was resolved that the next convention shall be held in the city of New York, in September next, the date to be fixed by the Grand Chief Operator.

Then, after passing a number of complimentary resolutions, the convention at 6 P. M. adjourned *sine die*.

As the delegates left for their homes, all expressed themselves well satisfied with the result of their labors, and as hopeful for the future.

#### Review of the Past Two Weeks.

The rapidity with which stirring events crowd one upon the other is well illustrated by the record of the past two weeks, covering nearly a score of closely printed pages—52 columns—in this issue of THE OPERATOR.

The tendency toward a general disturbance of the labor market, apparent for some months past, has been visible also in the ranks of telegraphers, and two national conventions looking toward a protective alliance are reported in this issue. They show that the operators of the country, or at least the leading element, are nearly unanimous about the subject of wages and the general welfare, though there remains the distinction without a difference that they decide to pursue their ends by divers methods. As an exhibition of manliness, both conventions were highly edifying, since every delegate present had to procure leave of absence so as to attend, and to-day their names are published in full. Again, the vigor and manliness displayed at these conventions, and the total absence of that unseemly violence of manner and speech so common to labor agitations, have been matters for admiration. There would seem to be a guiding hand somewhere, and, wherever it is, it is the hand of a Master—the traditional hand of steel encased in the velvet glove. The operators have evidently better leaders than they ever had before, and seem as though anxious to match their adversaries in manly dignity and knightly courtesy. They have undoubtedly learned from Ruskin that—

"If a great thing can be done at all, it can be done easily; but it is that kind of ease with

which a tree blossoms after long years of gathered strength."

The junior members of the profession appear to be impressed with a more primitive style of procedure, and the youngsters of Boston have been asserting their rights in a rough-and-tumble style, but with great success. On the 17th ultimo, the messengers of the Western Union in that city struck on account of an ill-advised attempt to reduce their earnings from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per message. The boys posted notices all over town warning other boys to keep away from the Western Union office, as a juvenile strike was then in progress. The following day, Saturday, the 18th ult., the young shavers were found chasing and thumping the new boys who had been hired in their places. On the following Monday, the 20th, the strike ended by the company acceding to the demands of the boys—that is, as far as a request to be let alone can be called "demands." The whole affair was too ridiculous for anything, and should not have occurred. The brokers and merchants sympathized with the boys; Superintendent Hern, of the Mutual Union, hired all of them he could find at the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -cent rate, and it is reliably stated that for the three days of this puerile strike the receipts of the Mutual Union Company were increased thirty per centum. On this subject the Boston Herald, with fine sarcasm, said: "There, for example, is Mr. Jay Gould, who insists that he owns outright 230,000 shares of Western Union stock, and the president of the company is authority for the statement that these are now earning money at the rate of \$10 per annum each. Is it considerate on the part of the messenger boys that, for the sake of making a dollar or so more a week, they should seek to lessen Mr. Gould's chances of receiving a 10 per cent. dividend, or taking the money really invested in lines, equipments, etc., a 30 per cent. dividend? There is a rank communistic spirit in this violent desire to restrict the gains of the deserving rich which calls for emphatic reprobation."

Encouraged by the success of the Western Union boys, the messengers of the American Rapid Company "went out" on the 24th ult., but the dispute was soon arranged to the satisfaction of the boys and they returned to work.

The following paragraph in our last issue caused an immense sensation, since it was the first intimation in print of what may now occur any day: "The Mutual Union Company, since the death of President Evans, shows little aggressive spirit, and if a new president be not soon chosen, and a general waking up ordered all around, we shall not be far wrong in prophesying an early 'consolidation' with the Western Union. There are, of course, no means of anticipating such a culmination of the opposition, but from surface indications, we think it is more imminent than is generally believed, and we give it for what it is worth for the benefit of those who are contemplating a change." The Mutual Union people spared no pains in asserting what they believe still to be true—namely, that a consolidation is not possible; but they forget the old saw about going away from home for news.

Mr. George William Ballou, acting-president of the Mutual Union officially denied the rumors. He said in substance: "The control of this company's stock is held in trust, and no man and no company can get control of it without my consent. There have been no negotiations for the leasing of this company to the Western Union, or for making it in any way tributary to the Western Union. On the contrary, this company has completed arrangements for the further extension of its lines South and West and to the Pacific coast. The business of the company is good and the revenues are already sufficient to pay the interest on its bonds; within a year the earnings will be doubled."

The Western Union people would say nothing, but many others in the Mutual Union Co. denied the statement. Among other correspondence was the following:

BOSTON, March 22.

To A. S. Brown, General Superintendent, New York:

Newspaper men here wish to know if there is any truth in the rumors of consolidation. Will you authorize me to make an explicit denial? (Signed) D. J. HERN, Superintendent.

NEW YORK, March 22.

To D. J. Hern, Superintendent:

Your dispatch having been shown to Mr. George William Ballou, Vice-President, he authorizes an absolute denial of the stories, and says there is no truth in them.

(Signed)

A. S. BROWN,  
General Superintendent.  
NEW YORK, March 22.

To D. J. Hern, Superintendent, Boston:

Mr. George William Ballou, vice-president and acting president of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, authorizes an absolute denial of the reports which are being circulated as to a consolidation or amalgamation of this company with the Western Union company, or that the latter company has obtained control of the Mutual Union company's stock. He pronounces the reports false and without any foundation whatever.

(Signed)

W. B. SOMERVILLE,  
Superintendent of Press.

Notwithstanding these denials, we have since our last issue seen no reason to change our opinion, and if we do not badly misinterpret the signs of the times, there will, by and by, be a big scamper to get on the Western Union side of the fence.

The stock of the latter is now 92%. It was 78% last issue—an advance of 14 per cent.

It is understood that the Western Union has already secured an amicable "working arrangement" with the Baltimore & Ohio Company. The Western Union also intends to open an office in London, England; to rechristen the American cables "Western Union," and so have their lines from San Francisco to London.

The English and American cable companies have also shaken hands, as was predicted in our last issue, and will hereafter divide the joint profits, though the exact percentage to each is not publicly known.

In the Legislature of this State, Senator Daly's bill to compel telegraph companies to put their wires under ground has been considered at several sessions of the Committee on Cities. For the telegraph companies experts have appeared, who contend that the project is impracticable, while the interests of the people in the matter have had no representative other than the proposer of the bill. Senator Daly, in default of other scientific information, has opposed this argument by calling attention to the fact that the system has been found practicable abroad, and has claimed that no reason exists why it may not be put in operation here. The committee, while not consenting to report the bill favorably, instructed their chairman to report by resolution requesting power to appoint a sub-committee to take entire control of the measure, to hold sessions in New York City, to send for persons and papers, and to employ a stenographer. The resolution was passed.

There have been absurd rumors of a contemplated strike among the operators, growing out of the messengers' successful strike, but, as every telegrapher knows, there were no grounds for the rumors.

Indeed, the great revival in business and the "Spring opening" denote that 1882 will be more prosperous than any previous year, and while the companies must perforce supply them with lots of work, the men themselves will doubtless see to it that the pay-roll is not tampered with.

#### The Jones Sextuplex.

Once having passed from the transmission of one message to two messages upon a single wire between distant cities, and again from two to four and from four to five, it may appear to be an easy step from five to six, and so on *ad infinitum*, but to the initiated the difficulties increase as the cube of the number of transmissions sought, and these difficulties only become vexations in the transition of the system from theory to practice. There is nothing particularly new in the idea of multiple telegraphy, as it was fully discussed and cleverly attempted nearly thirty years ago, and all present attainments are founded on old principles.

Assuming the readers of THE OPERATOR to be familiar with the modern duplex and quadruplex systems, it will be proper to outline the

principle of Mr. F. W. Jones' ingenious sextuplex system, by which three messages may be transmitted in one direction simultaneously with three messages in the opposite direction over one telegraph wire. But a brief inspection of the accompanying diagram will show that in order to raise the value of a quadruplex to a sextuplex, it was necessary to invent an entirely new quadruplex, to be operated by *straight* or *unreversing* currents, and to this system the addition of the Siemens polarized relay and ordinary pole-changing keys would render possible the six message transmissions before stated. Hitherto no perfect quadruplex system actuated by straight currents has been invented, excepting one just patented by Mr. Jones. We understand that that system opens its local sounders on the front local contacts. In the sextuplex, however, it will be seen that all the local circuits open and close on the back contacts, in order to prevent a mutilation of signals when reversing the main currents.

Fig. 1 represents the transmitting-keys, batteries and circuit connections necessary for the transmitting end of the line. Fig. 2 represents the main line relays, local relays, local sounders, circuit connections and devices employed at the receiving end of the line.

As shown in Fig. 1, *P C* is a pole-changing key by means of which main-line batteries *M B*, *M B'*, *M B''* are connected to line and earth, and through the agency of which the poles of the batteries may be reversed in respect to the line and earth. *z* and *y* are springs tending to rest upon stops 3 and 4. Main line 7 is joined to stops 3 and 4 by wires 5 and 6. Key *P C* is connected to earth through 16.

*S T* and *S T'* are ordinary continuity-preserving keys, by means of which batteries *M B* and *M B'*, normally cut out, may be put in main-line circuit by closing the keys.

Transmitting-keys *S T* and *S T'* are located upon a fragment of the main-line circuit, having its ends connected with the springs *z* and *y* of key *P C*, and this fragment consists of conductor 15, battery *M B*, and branches 13 or 14, transmitting-key *S T*, conductor 12, branches 10 or 11, key *S T'*, and conductor 9. By operation of the pole-changing key *P C* the opposite ends of this fragment of main-line conductor are alternately reversed from line to earth and earth to line, and vice versa.

It will be observed that the keys *S T* and *S T'* are situated at different positions in the length of one conductor, and that the fragment of the main line containing these transmitting-keys has only a single earth-connection, 16. When key *S T* is open, battery *M B* is closed to line through wire 14, containing resistance *a*. When *S T* is closed, *M B* is connected to line through battery *M B'*, 13, 31 and 12. When *S T'* is open, *M B* and *M B'* are joined to line through resistance *a'* of 11, key *S T'*, 36 and 35. If *S T'* be closed, the main-line circuit will not be closed through *a'*, but through *M B''*, 10, 34, 35 and 9. Resistances *a* and *a'* are made equal respectively to the resistances of batteries *M B* and *M B''*, since both incoming and outgoing currents will traverse either resistances *a* or batteries *M B* *M B''*, according to the positions of keys *S T* and *S T'*.

*M B* is a weak battery, whose relative strength may be represented by 1. *M B'* is a stronger battery, whose strength is 2, and *M B''* is of strength 4. By reversing currents upon the line a polarized armature at the receiving station is operated.

*M B'* and *M B''* are added in circuit by closing keys *S T* and *S T'* to increase the strength of current of *M B*. When keys *S T* and *S T'* are closed, *M B'* and *M B''*, as well as *M B*, are reversed upon the line by operating *P C*. The several current strengths upon the line are normally, strength —1; key *S T* closed, *S T'* open, strength —3; key *S T* open, *S T'* closed, strength —5; key *S T* closed, *S T'* closed, strength —7. When *P C* is closed the currents are respectively +1, +3, +5, +7.

It will be seen from this description that th

key system enables eight different conditions of current to be sent to line, and that the battery-sections and resistances are so arranged that a circuit of constant resistance is always provided for all incoming and outgoing currents.

*SW* is a switch by means of which the key system may be disconnected and the line put to earth through resistance *G* equal to resistance of the key system, whereby the distant relays may be conveniently balanced.

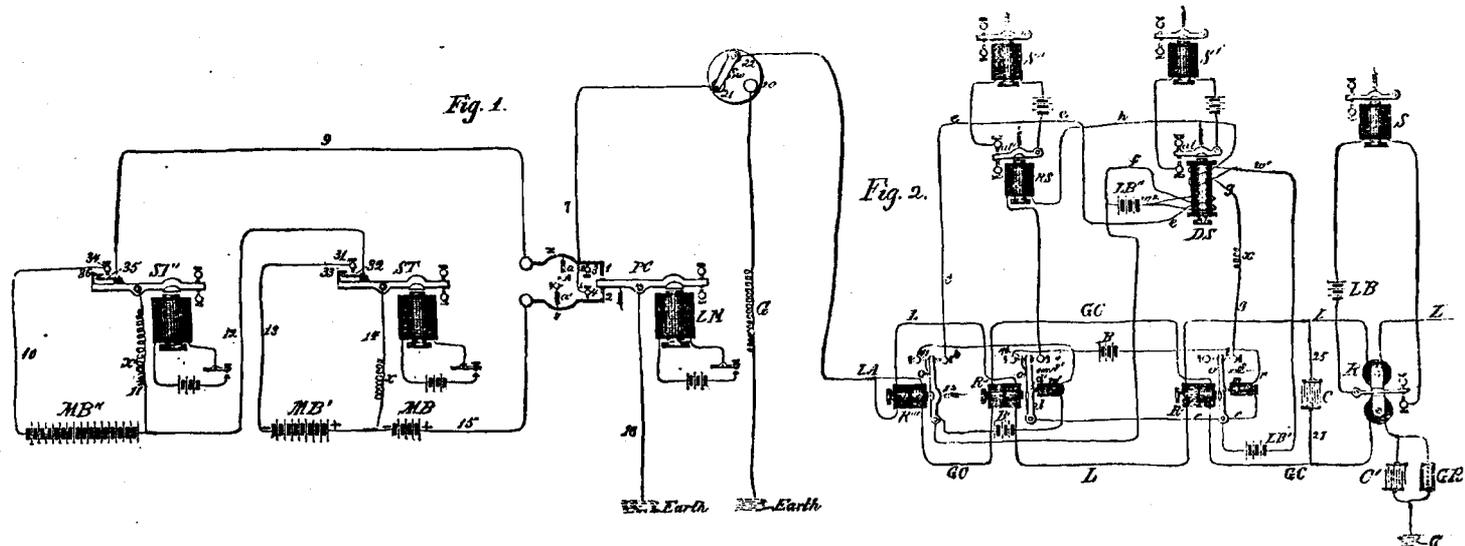
In Fig. 2, which represents the receiving apparatus, *R* is a polarized relay controlling local sounder, *S*. Relay *R* responds to a reversal of current strength of 1. It will also respond as well to a reversal of current of strengths 3, 5, or 7. Thus sounder *S* will respond while strong currents operate the neutral relays for independent signals. *R* is the first main line neutral relay, and is operated by a current of either polarity of strength 3 or currents from *MB* and *MB'* jointly. *R''* is the second neutral relay, and will respond to currents of either polarity of strength 5 or currents from *MB* and *MB''* jointly. *R'''* is the third neutral relay, which will respond to either polarity of current of strength 7 or current from *MB*, *MB'*, *MB''* jointly. *S'* is

armature lever *a l* closes the local circuit of sounder *S'*. However, when a current of strength 5 is sent to line not only will armature of *R* be moved and branch *g* be broken, but armature of second neutral relay *R''* will cause *o''* to be drawn from back contact *j* to break branch *h*. When branches *g* and *h* are both broken relay *DS* is subject only to the effects of differential coils *e* and *f*, which are neutral. Therefore, armature lever *a l* will not close the local of second local sounder *S'*. A current strength of 3 is sufficient to break one of four differential branches of *DS* to destroy magnetic equilibrium, while a current strength of 5 operates to break two branches, and thus re-establish magnetic equilibrium; but while the breaking of *h* establishes magnetic equilibrium in *DS* to leave *S'* unaffected, the breaking of branch *h* demagnetizes *RS*, and *a l* moves to its back stop to close the local of *S'* to give a signal upon the third local sounder. Again, when a current due to the joint action of all the batteries or of strength 7 is sent to line both local sounders *S* and *S'* should operate. When current 7 of either polarity is sent to line, armature-levers of all the local relays *R*, *R''*, and *R'''* are with-

tacts. Thus when the armature-levers are attracted, a reversal of line-current that would reverse the magnetic polarity of *R*, *R''* or *R'''* would occur too rapidly to permit the armature-levers to close one back contact, even if they were to move back slightly from the poles of the relays.

To still further obviate all possible difficulty from the momentary release of the relay armatures upon reversal of current, there is introduced between relays *R* and *R'* condenser *C*, which is joined by conductors 25 and 27, respectively, to main line *L* and artificial circuit *G C*. If a current from line passes over *LA* to *G'''* it will charge condenser *C* in such a manner that when the line-current is broken the condenser will discharge and effect a continuation of the previously broken current up to the time that a reverse current is sent over the line, thus filling the gap in the current at the moment of reversal. The discharge of the condenser occurs through the circuit 25, *L* to *LA*, thence over, *GC* and 27 back to condenser *C*. This device however, is covered in Mr. Jones' patent No. 191,439 of 1877.

A further part of the invention consists in em-



THE JONES SEXTUPLEX.

the second local sounder, which is to be brought into action by key *ST*. The local circuit of *S'* is opened and closed through the agency of the double differential local relay *DS*.

Relay *DS* is differentially wound with the two branches *h* and *g* of wire *w* leading from one pole of local battery *LB'*. Branch *h* is connected to the back stop of relay *R'*, and branch *g* is connected to back stop of relay *R''*, while armature levers *o'* and *o''* of *R'* and *R''* are joined to the opposite pole of *LB'*. Relay *DS* is also differentially wound with branches *f* and *e* from wire joined to one pole of local battery *LB''*. Branch *e* is carried to back stop *k* of relay *R'''*, from which connection is made through the armature *o'''* to the opposite pole of *LB''*. Branch *f* is also connected with branch *e* to the same local battery pole.

It will be observed that the third local sounder is controlled by relay *RS*, placed in the branch *h* forming one coil of the first differential set of coils upon double differential relay *DS*.

Coils *g* and *h* are oppositely-wound differential coils connected with the poles of local battery *LB'*. Thus when both branches are closed the magnetic effects in *DS* due to *LB'* are neutral. Also, *f* and *e* are oppositely-wound differential coils connected with local battery *LB''*, and magnetic effects in *DS* due to *LB* when both *e* and *f* are closed are neutral.

The operation of local sounders *S* and *S'* may now be explained. Normally the four branches *e*, *f*, *g*, and *h* of the double differential windings upon *DS* are closed and no magnetism is developed to attract armature-lever *a l*; but if a strength of current 3 be sent to line of either polarity the neutral relay *R* responds and lever *o* is withdrawn from back stop *i* and the branch *g* is broken, and *DS* will be subject to the action of the remaining three coils, *e*, *f*, and *h*. Coils *e* and *f* neutralize each other; but coil *h* develops magnetism and

drawn from their back stops, and three of the differential branches, *e*, *g*, and *h*, of *DS* will be broken, and branch *f* will alone remain closed, when again the magnetic equilibrium of *DS* will be destroyed and *a l* will close the local of *S'* to give a signal; also, as *h* is broken at the same time, *S''* will simultaneously respond.

In winding the double differential relay with its four coils in branches *e*, *f*, *g* and *h* it is apparent that coils of branches *f* and *g* must each be wound and connected to their batteries in such a manner that they may each tend to polarize *DS* alike; that is, if *f* causes a north magnetic pole in the upper part of *DS*, *h* likewise should be wound to induce a coincident north pole in the upper part of *DS*. Should *f* and *h* induce opposite magnetic polarities in *DS* at certain times, a reversal of polarity in *DS* would occur. For example, if all the branches but *f* were broken, *DS* would be charged by *f*. Therefore, if *f* induce a north pole in the upper part and a south pole in the lower part, this polarity would be wholly reversed when *g* alone is broken, as at such time *e* and *f* neutralize each other, and magnetic effects in *DS* would be due to *h* alone. When key *S* alone is operated, magnetism in *DS* is wholly due to coils of branch *h*. When both keys *S* and *S'* are operated, magnetism in *DS* is wholly due to coil in branch *f*. Therefore, to avoid a reversal of magnetic polarity in core of *DS*, coils of branches *f* and *h* must both induce in each end of *DS* magnetism of the same polarity. If both keys *S* and *S'* are closed to operate both sounders *S* and *S'*, relay *DS* will have a given magnetic polarity. If now, key *ST* be opened, the polarity of *DS* will not be reversed, nor will its magnetic strength even be reduced, and no flutter of armature-bar *a l* will occur to mutilate signals upon *S'*. Armature-levers of *R*, *R''* and *R'''* all close the local sounder-circuits upon their back con-

necting local magnets *m* and *m'* with relays *R'* and *R''*. Armature of relay *R'* is obliged to act under three different strengths of current.

It is desirable that a definite ratio be established between the attractive and retractile forces upon a relay armature. If the current be strong, the tension of the retractile spring should be adjusted high. Thus, if the retracting spring of relay *R'* be adjusted for a current-strength of 3, its adjustment would be wrong for a current strength of 5 or 7—that is, the tension of the retractor would be too low.

To compensate for a high strength of current a local circuit is caused to be closed by the effects of such a high strength of current, and the local circuit acts in aid of the weak retractor. If spring *s* of relay *R'* is adjusted for a current of strength 3, a current of strength 5 would overpower *s*; but as the current 5 actuates armature of *R''* to close on front contact local circuit of battery *B* and magnet *m*, *m* acts in conjunction with *s*, and the retractile force upon the lever *o* is automatically increased and made to bear the same ratio to the current 5 that the force of spring *s* alone bears to force of current 3. It is obvious that according to the same plan the retractile force of *s* could be still further aided by calling in more local battery by the action of relay *R'''* when current of strength 7 is sent. A local electro-magnet *m'* is applied in the same manner to aid the retractile force of *s'*. *m'* is only called into action when a current of strength 7 is sent to line.

Local electro magnets *m* and *m'* will act upon their respective armatures when armatures *o'* and *o''* of *R''* and *R'''* are upon their front contacts; but, should the front contacts be momentarily broken by reversals of the main-line current, *m* or *m'* would exert a variable retracting force. To avoid such difficulty springs 40 and

have been placed upon the ends of armature-levers *o'* and *o''*, leaving a slight range of movement of the armature without breaking the local of *m* or *m'*. Thus the front contact may be preserved even if armature-bars *o'* and *o''* are slightly vibrated upon reversals of currents.

On short wires this system has worked perfectly. It was tried by the Western Union between New York and Philadelphia, in January, 1881, with marked success, but the high potential of current used with the rude experimental apparatus at that time could not be trusted upon the defective cables across the Hudson River.

### Housetop Lines, Pole Lines and Aerial Cables.

Which? This is the question that to-day is before the telephone men of America.

At the present time nothing is better calculated to interest any person engaged in practical telephony, or to arrest his attention, than the extraordinary spread of telephonic communication; the ubiquity of the telephone; the wonderful network of wire consequent upon the said ubiquity, and the alternate popularity and unpopularity of the instrument and its concomitants.

At the advent of the speaking telephone, or even at the outset of the telephone exchange system, none were so daring as to prophesy or venture to forecast its future.

Yet the fact is apparent, as any telephone licensee can readily figure out for himself, by paying a little attention to the serial numbers, that there are now at least 175,000 telephones in operation—counting each transmitter and receiver—and that, furthermore, there is a monthly increase of over 4,000.

In some of the larger cities of our Union the managers of the different telephone companies have begun to realize that there is practically no limit to the telephone exchange business when it is actively pushed.

When we started out, in the winter of 1877 and spring of 1878, although no one was able to guess what the outcome would be, it was early seen that rapid construction was a desideratum. In the spring of 1878 the first glimmer of opposition and rivalry commenced, and by the autumn of that year it was as hot as ever any war of trunk railroads could possibly be.

In Indianapolis, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Toledo and many other places the competition was so violent that frequently the telephone was given to the subscriber for nothing. Often the subscriber was indifferent as to whose telephone he should have, and the result was that the first man getting a telephone fixed on the premises was, by a kind of pre-emption, the one to secure the victim.

It can easily be imagined that under these circumstances, in many cases, good line construction was regarded as quite a secondary matter. The main idea was, get your lines up, do it well if you can, but get them up. Carrying this out a little further, we can see that as it would take time to cut and plant poles, and also to get the right to plant poles, it was an easy way out of the woods to erect rickety structures of spruce and pine on other people's housetops, assuming that the American householder (good, easy man), when he found that his house was placed under a wire roof and made to do duty as a base of operations by opposing corporations, would tamely put up with the outrage, and even if he did not like it and did not actually welcome the invasion of the wire fiend with open arms, would at least be too fond of his ease and too much indisposed to exert himself in the matter to make much fuss about it. To a great extent this was and still is a correct view, and many householders do not seem to object to the wires. But, unfortunately, all are not so accommodating, and, as we are informed by Dr. Watts, that "one sickly sheep infects the flock," so it proved. It was soon found that the

frequent visits of the spurred and tomahawked line-man to a roof were not conducive to the proper exercise of the functions of that roof as a protection from the weather, and the said visits were made to shoulder and pay for such a multitude of leaky roofs that, in many places, the pecuniary advantage of using another man's property as your line supports ceased to be discernible. Suits for trespass were also talked of, and many other schemes were resorted to, with more or less success, by the astute property-holder.

Later on these were in due course followed up by sleet-storms, the worst enemy of telegraphic and telephonic wires, and dire ruin ensued. It began to be quite plainly seen that housetop fixtures, except merely as auxiliaries, were not successful as permanencies, either mechanically or financially. It began also to be apparent that the capacity of the largest fixtures was limited, and that to put insulators both upon the top and bottom side of a cross-bar was a good way to establish a sinking fund for future crosses.

Several far-seeing and wary constructors had from the beginning erected pole-lines, and now when the house-toppers themselves commenced to talk pole, they had the opportunity of congratulating themselves on their own foresight.

Even the most far-seeing, however, had not provided sufficient carrying capacity, and they now found that their small poles had to be taken down, and that they had to build greater.

One of the worst features of the housetop lines has ever been the fact that the supports being upon the property of outside and uninterested persons, such persons had the power, and were liable to exercise it—in fact, frequently did exercise the power—to prohibit line-men from trespassing upon their roofs. This was, of course, very prejudicial to good service, because when the line was in trouble, as housetop lines are apt to be, the repairs were often delayed by the perversity of the householder, who would not only decline to allow the line-men to ascend to his roof, but would sometimes accelerate the removal of the obnoxious wires, by persistently cutting them, in defiance of all law and order.

Then came the era of poles. Pole lines of unusual size were constructed, in many cases on both sides of the principal streets of the cities, 30, 40, 60 and even 70-foot poles became rapidly the rule, and as rapidly became filled with telephone wires, and for a very short time it looked as if everything was lovely and no more trouble would be experienced. It was found that line troubles were greatly diminished by the use of pole lines, and that when they did occur, were much more easily handled than heretofore.

It was found that the wires were no longer subject to interruptions from the line-men of foreign companies, and if crosses occasionally appeared, there was no one to object to the climber at once clearing it. But even this happy state of affairs is no longer equal to the situation. Every man who uses the telephone in his business wants a special line. When he wants to use the telephone he wants to use it, and don't you forget it. He doesn't want to be told, or to find out without telling, that Snickelfritz, down the street, who is running a heavy opposition to him in business, has the line ahead of him.

Now, several of our large cities have upward of 2,000 subscribers, and at their present rate of increase are good for five thousand inside of four years. 2,000 subscribers means 2,000 lines, and 2,000 lines fill up an office fixture and cupola pretty well, and we have got to contemplate an almost indefinite increase. Obviously some expedient is necessary: What shall we do?

Only one remedy seems to offer itself with any prospect of filling the bill, *i. e.*, aerial cables. By entering your central office with these, and running them out, say two thousand feet for a start, on each side from the office, an incredible amount of space is gained; and as a matter of hypothesis, it is the belief of the writer that 50 wire cables are perfectly practicable for a much greater distance.

The kerite cable of Day, with the anti-induction appliances, is a very good one, and is used to a certain extent in Cincinnati, where Mr. Eckert has fitted it with an ingenious hanger of copper or galvanized iron, by which it is appended to a stout wire or strand.

E. F. Phillips also makes a good cable, rubber covered, with a casing of material resembling bagging.

It is thought that the electrical disturbances

expected from induction and leakage in these cables have been much overrated, and that the very multiplicity of wires is a practicable eliminator of troubles accruing from these causes.

A very good plan is to purchase the first cable fitted with the anti-induction remedies, and try it with the outside metallic covering both grounded and ungrounded. If it works well the latter way, it may be concluded that such appliances can be dispensed with. This subject is a prolific one; and as by experience more is learned regarding it, more will be written. T. D. L.

### The Railroaders' Problem.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: "J. F. M.," in last issue of THE OPERATOR, produces the following train order problem: "Suppose a wild train is ready to leave terminal station No. 1 and run over the division, say to the other terminal station, No. 20. A regular train is due to leave No. 2 in twenty minutes, the distance being fifteen miles from station No. 2 to station No. 1. Of course the wild can't make No. 2 without help and asks for running orders and help against No. 18, the incoming regular. Train dispatcher sends the following order to conductor and engineer, wild, bound west:

"Run to station No. 2 to meet No. 18 to station No. 20, keeping clear of regular trains. T. D."

and asks some one to decide as to whether wild train to which the order is addressed, in complying therewith, can leave station No. 1 and go to station No. 2, using the time provided in the time-table for regular train No. 18?

My opinion is: Yes, wild train can go to station No. 2 regardless of No. 18, and, after passing No. 18 at station No. 2, proceed to station No. 20, avoiding regular trains. The assumption is, there are no regular trains between stations No. 1 and No. 2 to conflict with the wild train. Some might consider the order as given, a "wild" one; and I beg to suggest to Mr. "J. F. M." that the addition of only a few words would preclude the possibility of a misconstruction. F. P. S.

PETERSBURG, Va., March 18, 1882.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: I would say in reply to "J. F. M.'s" query that the order appears to be mixed. "Run to station No. 2 to meet No. 18 to station No. 20, keeping clear of regular trains." No conductor should accept it. If reversed thus, "Run to station No. 20, keeping clear of regular trains, and to station No. 2 to meet No. 18," I think a conductor would go on it. Let me suggest a form: "Run wild station, to station 20. Extra west will meet No. 18 at station 2." "J. F. M.'s" order says, "keeping clear of regular trains." This is superfluous. H. A. G.

RED CLOUD, Neb., March 21, '82.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: Referring to "J. F. M.'s" communication of Feb. 21, I do not think "Borne on an Engine" is explicit. There is quite a difference in the meaning of signals when carried on an engine, whether borne on the front or rear; therefore, the rule should state where the signals are to be carried. The order, "Run to station No. 2, to meet No. 18—to station No. 20, keeping clear of regular trains," is badly constructed, and would not be given by a careful and intelligent dispatcher. I would not run a wild train to station No. 2 against a regular train on such an order. Orders for the movement of trains should always be worded so as to leave no room for doubt, and the meeting points should be made positive and definite, for example: "Run to station No. twenty (20), keeping out of the way of regular trains. Meet train No. eighteen (18) at station No. two (2)." CONDUCTOR.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 21, 1882.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: Noting "J. F. M.'s" communication in your excellent paper of the 15th inst., we did not attempt to make a distinction between the words "borne" and "carried." But we do insist that it makes a difference whether the signals are borne in the front or rear of the engine. In using the word "carried," we merely quoted our rule. Now for his problem No. 2. No one not familiar with the regulations of his particular road, and the interpretation of the same, would attempt to decide it. With us it would be an absolute meet at Station No. 2. We would respectfully refer him to the superintendent in charge of his division. WEST JERSEY.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: In answer to "J. F. M.," I would say:

Yes, the wild would have a perfect right to leave station No. 1 and run to station No. 2, for train No. 18, on the order given. It is a positive meeting order, as well as a running order. I think, though, that a somewhat plainer order, covering the same ground, might be given as follows: "Run to No. 2 regardless of No. 18, avoiding other regular trains to No. 20."  
J.  
LEADVILLE, Col., March 20, 1882.

### A New Anecdote of Bogardus.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: A few days since I heard what was to me an entirely new anecdote of "Bogy," of the truth of which I have no doubt. I give it you as told me by the person who figured as one of the actors:

"I was superintendent of a telegraph line in Canada, with headquarters at one of the principal offices. I occasionally acted as receiving clerk. One morning there approached the window a seely looking individual who, extending a hand, said, 'How are you, old boy?' calling me by name. I took the hand, looked him over from head to foot, but failed to recognize the face, form or voice. After a silence of about a minute, he said, 'Don't you know Bogy?' I once did know Bogy; I had seen him, first and last, a considerable number of times, and heard a great many speak of him; but, probably, when I formerly had the pleasure of knowing him, I had always met him when his lucky star was in the ascendant. I certainly could see no resemblance to Bogy in the individual before me, with tattered and soiled garments, shoes two sizes too large, worn to the uppers and turned over at the heels. Taken altogether, he was about the most miserable looking specimen of humanity I ever set eyes upon. I so far overcame my scruples as to ask him inside, but he smiled blandly, and with the speech and bearing of a perfect gentleman, begged me to excuse him, as his stay must necessarily be short, owing to the press of business engagements. After a few hurried regrets, he bowed himself out and disappeared. Not a word about pecuniary assistance! Not a word about a situation!! What could it mean? I retired to my private office marveling greatly, but, surrendering myself to official affairs, soon forgot all about Bogy.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the check boy came to my room and said that a gentleman wished to see me. I told him to show him in, and, hastily finishing a letter I had been writing, turned to the gentleman, who had been admitted and was awaiting my leisure. He approached with outstretched hand and appeared overjoyed to see me, spoke my name, and bowed with native grace. I took his hand and looked him over. Evidently a gentleman—a neatly-fitting suit of gray; fashionable, well-polished boots, exquisitely-curled mustache, unapproachable linen, a latest style stove-pipe hat, without a thread of the silk misplaced, thrown back over the left arm by a gloved hand, which also held a light cane; a brilliant, brown eye, which looked straight into mine, with not a sign about it of debauchery. I was unable to recognize him, although his voice did sound a little familiar. I gave it up and said so.

"Try again," he remarked, still retaining my hand.

Once more I racked my brain and scanned his features closely, and shook my head slowly, as though loth to surrender.

A low chuckle, a firmer grasp of the hand, and then:

"Don't you know Bogy? Hi, old boy, got you this time."

Could it be possible? Yes it was Bogy.

"How under the sun, Bogy, did you do it?" Another chuckle.

"Well, you see, old pard, I've got a relative living here; very rich old fellow. I went to his house this morning, rang the front door-bell, and paid my respects to the old gentleman and his family, making excuses, of course, for my unrepresentable appearance. The old gentleman was very glad to see me, but, hastily excusing himself, he went to the library, and, after a little while, came back with an open letter in

his hand, and said: 'Take this; we will expect you to dine with us,' and then he shoved me out of the side door. The note read:

"B. & H., Gent's Furnishing Goods: Fit this gentleman out at my expense!"

"I bathed, I shaved, I became newly clothed. I dined with the old gentleman—splendid old fellow—no questions asked. What? How long?"

"Oh, I'll stay a day or two; Then to pastures green and new I'll let my footsteps roam."

READER.

### Justice for Messrs. Hutchison and Guthridge.

On the day of our last issue we received, too late for publication, a copy of a letter from Mr. John A. Hutchison to General Eckert, in relation to the charges of betrayal of a message sent by Whitehaw Reid to President Garfield. We regret that the crowded condition of our columns this issue precludes the idea of publishing Mr. Hutchison's letter, but we have no hesitation in saying that he has fully exonerated himself. There can scarcely be any doubt that the message was copied or stolen outright after it left the custody of the telegraph company. After stating the particulars to Gen. Eckert, Mr. Hutchison says: "Who has betrayed the secrets of the telegram and given it out for publication I have no more idea than you, Gen. Eckert, and I ask of you in justice to myself that you allow this correction to be placed on the records of the office of the Western Union, and I ask further that the search may be continued by you until the thief has been hunted down and found. My reputation is as dear to me as your reputation is to yourself. In addition to the statement I have made here, I beg to transmit herewith copies of letters received by me from the several organizations, &c., under whom I have served in the capacity of telegrapher, from every one of whom in turn I have resigned and parted from on terms of sincere and mutual regard." This is followed by a number of credentials, which in themselves would amount to a complete exoneration. Mr. Guthridge has also written a denial, though to those who know the gentlemen such denials are scarcely necessary. The New York Herald, in its issue for March 16, says that it has never had any communication whatever with either Mr. Hutchison or Mr. Guthridge or from them. It has never seen the dispatch which they are accused of having revealed except as it was embodied in the letter signed "A Friend of Garfield," which came to the Herald through the mail without further signature and of whose origin the Herald to this day knows nothing.

### Another Flattering But Anonymous Defense of Manager Mearan.

To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: In writing my former letters I was actuated by no vindictive spirit towards Mr. Deakers or his companions in dismissal, but simply stated the facts, and what are well-known here to be the facts in the case. The statement then made is correct in every particular and requires no reiteration or explanation.

The effort of Mr. Deakers to pose as a martyr in the cause of the Brotherhood is accepted here at its true value, and is regarded as about on a par with that gentleman's orthographic eccentricity in parting his name in the middle. A manly spirit of independence is a noble quality, and should be cultivated by every man; but manly independence is one thing, chronic growling, "kicking," disrespect and lack of common courtesy to an employer or to an employer's agent is quite another. Courtesy and civility are qualities which should be cultivated as a matter of policy by those in whom those qualities have not been early inculcated as attributes of good breeding. No organization of telegraphers or any other profession or trade will ever succeed in compelling an employer or his agent to submit to unreasonable interference or personal discourtesy and insult from the employed. If, instead of instigating the Brotherhood here to choose a committee to lay their grievances before a high official of the United States—a duty from which by the way, Mr.

Deakers, as one of that committee, ignominiously "flunked," after more mature deliberation—Mr. Deakers had used his powers of persuasion in securing the appointment of a similar committee to wait upon Manager Mearan to present courteously the views and wishes of the Brotherhood, such action would have commanded respect, even from those who, like myself, did not agree with him as to its necessity or policy. Had Mr. Deakers pursued this temperate course, and been dismissed for it, no one would have more strongly sympathized with him or condemned the outrage than the writer. But, under the circumstances as they stood, I do not see how Manager Mearan could have acted otherwise than as he did without losing his own self-respect and forfeiting the respect of the employes in this office.

I am informed that Mr. Deakers was laboring under a misapprehension as to the identity of "J. S.," which would explain his remarkable language concerning the "policy" which that person has "frequently enunciated as a process of 'standing in with the managers and making yourself solid.'" Certainly, that charge, if intended to apply to me, I pronounce absolutely and unqualifiedly false. I never used such language, or expressed such sentiments as it implies; and I am surprised that the Editor of THE OPERATOR, whom I have hitherto respected as a fair-minded and just man, should have given such a charge a quasi support in his editorial columns, without first satisfying himself of the justice of it.

In an experience of 16 years it has seldom been my fortune to be placed under officials of whom much could be said in praise without incurring a just suspicion of gross flattery. I am sure my friends will be slow to believe that I have assumed the rôle of "sycophant" to the management here, or to anybody else. J. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21, 1882.

### New Publications.

COMMERCIAL AND RAILWAY TELEGRAPHY in Theory and Practice. By J. P. Abernethy Supt. Telegraph. 112 pages. Boards, 75c. Cloth \$1.

This is the first book that has been published covering both commercial and railway telegraphy. It is a thoroughly practical work, from the pen of a man who not only understands his subject, but is able to express himself so clearly and explicitly that the reader will also understand it. It is practical, too, in being free from technical terms and algebraic characters, and in giving precisely the information that a practical telegrapher, or one desiring to become a practical telegrapher, needs and no more than that. The information on train dispatching, including the many "orders" the book contains; and the detailed and very clear and interesting description of the "block system" of signals, already in use on several important railroads, and which will doubtless soon be more extensively employed, are important features of Supt. Abernethy's work.

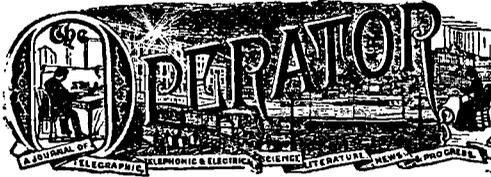
INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LIGHTS, with particular reference to the Edison Lamps at the Paris Exhibition. Van Nostrand's Science Series, No. 57. Boards. Price, 50 cents.

A number of articles on electric lighting from the pens of Count Du Moncel and Messrs. W. H. Preece, John W. Howell and C. W. Siemens are here reprinted in convenient shape for the use and instruction of those interested in electric lighting. The book is well illustrated, and will be welcomed by electric light men.

CANDLE POWER OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT. By Paget Higgs, L.L.D., D.Sc. 18 pages. Paper, 75 cents. New York, E. & F. N. Spon.

Instead of the photometric methods of measuring candle power in electric lighting by the intensity of the light, Dr. Higgs here proposes that the candle power of the lamp be determined by the heat radiated. Although he only occupies twelve and a quarter pages in presenting his views, his publishers seem to consider his suggestions of sufficient importance to charge 75 cents for the book.

Charleston, S. C., expects soon to have her streets lit up by the Brush electric light, in the admirable style of her sister city, Savannah.



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Entered at the N. Y. Post-office as second-class matter.

W. J. JOHNSTON, Editor and Publisher.

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Subscribers desiring their addresses changed, should give the old as well as the new address.

#### NOTICE.

A sample copy of the present issue of THE OPERATOR is mailed free to a large number of the telegraph offices and telephone exchanges where we have not now subscribers. Our object in sending it is that non-subscribers may see what THE OPERATOR is like, and that we may secure their aid and co-operation in the efforts we are making to have the paper circulate in every telegraph office and telephone exchange in the United States and Canada. We would ask every non-subscriber into whose hands a copy of this issue may fall to PROMPTLY send in his or her subscription, and also to see whether he cannot get the subscriptions of at least one or two others to forward at the same time. The recent unprecedented increase in our subscription list has been met on our part by an immediate and even more than corresponding improvement in the paper, and it is hardly necessary to add that we will conscientiously continue the same policy in the future.

The publisher believes that non-subscribers will find that THE OPERATOR speaks for itself as the great vehicle of telegraphic intelligence and fraternal intercourse. No ambitious young operator, and no progressive old one, can afford to lose the drift of current events, with which he can only keep abreast by carefully studying his class paper, and filing it away for reference and comparison. It is a diary of passing events and a complete record of accomplished facts, and has proved itself a fair prophet of coming events—all of which information is necessary to make a thorough and live telegrapher.

We would add that the first number of the present year began a new volume, and that, for the convenience of those who desire their subscriptions to commence with the Jan. 1 issue, we have reserved copies of the back numbers, so that subscriptions sent in now may begin with either the Jan. 1, or any subsequent number that the subscriber desires. The subscription price FOR A WHOLE YEAR, including postage and the changing of addresses as often as desired, is only ONE DOLLAR. Thus for

One Dollar we will send you back numbers from Jan. 1, 1882, and enter your subscription until Jan. 1, 1883; or enter your subscription to expire April 1, 1883, if you do not want the back numbers.

To those who prefer subscribing for the rest of the present year only, and do not desire back numbers, we will send the paper from the present time UNTIL JAN. 1, 1883, FOR SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS.

Send in your subscription now, while you think of it. See advertisement of THE OPERATOR and of the books we publish in another part of this paper; also low rates at which the paper and one or more of the books may be ordered together.

A yellow subscription form will be found inclosed in this paper. Those wishing to order books as well as the paper can write the names of the ones they desire in the blank space between the order for THE OPERATOR and their own signature.

Present subscribers are particularly requested to assist us at this time to extend the circulation of THE OPERATOR by getting us all the additional subscriptions they can. Extra copies for use as samples will be mailed free on application.

#### "EXTRA" MEN.

The recent deplorable dispute between some of the Washington staff and their manager has led up to the question whether or not it is fair to the public for telegraph companies to hire "extra" men—that is, men not on the pay-roll of the company—even during a "rush."

There is a Western Union General Order in existence forbidding its employes to engage in "other business," and it becomes a fair question to inquire if the doctrine should not be reversed, so as to forbid men in "other business" to engage in telegraphy—not especially for the protection of telegraphic labor, but to protect the public from undue outside influences, and for the good of the service generally.

It has now been clearly shown by General Eckert, the New York Tribune and the New York Herald, that of the two operators accused of divulging the Reid-Hay message, neither of them worked for the company over the wires of which the message was sent! Indeed, although they were both operators, they worked for neither of the great competing companies!

What safety can there be then; what confidence can the public have in a telegraphic management, which, to obviate the inevitable full payment of salaries, and for economy's sake, works short-handed, and when a "rush" comes calls in men from dry-goods stores, gambling houses, stock-brokers' offices, government offices—anywhere, so that the additional man can telegraph? This condition of affairs might be excused in the case of a sudden and unexpected event, such as the assassination of President Garfield; but when it is relied upon as a recognized system; when government men work "extra" habitually, as they seem to do under Manager Marean's blind administration in Washington, it is an injustice to the public. We have in preparation a statement of the extra hours worked in Washington offices by "outsiders," which will astonish the West-

ern Union executive officers in New York, and open the eyes of the public.

Now, one of the chief points made by the press against a Government Postal Telegraph is the system of espionage which the government would thus have over private correspondence; yet, the same object is now attained by the government when Manager Marean employs—for economy's sake, of course—any government clerk who is an operator and chooses to work "extra" at night, and who next day naturally peddles out to his friends in the "Department" the "news" which he received on the wires during the previous night. This system may account for a big leak—for Mr. Blaine's familiarity with a "private" cablegram: snugly encoined in the inside pocket of Mr. Proctor Knott; for the big leak in the "Florida dispatches" in 1877, and even for the hitherto unpublished uproar when somebody "gave away" Mr. Jay Gould's "private" message to the President about the nomination of Mr. Stanley Matthews to the Supreme Bench.

When even Mr. Jay Gould's private messages cannot be safe and sacred on his own wires, it stands to reason that Manager Marean's plan of economy has failed, and that private business must be handled by regularly employed operators, and not by any chance government or dry-goods clerk that comes along. There can be no secrecy, no confidence, no success in a telegraph office where strangers are permitted. This should also include "students," St. Louis offering a conspicuous example of Mr. Fairchild's tyros getting on the line to practice. These strangers have no interest in the success of the company, and, moreover, have not sense enough to keep their mouths shut, with regard to any information they may acquire while roaming around—either working extra or practicing—in a telegraph office. In any case they feel under no obligation to keep it sacred, as operators do who earn their daily bread and butter from the company, and until these interlopers are swept out *en masse*, regular men employed at proper salaries, and the Marean plan sat upon—hard—there must be continual repetitions of the complaints about "leaks" in the telegraph.

If our correspondent "J. S." desires to aid Manager Morrell Marean, of Washington, he will at once lay aside his littl' pen and let Mr. Marean—who, the last time we heard him send, had not been afflicted with scrivener's palsy—speak, or write, for himself. We know Mr. Marean as well as the next man. "J. S." cannot outdo us in eulogizing his splendid record—as an operator always foremost, as an electrician never excelled, and as an executive officer respected by all, above and below him, until now. This time he stands accused by one man, over his own signature, in a manly manner, in good, solid, plain English, and defended by another, "J. S.," in an anonymous communication, in halting phrases and with a good deal of beating around the bush, the brave defender being meanwhile stigmatized—again with a name in full—as one who habitually "makes himself solid with the management." Now, no anonymous writer can apologize for his manager. Mr. Marean stands or falls by a document written by himself, on behalf of the Western Union Company, and we are sure that General Eckert will not support him in his action. According to the testimony of "J. S.," who writes "by authority," Mr. Marean should have kicked these three men down-stairs, for belong-

ing to the Brotherhood; for being chronic "kickers;" for being elected delegates to the national convention of telegraphers; for publicly criticising the management, and for general insubordination; yet he mildly writes that they are discharged "on account of reduction of force;" and immediately hires his own brother and some other men in their places. This is the *gravamen* of the charge—a woful lack of backbone on the part of Morrell Marean in not daring to assert himself in his own office, and in putting in absurd milk-and-water phrases what he believed would have been better dealt with by a pair of good stout boots. No simpering apologies of "J. S.," or any telegraphic Tom, Dick and Harry, can help Mr. Marean in this case, and some one ought to save him from his anonymous friends. He is able to write, and—not yet being as big a man as General Eckert, he can scarcely be too high-toned to defend himself—he should, instead of permitting any one else to write "by authority," speak for himself, or else rest under the withering obloquy which an honest man has put upon him, and which no true man would bear in silence. As for "J. S.," we know him to be a man of admitted ability and of gentlemanly instincts, and about the least likely of our acquaintances to seek by base measures to "make himself solid;" but since, without any personal grievance, he has elected to speak "by authority" for his manager, and in doing so has appeared under a signature not his own, he must, as far as the profession is concerned, share the fate of every other anonymous contributor.

SINCE, in our exposure of those fraudulent concerns, telegraph colleges, we have shown a desire to deal fairly by allowing them to state their side of the case where they think they have been wronged, they have lost no opportunity of making hay while the sun shines. Thus we have published two cards from the Valentine Bros., and many other so-called indorsements of swindling "colleges." The last one received is the asseveration of an "operator" that he learned the business at the Oberlin College, and we preserve the original copy to show the professors of that great institution that it needs to keep its ex-students in the shade. This particular champion of the Oberlin College, in a communication containing 254 words by actual count, tells us that in his experience there he could find no "falt" with the management (the word "falt" is used twice in different places); that they spared no "panes" to make it pleasant for him; there being a "pianno" and "sotials," concerts, banquets and "liturary" societies for the "schollars;" that he could "consistantly recomend" it, since he himself learned there to take so many words a "minit" (the word minit is used four times in different places); that he is "cinsereley" doubtful of such and such a policy, and that with the "acceptation" of certain things he would say, etc. It is due also to the college to relate that this bright student "never saw the superintendent, Mr. Sheridan, drunk, gamble nor try to take the advantage of his pupils." Now, our claim all along has been that when any so-called college receives such an ignoramus as the writer of this "defense" as a "student," and assures him that for a stipulated fee it will make a telegraph operator of him, the transaction is a gross swindle upon its face, since such a man could not hold a responsible telegraphic position one month. If this college were a respectable concern, it would take "panes" to secure only such "schollars" as it can "consistantly recomend,"

even though he might be taught to grind out thirty words a "minit."

It is hardly fair for a Boston correspondent to accuse us of leaning toward the monopolists, when we set forth the present impregnable position of the Western Union Telegraph Company, as against the Mutual Union. A good journal is nothing if not truthful, and not truthful if incorrect. We have better opportunities for learning these little inside matters than our friends in the modern Athens, and, in the pursuit of our duty to our readers, we lose no opportunity of finding out the truth. THE OPERATOR of to-day is a Bureau of Statistics, to which correspondents, appointed or volunteers, throughout the world send frequent reports. Many a sly note falls into our hands which it would appall our Boston critic to see. He may understand, then, that when we make an announcement on behalf of the paper, we are speaking by the card. We have a correspondence equal to that of a good-sized banking house, and when we come across a good thing we let our subscribers have it, without soliciting favor or fearing criticism.

WE have not yet seen the constitution adopted by our brethren at Pittsburgh. That adopted at Cincinnati is a document of which its framers may well be proud. The "beneficial" clause has all the elements of unification, and is strengthened by the clause embracing railroad and commercial operators and clerks. The absolute sovereignty of districts and councils over their own immediate affairs will prevent dissension, while the distribution of power among the various governing bodies may be classed as a bit of statesmanship. The declarations as to the rights and privileges of operators, their pay, hours of duty, extra and Sunday work, are both emphatic and fair, though we believe they will excite emotions of a different character in the average official breast. It seems, though, to have been a cold day for "telegraph colleges."

A STRIKE is a monstrous imposition upon the public, and the party precipitating such a state of affairs is incapable of holding any position where brains and tact are concerned. This applies to that Boston manager who brought about a strike among the Western Union messengers by his crazy attempts to "economize." We believe the executive officers sat down upon him promptly as soon as they read in the papers of the strike of the plucky youngsters; but they can economize to some effect by dispensing with this alleged "manager," and hiring a fifteen-year-old boy in his place; since, if the latter could not improve the existing state of affairs, he could, at least, let them alone, and not bring the company into ridicule and disgrace by an unseemly quarrel with the messengers over a fraction of a cent.

THE sextuplex is a great stride onward in the progress of electrical science, and a thing which has been the dream of electricians for some years. From the duplex to the quadruplex was considered the *ultima Thule* of telegraphy, yet we are now to have the sextuplex. This is explained to-day in another column, and our readers will doubtless take much pleasure in studying Mr. Jones' ingenious method of transmitting six messages on one wire simultaneously. Mr. Frank W. Jones is an electrician of national

reputation—deservedly so—and, being a young man, there is a wide field open to him, with a good prospect of much honor and profit.

THE list of officers elected on the 16th ult. by the New York Electrical Society is an exceedingly strong one, and is a guarantee of continued success for this prosperous organization. It is engaged in a good work, and will prove an indispensable auxiliary to the organizations of a different scope which are striving to elevate the standard of American telegraphy. We understand that the Society is now looking for rooms down town, in which to establish a kind of electrical exchange, in addition to a place for holding meetings and delivering lectures. The Society should be encouraged by every telegrapher.

WHILE we are seeking improvement in circles purely telegraphic, it may be stimulating, on the principle that misery loves company, to read of telegraphic life in the U. S. Signal Service, now being written for THE OPERATOR by an ex-officer of that corps. No branch of telegraphy is more honorable than that included in the Signal Service, and its operators should not be subjected to the whims and caprices of pompous commissioned officers. By the time our correspondent gets through, we believe there will be a demand for some reform in the corps.

THE profession includes many men of superior intellect, culture and grace, and whose names must, later on, be heard in connection with more important and inspiring occupations than telegraphing. Among them is Dr. Harry W. Orr, whose picture we produce to-day. He is a thorough operator, in every sense of the word, and while certain misguided officials are seeking to debase the profession by the introduction of a cheaper and worse element, it is gratifying to know that we still have with us such men as Dr. Orr.

Now that the subject of hours of labor has come up again, it is well to remember that in March, 1871, William Orton, President of the U. S. Telegraph Company; E. S. Sanford, President of the American Company, and J. H. Wade, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in response to a letter of the Postmaster General, asserted that "six hours' continuous service (steady telegraphing) is all that a young man is capable of performing and maintaining his health."

WE now have two national protective organizations, differing in their nature and constitution, but with the same altruistic end in view. The various local organizations which have not yet joined either national body will gradually fall in, and then we may look for one grand organization. That word "consolidation" was a very good one to put in our mouths, and the rank and file seem to improve upon it.

THE only really desirable thing now in protective organization is to secure the good will and co-operation of our brethren in Canada. The Dominion possesses about as stalwart and talented a body of telegraphers as can be found any where, and when they and the telegraphers of the United States strike hands there will be no danger of assault.

NO response has come to our suggestion of a few weeks ago about telegraphing from point to

point observations of the solar eclipse, which will occur May 18.

The central line of the eclipse crosses the Nile about 1' north of Luxor, one of the stations occupied for the observation of the last transit of Venus, and there is still time to arrange for a thorough telegraphic service.

It is now announced that an International Electrical Exhibition is to be held in Vienna in September next. A committee of organization has been formed with Count Wilezek and Baron Erlanger at its head. The site of the exhibition will be the same as that in 1873. We have before asked in vain why New York cannot have a similar exhibition.

It may be interesting to American geographers to learn from an English scientific journal, the *Electrician*, that "a company, with a capital of 100,000 dollars, has been organized to introduce the electric light at Columbus, Galveston State, U. S. A." We shall expect the company next to put up the light at Glasgow, Edinburghshire, N. B.

SHOULD the Western Union open an office in London, we hope it will be more patriotic than the so-called "American" cable, which hired no operator who was an American, at least, none who asked American salary. If we are to have an American line from London to the Cornish coast, let it be manned by American operators.

WE are devoting much space to the discussion of hypothetical train orders, but we think it is a subject of much interest to studious men. It should be freely discussed and studied by railroad operators, and, as many railroad men have very different views of train orders, it would be well for them to compare notes.

THE OPERATOR will contribute fifty (\$50) dollars to the local Council of the Brotherhood which shall first secure the conviction in a court of law of a swindling "College Professor" upon the charge, easily proved, of obtaining money under false pretences.

OUR admiration for the American Small Boy has been greatly increased since our last issue. When he undertakes to go on a strike, like the Boston Small Boy, and worries his "sub" until the company grows tired and yields to the Small Boy, we shall expect to hear from him again.

THE members of the Chicago delegation to the Cincinnati convention express their liveliest gratitude to their brethren in the latter city, whose exceeding kindness and liberality made so much pleasure possible amid the cares of a great crisis in the history of telegraphy.

LOOK over the 82 pages in this issue of THE OPERATOR; think of the enterprise, the patience, the grubbing labor and the expense, and say if such a paper is possible anywhere except among the irrepressible American operators.

THE *Telegram*, of this city, thinks that the operators, if they strike, should hold out for a long time, since they have been used to existing on "tick."

THE scholars of a New Jersey school have been treated to a ride on Edison's electric railway at Menlo Park, and found the experience a very pleasant one.

THAT One Man in Charleston was in Cincinnati last week. He was also in Pittsburgh subsequently.

"LONG life to the Brotherhood."

### St. Louis Aestheticism.

To the Editor of *The Operator*:

SIR: It is always charming to read mutual admiration notes, whether emanating from St. Louis or a division railroad office. There is, invariably, such a refreshing vein of attractive *naïveté* running through the paragraphs and sentences that their invidious character is often forgotten in the spontaneous admiration of their gushiness. But many of their hosts of friends, after calm reflection, may be excused for a momentary feeling of wonder that in the list of "the most prominent of the operating force of the St. Louis office, the mutual admiration reporter overlooked the genial and talented cartoonist, Mr. John Cassidy, who receives Associated Press report during the day, making ten manifold copies in a style of penmanship and "make up" that is at once the graceful envy of his fellow operators and the delight of the "fourth estate;" Mr. Murray, who receives market reports from Chicago in cipher and translates them as they arrive, and they arrive with an expedition and accumulation that many of "the most prominent" justly consider quite "numerous;" Mr. Marling, the night report operator; Mr. MacLaren Campbell, whose suggestive name at once demonstrates the just distinction he is entitled to; the elegant Mr. Tong, of the Indianapolis "quad," whose taste in dress is as conspicuous as his amiable ability; the modest Mr. Owens, of the New Orleans quad, whose quiet, unassuming manner is a thorn of grief to the *nuts admirans*; the unobtrusive Mr. Murphy, whose native wit is as readily perceived as his steadiness and reliability; the untrifled Mr. Tallis, who "can take anything, if he only gets there;" the expert transmitter and rapid and graceful receiver, Mr. Ed. Lucas, the bewitching curl of whose mustache is quite as killing as the aesthetic plaid of his new spring overcoat; the accomplished tenor, Mr. McVrairie, whose conscientiousness to duty is visibly illustrated in his declining, on moral grounds, to raise his tuneful note in any denomination choir but his own; and who, it is believed, could not be induced to desert the Western Union for similar reasons; the suave and poetical Mr. Dennison, whose poetry of motion, illustrated in the manipulation of Bunnell's steel lever or Cumming's periphery contact, would doubtless so completely annihilate a majority of the "most prominent" that they would thereafter live only the memory of a lost hope. And then the ladies—but I reflect that you only publish serials on scientific subjects, not poetical.

It is very touching to observe the extreme regard the M. A. R. exhibit for the modest worth of Mr. Van Tyne, by relegating his name to the last of the list, no doubt fully appreciating the fact that this gentleman is a living guarantee of his ability, and also that, in the estimation of competent judges, Mr. Van Tyne is recognized as having no superiors and an angel's visitation of equals as a theoretical and practical electrician employed in any telegraph office west of the heaven-kissed summits of the Alleghanies.

It may not be altogether pleasant to our Indianapolis friends to have their quad entirely unnoticed, but probably the M. A. R. was perspiring over the etiquette of the arrangement of his notes at the time Mr. Topliff declared it to be the fastest wire in the office, and perhaps the reporter was prejudiced against Indianapolis because the latter telegraphic centre commissioned a representative to the Cincinnati Convention, which places that city beyond the pale of recognition, because it is the distinctive characteristic of *nuts admirans* to be quite exclusive in their conservatism, and, therefore, they refrain from encouraging any one who affects "crowds."

The reporter did not neglect to patronizingly allude to the "school," but forgot to mention that many of the students employed in the branch offices were suspected of being the financial backers of the late "wheat corner," and their salaries were promptly reduced from five to ten dollars per month, under the sagacious belief that by curtailing the income of the "poof" to twenty-five and thirty dollars each per month the combination would be overwhelmed. I learn the corner "collapsed," and I also see a statement in the daily papers that the poor-house is overcrowded.

The specific feature of the article relative to "improvement of business" is especially attract-

ive to Manager Brown, who is vastly interested in learning the process of mathematical gyrations that produces this result; as, just now, while he is gratified with the considerable decrease in the expenses of his office, he is in no sense enjoying those agreeable titillations of self-gratulation with every dutiful and energetic felicitates himself, in the contemplation of a proportionately increased remittance to the general coffers. The fact that in the face of this "improvement in business" the management has been able to dispense with a considerable amount of extra service and have experienced no compulsion in filling various other vacancies, evidences an executive talent as remarkable as it is anomalous, and will, no doubt, if the monetary exhibit conveys the proof of its astuteness, be employed by Mr. Gould in the operation of his railroad systems, as it at once solves the problem of "improving business" by running fewer trains, employing fewer assistants, etc., and thus realizing enormous inductive dividends in the judicious economy of ink, stationery and bituminous jewelry. This is no doubt one of the results of the investigation of M. Faure in secondary force, and shows how readily a practical mind can apply to the general affairs of life the discoveries in philosophy and science. JEFF.

St. Louis, March 21, 1882.

### A Messengers' Strike, but no Contemplated Operators' Strike.

To the Editor of *The Operator*:

SIR: During the past two weeks the almost dormant telegraphic spirit of the easy-going "Hub" was raised to a degree unparalleled in its history since the strike of '70. The usual serenity and smoothness of the daily routine of business was undisturbed until Friday, March 17, when information was given to the messenger boys of the Western Union Company that, in accordance with arrangements entered into with the District Company, messages of the W. U. Co. would be delivered by the district messengers for one and one-quarter cents a message, a reduction of one-half the amount paid the boys up to this time.

The scene in the delivery department on that morning will not be soon forgotten by the doughty little knights errant, who immediately held a consultation, and then to refuse the terms proposed. They then collected in crowds outside the building and up State street. Business was, of course, almost at a standstill in the delivery department, until the heads of that department secured the service of such boys as were willing to undertake, in the face of the action of the "boys in blue," to deliver messages in conjunction with the district boys. But the number proved inadequate to the demand. Some of the boys who ventured out were immediately pounced upon by the strikers, who indulged in little practices peculiar to boys under such circumstances. This mode of intimidation had the effect of keeping a large number of boys away from the W. U. office who would have been willing to take the places of those who had stepped out. It was found necessary to enlist the clerks, linemen and other employes into the messengers' corps until affairs could be settled with the regular "trotters." Some of the most prominent business men in the vicinity of the W. U. office interested themselves so far as to send petitions to the superintendent, asking to have the rate paid the boys restored. Recognizing the necessity of retaining experienced messengers, it was decided by the superintendent to restore the old rates, so the boys resumed their duties, conscious of gaining a great victory, and one that would have done credit to older heads better versed in that particular mode of warfare, and who had so often failed in accomplishing their purposes. The messenger boys' three-day strike will be numbered with the very few successful ones in the history of strikes.

The Society of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers, organized in this city some eight weeks ago, is now in a very flourishing condition, almost beyond the expectation of the most sanguine of its originators. This may be attributed to the fact that it is in no sense a secret organization, its main object looking to the elevation of the telegraphic fraternity, so sadly in need of some fostering influence which is impossible to be consummated without the aid of an organization of this kind to bring its members into close relationship to each other and

make common cause in lifting the profession to its proper standard. The existence of our organization was pretty thoroughly heralded throughout the country by some of our daily papers, in their issues of March 28. The information was furnished to the papers by persons evidently well-informed as to the fact of its existence, setting forth the object of the society in quite an accurate manner; but how they conceived the idea that the brotherhood contemplated a grand strike at no distant day, we are unable to conjecture. A positive statement to that effect was published in the *Globe*. On the same day the *Herald* sent a reporter to interview Counselor E. J. O'Connor on the subject, and was informed that we did not deny the existence of the organization, had one hundred or more members in the Boston council, and judging from conventions recently held, it was estimated that we were fully ten thousand strong, but, notwithstanding the fact that salaries in Boston are smaller than in many other large cities, we have not any particular grievances, and the question of strikes had not been mentioned at the meetings of the council in any manner, so that there was no foundation whatever in the statement, so far as the Boston council was concerned. The possibility of a strike is lessened by the fact that it would require a two-thirds vote of its members in order to institute a strike. The *Traveler* had it all arranged for the operators, "in accordance with the utmost secrecy and skillfully managed plans, to strike at eight o'clock Monday morning, March 27." We are very much obliged to the journals for advertising us, but regret exceedingly our inability to carry out their premature programme. U. KNO.

Boston, Mass., March 27.

#### The American District Telegraph Co.

To the Editor of *The Operator* :

SIR: The history of the American District Telegraph Company, even from its organization, has been one of vicissitude. Commencing in a small way, it struggled along amid hopes and disappointments, barely escaping abandonment at one time from lack of support by its promoters, as well as by the public; burdened with a capital of \$2,000,000, probably seven-eighths water, it was difficult to bring the company to a dividend-paying basis. Nevertheless, beginning with the administration of General Superintendent Pope, the company began to earn and save money, and at the time of his withdrawal was paying six per cent. on the capital stock, i. e., \$120,000, net earnings, with its plant in first-class order. The executive management, blind to any policy likely to temporarily delay increased dividends, and obstinate to the highest degree, opposed all endeavors to inaugurate a policy looking to the gradual extinction of box rentals and the protection of the company against opposition. This and other reasons caused a stampede of officials and the resignation and withdrawal of Messrs. Pope, Foote and Hotchkiss, respectively general superintendent, vice-president and assistant treasurer, in quick succession. From this time the service began to deteriorate, and all was being done by the then management that could be done to pave the way for a successful opposition company yet to be organized upon the very basis that the American District Company had rejected, in their eagerness to increase dividends.

The Mutual District Messenger Company was organized in Jan. 1881, and officered by the former management of the American District Company, and its plan of action was based upon the theory that "the greater the facility the greater the business." And, with offices opened only where the business warranted, and economical management, there was no question of its success. In six months the Mutual District was on a paying basis and doing 25 per cent. more business than its competitor's adjoining offices. The officials of the old company, however, still insisted that a company on a free-rental basis could not pay, and that the Mutual was losing \$8,000 per month. Persisting in this belief, the Mutual was allowed to continue its rapid strides unopposed. The American District passed its dividends; negotiations for a compromise and consolidation were entered into, and were rejected by the "Mutual;" the insiders were badly left on the American District stock, which had

dropped from 80 to 81, and the assistance of Jay Gould was obtained, and, following this, it was announced that the Western Union had control of the A. D. T. Co., and the stock advanced rapidly. Immediately application was made to increase the capital to \$3,000,000, for the purpose of bringing into the net two old and defunct plants, namely, "Domestic and American Union Signal Co."

The capital being increased, it was accidentally discovered that by virtue of an old agreement Mr. J. N. Gamevell, the patentee of the District system, came in for 25 per cent. of the increased stock. The blunder once made and the fact of the increase advertised, the action of the company could not be revoked. The existence of this agreement was evidently a surprise to the Gould party, and a piece of good fortune for the veteran telegraphist, Gamevell. Negotiations for a compromise were entered into, and it is asserted that the matter is to be settled by payment of a round sum of money.

With a capital of \$3,000,000—one million greater than heretofore—a number of offices in territory unable to support them; a patrol system costing over \$30,000 per annum; the Mutual District still in the field, with every office paying a profit and its plant extending at the rate of over 300 boxes per month, the (American) company infringing the patents of Kirschhoff, Lake, Guernsey, Watts and Watkins, with suits commenced in one or two of the cases, and contemplated in all the rest, it is difficult to find much encouragement for the stockholders. The Guernsey patent, which is the foundation patent for all burglar alarm systems operated by variation of the resistance or battery of the circuit, and covers the most profitable portion of the District company's business, has recently been purchased in the interests of the Holmes Burglar Alarm Co. The outlook for the American District is certainly not encouraging, and the management for the past few years has indeed burdened the company with a heavy load. X.

NEW YORK, March 25, 1882.

#### The Texas Military Line.

To the Editor of *The Operator* :

SIR: There exists in this State a telegraph line of no inconsiderable length, and which, outside of the State, is little known to fame. I refer to the U. S. Military Line, which, beginning at Brownsville on the south, stretches up the Rio Bravo some two hundred miles; thence strikes north along what was once the extreme frontier until it loses itself in the wilds of the Indian Territory. Why this line was ever built is a matter of speculation, though I presume it was to connect the forts along the border, to give each other information concerning the approach of predatory Apaches, in order that the soldiers might be called inside the protecting walls, and thus leave the marauders no object on which to vent their ire and government ammunition, unless, perchance, some luckless cowboy, in search of "Mavericks," should cross their path. But with the growth of the State in prosperity and civilization, the Military line has grown in importance and usefulness, until at the present time some of its offices handle as many as seven messages per day, three of which are weather reports; and, as the line follows the sinuous windings of the primitive roadways, many a teamster has recognized its usefulness by cutting out pieces to serve in the place of broken traces.

The operators on this line well deserve their fifty dollars per month, rations and soldier clothes for their self-banishment from civilization, if for nothing less; and one can hardly expect to find any telegraph stars of great magnitude in a constellation where sounders grow rusty and keys last forever. Hence we cannot share with Mr. Smith his surprise, while away from his home near one of the forts, at receiving a message telling him to "come hog at once, Goma very slyt." Nor can we be puzzled, as was Mr. Jones, on being told to "send genri by mail," when we know it was written money; nor share the indignation of Mr. Skinner on receiving a message addressed to Mr. Thomas "Skijoi;" nor in that of P. J. Hall on having his name rendered "Half Ham."

But the most striking instance of where the ingenuity and inventiveness of the Military artist has been brought into action stands to the credit of the erudite freshman at Mason, who

neglected to write down the name of the place from which he received a certain message. The party to whom the telegram was addressed failed to note the omission, and it was only when entering up the check ledger that our friend "caught on." He immediately called up every office on the line, one after another, inquiring about the message, and every office denied having sent it; and, as it was near time for supper-roll, this future statesman entered it thusly: "X in algebra represents the unknown quantity; X in telegraphy represents an unknown office, hence I check X 50 cents;" and he bounded away to the mess room with a hungry stomach and a clear conscience, satisfied that he had done his duty to his government and earned his rations. GREENE.

#### Operators as Signal Men.

To the Editor of *The Operator* :

SIR: Little has been said in any of your issues on the Signal Service, and as little is known of that branch of the United States Army among the majority of our fraternity, I believe the experience of one who has served for a period of five consecutive years will be acceptable, especially to those who may entertain an idea of enlisting. A perusal of this and subsequent communications will at least enable them to enter the service of the government with their eyes open and a greater or less knowledge of what they may expect.

That the Signal Service is experiencing considerable trouble in getting operators to enlist is apparent, since they offer special inducements to operators, promising them the preference of vacancies—at least the enlistment circular so says, or words to that effect.

Preparatory to enlisting, an examination is required, and, if successful, the candidate is enlisted as a common soldier in the Signal Corps of the Regular Army, and is ordered immediately to report to the commanding officer of Fort Myer, Virginia. After reporting at Fort Myer he is dressed in a uniform, ready made, regardless of fit, and causing one to feel ridiculously out of place. However, as the private is no longer the property of himself, or able to pursue the dictates of his own will, he quietly submits. This uniform, with a dress coat, or what may be more properly termed a bobtailed monstrosity, a helmet, etc., costs the private from \$30 to \$40, for which he has to pay.

The candidate is now a full-fledged private, and is known as such at Fort Myer. He is drilled every day, does guard duty, takes his turn in the kitchen, where he is initiated into the science of peeling potatoes and the duties of second assistant chief cook, scrubbing out, etc. Beef, gravy, plain bread, with a total absence of butter, and a bowl of black coffee, no milk and very little sugar (placed in the pot while the coffee is being made), constitutes the breakfast bill of fare, while for dinner they actually give one as much water as he cares to drink (no coffee) unpeeled Irish potatoes, beef, gravy and bread. For supper he gets plain coffee and bread, and, possibly two or three times a month, prunes.

The above constitutes the table fare at Fort Myer, day in and day out, excepting Sundays, when for dinner they have corned beef as a luxury. Breakfast is served I think about 6.30 or 7 in the morning, dinner at noon, and supper at "retreat"—sundown. When meal time is "bugled" the soldiers fall into file, and are marched down to the mess room, when they are waited upon by one or two of their comrades, who will have previously been ordered to do that duty.

Continued in the next.

EX SIGNAL CORPS.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 28, 1882.

#### The Telephone in Detroit.

To the Editor of *The Operator* :

SIR: The central office here is situated on the top floor of the Newberry & McMillan building, on the corner of Griswold and Larned streets. There are 19 operators and 4 check boys on duty from 7:30 A. M. to 6 P. M., under the supervision of the gentlemanly and obliging chief operator, Mr. James F. Land, who deserves much praise for the able manner in which he discharges his manifold duties. Fifteen of the 19 operators are young ladies, who each have charge of a 50-line switch-board. There may be mentioned among

them Miss Emma Landon, who is called our best operator, and has charge of the busiest board; Miss Aggie Smith and Miss Annie Daley, each of whom is a very good operator. Then there is Hal Stokes, who has charge of the State line. Beside these day operators, there is a night force of five operators, under the watchful eye of the genial Pat. McNeerney, who is night chief, his force consisting of Messrs. Chas. Lyons, Herbert Youngblood, Geo. Pratt, Fred Barnard, and Tanner. There is also the night operator, who stays all night, Jas. L. Corner. Mr. W. A. Jackson, the general manager of the company, is very popular with the operators, for his impartiality and fairness, as is also Mr. E. F. Phillips, the superintendent.

We have 750 lines running into the central office, and about 870 subscribers, and in the neighborhood of 150 running into "the sub." We are also connected with Port Huron, St. Clair, Mt. Clemens, Leesville, Roseville, Marine City and Wyandotte, on this side of the river, and Windsor, Essex Centre, Cottane, Maidstone Cross, Amherstburg and Walkerville, on the other side. Our longest line is to Port Huron, 62 miles, which works splendidly, and, by connecting Amherstburg, we have a line about 100 miles in length.

We keep a large gang of linemen at work putting in new telephones all the time and running new wires. If we keep on as we are doing now, we shall have to enlarge our office, as the last board is nearly filled, and we expect to have a spring renovating pretty soon.

B. S.  
DETROIT, Mich., March 15, 1882.

#### Washington (Pa.) Notes.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

For a town of its size (5,000 inhabitants), Washington, Pa., seems to be about as well supplied with telegraphic accommodations as any in the country. The new Mutual Union office is presided over by Mr. T. B. Hallam, an old timer. He worked for some time in the oil regions, and while doing so, laid up enough to put him through the Washington and Jefferson College of this place, and is now studying Blackstone, preparatory to the practice of law. Mr. John W. Taylor, the veteran battery man of Washington, D. C., New York and other large cities, where he has filled the position of head battery man, is attending to the 300 cells of battery and expecting about 250 more to attend to in the near future. Dr. F. T. Burck is night owl and a first-class man. He hails from Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Robt. Mason attends to distributing messages. The Western Union office is presided over by Mr. J. P. Naughton, an old timer and a first-class man. Jimmie can take C. N. D., stocks and general business with as much coolness as any operator. He also has the testing to do for about 30 wires, which he does in the same creditable manner. The W. U. will move to its new and more comfortable quarters, under the Town Hall, about the 1st. Mr. M. Greer is lineman and repairer. Mike can almost smell a ground, cross or other disturbance on the wires. He is assisted by Mr. R. Thompson. Mr. T. Rattigan is assistant operator and messenger, and seems to be the making of a first-class operator. Mr. J. Braden, formerly of the A. & P., holds the fort for the W. U. at Chartiers Depot, P. C. & St. L. R. R. Mr. Wm. H. S. Westlake attends to the telegraphic wants of the citizens of Claysville, Pa., on the B. & O. R. R. Mr. J. R. Bell is at West Alexander, on the same road, and the last office between Washington and Wheeling, W. Va. The B. & O. Tel. Office at Washington is managed by Miss E. Young, and has about four wires. This company has four railroad cars, with a wire gang extending its wires through to Pittsburg, which they will have completed in a few days, rendering it ready for general business. X.

#### The Mutual Union in Indianapolis.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: Matters telegraphic have assumed a very interesting shape at this point. Business holds up exceedingly well, with plenty of men from the West to help us out.

The Mutual Union opened up yesterday (15th) with twenty wires and a force of four men, as follows: Mr. J. C. Dalton, formerly assistant manager of the Western Union, as manager; Mr.

Joseph M. Taylor, formerly second assistant chief of the W. U., as chief operator; Mr. Thos. E. Cantwell, an old W. U. man, New York quad, days, and Mr. James E. Berry, also of the W. U. Prospects for a large business with them are very flattering. They are located just opposite the Western Union on Meridian street, occupying the whole of the building formerly occupied by E. G. Bagley, wholesale grocer. They are duplexed with Chicago, and expect soon to work double east and west. Their Washington wires are now figuratively red-hot with specials, and they are expecting an immense amount of this kind of work. Mr. Dalton as manager is a lucky hit for the opposition, as he is well and favorably known by nearly every business man in the city.

The Western Union boys were, on the 13th inst., made the recipients of a call of very short duration from Mr. H. A. Bogardus.

Things around the Western Union are about as usual. The boys are somewhat stirred up over the convention at Cincinnati, to which we sent our representative, and we desire to assure the fraternity that Indianapolis will stand by the decision of that body to the last. The Brotherhood is flourishing here. R.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 16.

#### Pueblo (Colorado) Items.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: The boom in every business has also struck us, and finding the present dingy and small office on the second floor inadequate to the demands of our constantly increasing business, we are about to remove to the first floor in the new Thatcher Block, on Fourth street, which pleases the boys and the public. The boys say that climbing a stairway of twenty-five stairs is rather flighty work.

Our new office, when fixed up, will be one of the finest in the State. The increase in business is very large. One year ago two men handled everything, but now six are required, and the force will probably be increased before long. We have at present about twenty wires, with a prospect of more in the near future. We work duplex between Kansas City and Deming. The duplex instrument used on the Southern overland route are stationed here. The force is made up as follows: Mr. H. Drake, manager, who is efficient and very popular with the force and the public; day force, Messrs. G. Parker, formerly of the C., St. P., M. & O., Sioux City, Ia. (Dame Rumor says that on Mr. Parker's return from the East two passes will be required); A. H. Beach, late of C., B. & Q., "Ham"-burg, Ia., with Mr. A. H. Sinclair, formerly of Perth, Ont., and later agent A. U. at Whitehall, N. Y., as chief; Dan. Sullivan is receiving clerk; night force, Messrs. F. L. Cowles, night chief, looks after the overland route, with Tom. Moore, late of Montreal, on night report. W. J. Davis is our efficient battery man.

The branch office at South Pueblo, in the D. & R. G. station, is also doing a large business, under the management of Mr. T. C. Ronen, assisted by two operators. FILE NO. 1.

PUEBLO, Col., March 20, 1882.

#### Time Will Tell.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: The following portion of an editorial in the last issue of THE OPERATOR, under the head of "Review of the Past two Weeks," namely:

"On the other hand, the Mutual Union Company, since the death of its active President, Mr. Evans, shows little aggressive spirit, and if a new President be not soon chosen, and a general waking up ordered all around, we shall not be far wrong in prophesying an early 'consolidation' with the Western Union," has been the subject of much comment in this section of the country. At a recent gathering of some of the fraternity in the parlors of the American House, in this city, quite a lively debate was indulged in relative to the seemingly Western Union stand taken by THE OPERATOR, and many were not slow in expressing surprise that such sentiments should emanate from its editorial sanctum.

While deploring the loss of such an active and energetic man as President Evans, who has done a great deal to place the Mutual Union Telegraph Company before the public with a solid foundation, and every hope of a bright future,

still there are left with us men with years of experience and a thorough knowledge of telegraphic requirements, men who have fought their way through the labyrinths of fortune, and, I venture to say, can bear the standard of "Mutual Union" safely through to the end, notwithstanding Vanderbiltism or Jay Gould's tricky stock-jobbing manœuvres.

This cry of consolidation, 'tis true, has been the leading topic of discussion with opposition companies ever since the monopoly has had a rival, but I am justified in my assertions that the present "scream" of consolidation has no echo whatever, and was "born to blush unseen." A SUBSCRIBER.

BOSTON, March 18, 1882.

#### Contact with Electric Light Wires.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: Does the lightning arrester conduct to the ground frictional electricity that is generated for electric light purposes the same as it does atmospheric electricity? Or should the operator be touching any of the exposed parts of his electrical apparatus at the time it comes in contact with an uncovered electric light wire, where it is charred, would not this shock be great enough to cause death? In my opinion it would be the same as if touching the electric light wire itself. A SUBSCRIBER.

[It seems to us that, at first, a lightning arrester would carry off the frictional electricity the same as atmospheric, provided the wire were surcharged to the same extent; but, the electric light current, being continuous, if strong enough to "jump" the slight space in the lightning arrester, would establish an arc, and would thus fuse the surrounding metal. Should the operator be touching any part of the metal in the main circuit at the time that the said circuit came in contact with an electric light circuit, he would suddenly have that fact brought to his mind. The violence of the shock would depend upon the conductivity of the surface upon which he stood, but in any case it would be enough to induce a burning desire for remoteness between himself and dynamo machines in the future.—ED. OPERATOR.]

#### A Gallant Suggestion.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: The Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph Company has taken a new departure, which is sure to make that company famous in this city for its unprecedented action regarding the lady operators in its employ. The ladies received notice from the manager that they would be required to work their turn on Sunday or furnish a substitute. Taking into consideration that the lady whose turn came to work on Sunday would be all alone in a large building (as only one operator is necessary on Sunday), and that, too, on the fourth floor, it does not seem to show much consideration toward the ladies. They are righteously indignant, as they did not agree to any such proceeding when they accepted positions with the B. & O., and, furthermore, they were not informed that they would be expected to do what no other telegraph company asks of its lady operators. Isn't it a strange proceeding for a new company to take the initiative in this thing? What do the ladies of the W. U. Company think of this procedure? Please let us hear from you. MIZPAH.

NEW YORK, March 16, 1882.

#### Induction.

##### To the Editor of The Operator:

SIR: Will you allow me to ask through your columns the general opinion of electricians respecting the induction experienced on land lines—whether it makes any difference as to the size of wire used, and to what extent it has been noted?

Hoping to see opinions and experiences freely expressed, I am, Yours respectfully,

"OPINIONS."

## TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT.

The Granite State Telephone Co., of Manchester, N. H., have just ordered a dividend of 10 per cent.

Telephone companies in the Western States have paid some as high as 2 and 3 per cent. quarterly dividends.

The telephone exchange at Pueblo, Col., is in flourishing condition, under the management of Mr. H. Thompson.

Departed spirits take possession of the telephone wires of Chicago at night, according to the stories of certain persons, who say they have been greatly disturbed by weird demonstrations.

A cable dispatch from Madrid, dated March 3, says that telephones are about to be established with the sanction of the Cortes in Madrid and the principal towns in Spain, for the use of the public as well as the government authorities. An American company has made offers for the privilege in Madrid.

The Greenville, Miss., exchange of the Louisiana Telephone Co., which was opened Oct. 4, 1881, has now 41 subscribers; average daily calls, 349, single circuit. Exchanges will be established in Aberdeen, Miss., and Baton Rouge, La., this fall. The exchange in New Orleans is now undergoing enlargement, and additional switch tables are being connected, of the Gilliland make.

An improvement has been made in diving apparatus at Constantinople. One of the glasses in the helmet is replaced by a sheet of copper into which a telephone is fixed, so that the diver when at the bottom of the sea has only to slightly turn his head in order to receive instructions from above or to report what he sees. It was the custom formerly to pull the diver up at intervals to relate what he discovered, which was always more or less dangerous, the same being done when long and detailed instructions had to be given.

But now an engineer, or even the captain, can direct the diver's investigations by means of the telephone.

Mr. M. S. Gardner, late of the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company, of this city, has been appointed general superintendent and Electrician of the Compania Electrica de Cuba, Havana, and has entered upon his duties. In a private letter he says: "On Wednesday, March 8, four Blake transmitters were placed on the stage of the Tacou Theatre, Havana, where Maurice Grau's Company were giving French opera, and twelve Bell telephones in the house of the Captain-General, giving his guests the opera during his reception. The attempt was a grand success, and the Havanese are delighted with the workings of the telephones, and loud in their praises of the enterprising American."

A full report of the telephone case of the United Telephone Co. vs. Alex. Maclean, before Lord McLaren, at Edinburgh, Scotland, covering thirty-five large, closely-printed pages, has just been published by the *Electrical Review*, of London, and is for sale in this country at 30 cents a copy. This pamphlet is an important one for telephone men to have, as it gives all the testimony brought forward by Mr. Maclean to justify himself in the use of the telephone without license from the telephone company; and also the evidence of the prominent electricians and telephonists called to prove the validity of the telephone patents. Copies may be had at this office, or we will mail them, postage prepaid, on receipt of price, 30c. each.

Upon the reading desk in Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church are two boxes containing telephones. Mr. Beecher explained their presence as follows: "Mr. Moses Beach and his brother, Mr. Alfred Beach, of Munn & Co., are both very much interested in all kinds of scientific experiments, particularly in those which relate to electricity. Some time ago they had the telephones placed in the church, and for three or four weeks I did not know anything about it. A wire runs to Mr. Moses Beach's house on Columbia heights, another to Mr. Alfred Beach's house in New York, and yet another to Elizabeth, N. J. They say that when the atmospheric conditions are favorable everything can be heard as distinctly as though the person at the telephone were at church. I consider the thing a felonious attempt to do away with pew rents."

added Mr. Beecher with a smile. "Can the music be heard in Elizabeth?" "On a good day, yes."

We some time ago published a notice of the establishment of a telephone factory in Antwerp under the auspices of the International Bell Telephone Company and the Western Electric Manufacturing Company. We learn that the factory is now in successful operation under the management of Mr. F. R. Welles, who, with the experience he has had in American manufactories, is enabled to make instruments which, it is said, the European factories cannot compete with. There is a large field yet undeveloped for the introduction of the telephone abroad, so that we predict for the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company a prosperous future.

It is announced that arrangements have been perfected between the Gilliland Electric Mfg. Co., and the Western Electric Mfg. Co., by which their interests are made identical, and the facilities of each placed at the disposition of the other in such a way as to secure to their patrons the peculiar advantage of having a supply department in three different large cities, and of combining the experience which has made the apparatus of both companies so popular with telephone people. Mr. E. T. Gilliland, well known to those interested in telephone exchanges, still remains in charge of the factory at Indianapolis, and no changes are anticipated in the operation of either company, except that they will each be in a position to furnish the goods of the other.

For some time experiments have been made by the American Bell Telephone Company with the Hummings transmitter, which is a modification of the Edison carbon telephone, the difference being that loose carbon or coke granules are used instead of a compressed lampblack button. It has been found that this transmitter is admirably suited for long line work, as it permits of the use of more battery power than an ordinary transmitter will. With fine Bunsen cells, and on a metallic circuit, conversation is easily carried on for distances of over 200 miles, and hence the problem of long-distance telephony seems to be solved, while for short lines the regular Blake or other single contact transmitter is better adapted, because with small battery power comparatively greater loudness and distinctness can be achieved. The experiments were conducted by Mr. W. W. Jacques, one of the company's electricians.

A little more than a year ago, a liveman and an operator entered into partnership, and started a telephone exchange at Concord, N.H., putting into the plant about \$7,000 capital. They have just sold out for the sum of \$15,000. Present rates for rental of telephone, \$36 a year and 25 cents for each five-minutes' conversation with each suburban city, including Manchester, Nashua, Exeter, Lowell, and Lawrence. The differences in prices for the rental of telephones throughout the country are at present exciting considerable attention. The prices seem to vary from \$36 to \$180 per annum, and some companies receiving the largest revenues claim to be making no money and pay no dividends. Telephone companies are sometimes burdened with a surplus number of high-salaried officers and clerks, which tend to so drain the treasury of its receipts that small, if any, dividends can be paid; others, carefully managed, pay large dividends on the smallest rates.

The Compagnie Téléphonique de Zurich has just instituted in that city an innovation in the shape of public telephone offices. Any one, subscribers or non-subscribers, can, on payment of a small fee, talk from these offices with any subscriber for a period of a quarter of an hour. The public offices number eleven. The company has also established, on a system analogous to that adopted by some American companies, a staff of "commissionaires," who are always held in readiness at the head office, to execute any commissions for subscribers at a small charge. The subscribers can also be put in direct communication with the central telegraph office, and dictate their messages direct instead of having to go themselves or send the messages; or, on the other hand, should a telegram arrive at the office for a subscriber, he can have it read to him by telephone, a great saving of time and labor. During 1881

as many as 8,914 telegrams were thus transmitted by telephone. The company likewise call their subscribers at any hour of the night or morning that may be wished, and provide an automatic burglar alarm, which at once warns the central office if a safe or door be tampered with.

The telephone interests of Iowa have been consolidated into one corporation, to be known as the Iowa Telephone and Telegraph Company, of Cedar Rapids. The gentlemen interested are Hon. R. D. Stephens, J. J. Snouffer, Charles H. Clark, and D. H. Ogden, prominent business men and capitalists of Cedar Rapids. They have fixed their capital at a quarter of a million dollars. The company succeeds to the business of the Hawkeye Telephone Company, which had seventeen exchange systems in operation and owned franchises for twenty more. Among the principal towns owned by the company are Iowa City, Muscatine, Waterloo, Oskaloosa, Boone, Fort Dodge, Mount Pleasant, Atlantic, and Independence. During the coming year a general system of lines will be commenced, connecting these towns with each other and with other systems, forming a network of wires that will ultimately cover the entire state. With such a system in operation, lines will be built in the near future connecting with the Illinois system and with systems to be built in other adjoining States. The company will also own the private and club line franchises for seventy counties in the State, to continue during the life of the patents. The importance of the projects of this corporation is not surpassed by any recent organization of the State. Distance will be virtually obliterated, and the whole State will be practically converted into a neighborhood. The metropolis of Iowa can exchange compliments with the State at large, and occasionally put a finger in the domestic pie of Chicago without the trouble of putting the message on paper.

## DASHES HERE AND THERE.

Telegraphers who desire to learn stenography should write to Mr. W. W. Hulton, of Pittsburgh. See his advertisement elsewhere.

A laboratory of electricity, under the charge of M. Cochery, will be established with the surplus funds of the recent electrical exhibition at Paris.

If you want to become a telegraph operator send 25 cents to C. E. Jones & Bro., Cincinnati, O., for best illustrated instruction book.—*Adv.*

The word "plant" has got to be a favorite one with Western Union officials, in speaking of the company's real assets. They probably call it plant because it needs to be frequently watered.

A cable dispatch says that the *Daily News* of March 28 states that arrangements between the various cable companies, with the object of increasing the tariff to America, are nearly completed.

Farnham's Celebrated Armaline acts direct upon the muscles by external application, and has cured hundreds of cases of telegraphers' paralysis. Send for a full treatise. E. W. Farnham, 73 Monroe street, Chicago, Ill.—*Adv.*

Among other things left out this issue are "Notes from New York & New England Railroad," the manuscript being on both sides of each sheet, rendering it useless in a printing office. Write again, Roscoe, and give it to us written on one side only.

Judge Love, in a suit against the American Union Telegraph Company, at Keokuk, Ia., for neglect in sending a message to make purchases on wheat contracts in Chicago, decided, on the 23d ult., that, as the laws of Illinois prohibit option deals, the plaintiff cannot recover damages.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh visited the Crystal Palace Electrical Exhibition, London. On the same day there were over 12,000 visitors present. And yet some people say that an electrical exhibition in New York, advocated long ago by THE OPERATOR, would not pay.

A dispatch from Wilmington, N. C., says that the German bark August, Captain Lonnie, from this port for Liverpool, when 150 miles off the Fryng Pan Lightship, on the morning of March 18, was struck by lightning, setting fire to her

cargo of cotton (1,593 bales). Her hatches were battened down, and she put back for port.

Our Boston correspondent writes: "The Mutual Union is doing a large and profitable business here, and its lines are being extended as speedily as possible to all sections of the country; and, as a proof of its success in New England, I would state, that figures cannot be denied, and that the profits of this district have far exceeded our most sanguine expectations."

Mr. A. B. Smith advertises the Barron Flexible Key-Knob in the present issue. These key-knobs had a very extensive sale among telegraphers when advertised before, a short time ago, and the universal indorsements they received were of the most unmistakable character. There is no reason why they should not have an equally large sale now. Every one troubled with telegraphers' paralysis should give them a trial.

A dispatch from Panama on the 11th ult. says: The steamer Retriever is making surveys for a proposed system of cables to be laid by the Central & South American Telegraph Company of New York. She will leave shortly to survey the line between this port and Salinas Cruz, Mexico. The cable between Santa Elena, Ecuador, and Panama will probably be laid by the middle of June. Mr. T. J. De Sabla, vice-president of the company, is now on the isthmus.

We are short the following issues of THE OPERATOR of 1881: Jan. 15th, Feb. 1st, March 15th, April 1st, May 1st, June 1st and August 1st. As several of our readers, who bind the paper, require some of these numbers to complete their files, those who may be able to spare any of them will confer a favor by forwarding to us. We will extend the sender's subscription one month for each copy of either of the above dates he forwards us.

Since the 24th of last January the telegraph line between Shanghai and Tientsin, China, has been open for the use of the public. The tariff for the transmission of telegrams from Shanghai is, to Soochow 22 cents per word, to Chingkiang 24.2 cents, and to Tientsin 25.3 cents. For telegrams from Yokohama a sum of 64 cents per word for transmission to Shanghai is charged, in addition to the prices above given. The line will shortly be extended to Peking, which will put the capital of the empire in communication with the western world.

A New Haven man has taken out a patent for an invention of his which he claims secures the absolute storage of electricity for electric lighting purposes. He says that by his contrivance the electrical force becomes as portable as kerosene oil, and the perils to life and property incident to a current produced by a dynamo machine are entirely obviated. He also says that to secure this electrical force primarily his invention contemplates the utilizing of the rising and falling of the tides along the sea-coast, the winds in the interior, and the moving of trains and steamboats when it is desired to light them with electrical illuminators.

The chief signal officer recently asked an operator at a station out in the mountains of Texas why he never reported sunset observations? The operator replied: "I've got to walk two miles to one hill, then half a mile to another, then a mile and a half to the top of a third hill, before I can see the sun set." Another military operator got the word "notification" "not if I catch on." It was an altogether different man that sent "Castrovig" for Castroville; but, still, it was military talent.

A correspondent in Texas writes: "I notice in THE OPERATOR of the 15th inst. an extract from a letter written by an operator at Kilgore, Tex., on the I. & G. N. R. R., in which he terms this the operators' paradise, at \$100 a month. Well, now, that may be so; but it is strange that none of us boys on the Frontier Telegraph Line have ever found it out. We have some first-class men who are working at very much lower salaries than \$100 a month. If there is a paradise for operators in Texas, I have not found it yet."

In the United States Court at Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 20th ult., Judge Acheson filed an opinion in the case of the Western Union Telegraph Company against the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; and modified the injunction heretofore granted against defendants, as prayed for by them. The case, briefly stated, was a suit of

the Western Union Telegraph Company against the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for throwing out the wires of the plaintiff and putting those of the American Union Telegraph Company in their places. An injunction was granted restraining the American Union Company from putting in their wires, and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad from using them.

On Saturday, March 4, the first instance of the propulsion of a street car by electricity took place in England at the works of the North Metropolitan Tramways Company, Leytonstone. Under the seats of the car Faure accumulators were placed, and they were connected with electro motors, which rotated the wheels of the cars by means of pinions. The weight of the accumulators—80 hundredweight—was a decided objection, although a five-horse-power was obtainable for five hours. A grating sound of the pinions was another defect, which, of course, is easily corrected. It is asserted that cars can be propelled in this way at one-half the cost of horses, and it is proposed to drive cabs and other vehicles in the same way.

In the Victorian Year Book for 1880-81, compiled by Mr. H. H. Hayter, government statistician, is given a table, showing the course of a telegram along the 13,695 miles of wire which it travels between Melbourne and London. From this table it appears that it travels about one-fifth of the whole distance, 2,704 miles, over Australian lines alone. "It may be interesting," says the Year Book, "to know that, on the 1st of October, 1880, a special message from the Governor of this colony to Queen Victoria, announcing the opening of the Melbourne International Exhibition, and consisting of 78 words, was sent from Melbourne to Balmoral, in Scotland, in 23 minutes, including all stoppages."

It has been said lately that female telegraphers are becoming unpopular in England, a statement which may add interest to the remarks of Postmaster-General Fawcett. Replying to Mr. Corbett, in the House of Commons, Feb. 27, Mr. Fawcett said: "I am glad to be able to say that the female clerks and telegraphists employed by the post-office have given general satisfaction. So much is this the case that the employment of women has been gradually and steadily extended. Any claims that they have to promotion will be carefully considered, and I can readily give an assurance that I shall lose no opportunity of still further extending the employment of women whenever it can be done with advantage to the public service."

At a recent meeting of the Chicago Electrical Society Dr. N. B. Delamater read a paper on the "Prevention of Telegrapher's Cramp, or Writer's Paralysis." The lecturer described how cramps were produced and the muscles affected. The muscles were subservient to the will-power to a certain extent. Cramps were common with all persons who constantly used the smaller muscles. It came from a hereditary tendency to nervous diseases, loss of rest, and the inordinate use of stimulants. Bad or unnatural position in writing was a prolific cause of cramps or paralysis. Its best cures were natural and easy positions in writing, and rest. THE OPERATOR will have something to say on this subject by and by, the entire matter being now investigated by a thoroughly capable physician of Philadelphia.

The Cleveland Herald gives the following particulars of the fatal accident in that city, resulting from the careless handling of a dynamo-electrical machine. The man who was killed was William Kromp. He had been employed as a lathe hand in the Cleveland Rolling Company's machine shops for about three weeks. Kromp was unable to speak English, and spent his evenings at the shop with the fireman, who was one of his countrymen. The engineer, Daniel Aubrey, was called into the boiler room to see to the boilers, and upon going to the room where the Brush electric machine is stationed, was followed by Kromp. The engineer gave no attention to him, and went about his work. He soon heard a heavy thud; looking around he saw the lifeless body of Kromp lying upon the floor before the electric machine. Finger marks could plainly be seen upon the "brushes" where he had caught hold. Death was instantaneous.

The Cannibal Islands keep pace telegraphically with the rest of the world, as the following rapidly increasing figures show, comparing the years 1871, 1875 and 1881: In 1871 there were

2,015 miles of telegraph line and 3,287 miles of wire open in New Zealand. The number of private telegrams sent during the year was 305,979, from which a cash revenue of £25,938 was obtained. The number of government telegrams sent was 63,106, the cash value of which was £11,265 9s. 6d., the total revenue being £37,203 10s. In 1875 the figures were: Miles of line, 3,156; miles of wire, 7,065; number of private telegrams, 849,919; revenue therefrom, £59,078 11s.; number of government telegrams, 143,404; cash value, £14,741 11s. 9d.; total cash value and revenue, £74,420 2s. 9d. In 1881 these figures had advanced as follows: Miles of line, 3,758; miles of wire, 9,587; number of private telegrams, 1,058,342; cash revenue, £73,002 2s.; number of government telegrams, 246,370; cash value, £27,021 3s. 8d.; total cash value and revenue, £100,023 5s. 8d.

Iakoutsk, a town in Siberia, situated on the left side of the Lena, about 5,500 miles from St. Petersburg, is about to be connected with the general telegraph lines from Siberia and Russia. This will have to be done by connecting the town with Irkoutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia, by a line 3,000 versts long, across countries whose conditions render the work exceptionally difficult. The telegraphic line from Iakoutsk was projected some years ago by the telegraph managers. The enormous amount of gold dust from the region of the Lena, the fur skins, the fish and salt that abound there, and the great distance which separates Iakoutsk from Irkoutsk, the chief administrative place and centre of the gold trade, justifies the desire of the inhabitants to possess telegraphic communication. The local population has subscribed a considerable amount for this object, and have further engaged to supply 20,000 telegraph posts, as well as to construct gratuitously certain telegraph stations. The expense will, of course, be enormous, but it will be a great boon to the Iakoutsk people.

On the 17th ult., at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, resolutions as to the contract between the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company for the establishment of money-order transfers by telegraph between all parts of the United States and Canada were formally ratified and confirmed, together with several other contracts providing additional facilities. A report was submitted as to proposed operations in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories during the coming season, and the action of the committee endeavoring to make connection with the Government to provide telegraph facilities for that rapidly-growing region and prairie Province was approved. The purchase of poles and wires to a large extent were reported and agreed to. The quarterly dividend to the stockholders of the Montreal Telegraph Company, amounting to \$41,250, was ordered to be paid on March 31st., together with the interest due to the Dominion Telegraph Company, amounting to \$15,000.

One of the most complete and elaborate catalogues and price lists issued by any of our electrical manufacturers has just been published by the Utica Fire Alarm Telegraph Company, of Utica, N. Y. The book contains 102 pages, and the leaves are so trimmed that the different divisions, such as annunciator and burglar alarms, apparatus, batteries, cables, insulated wire, line material, office supplies, telephone instruments and supplies, etc., can be turned to in a moment. In addition to a price list proper, diagrams are given showing the connections of the annunciators, vibrator bells, and the like, and information is also given in reference to gas lighting and extinguishing by electricity, as well as a chapter on electric fire alarm telegraphs. In the pages devoted to telephone matters are given cuts of the Palmer Universal Switch, the Palmer Interlocking Plug, the Palmer and Rolfe Auxiliary Switch, and other specialties of the company in that line. Copies will be mailed free on application to the Utica Company.

We have received a rambling letter from Edgar Clark, Covington, Va., combating the reflections of Mr. H. L. Holmes on the so-called Oberlin "College." If Mr. Clark will read THE OPERATOR over again, he will see that we merely copied the offensive article from the February circular of a Janesville, Wis., "college," stating

at it was the opinion of one college circulated another. We merely copied the article—it as the Messrs. Valentine that said that the Berlin concern is a fraud (which we do not dispute) it was the Messrs. Valentine Bros. that Superintendent Sheridan, of the Berlin College, got drunk three times week in the presence of his pupils; it was the Messrs. Valentine who characterized the Oberlin college as the "most despicable swindle in existence" (circular for February, 1882), and it as in their circular for the same month that R. H. L. Holmes asserted that the superintendent of the Oberlin College was "a professed gambler, and would gamble with students and take all their money." THE OPERATOR merely wants to see these fraudulent concerns exposed each other, and will faithfully reproduce their recriminations. But, as for redress, Mr. Clark must write to the Valentine Brothers; and if they insert his fiery screed in their next circular they will have been no more chivalric than THE OPERATOR has already been in opening its columns for explanations from the proprietors of 'colleges.'

In a recent lecture on "Electricity and the Electric Telegraph," in London, Mr. Robert W. Johnston, postmaster of the Eastern Central or City district, stated that the 6,000,000 telegrams forwarded by all the companies in their palmy days had increased to more than 31,000,000 forwarded by the Post-office last year, and that whereas it might be remembered when the charge for a message from Edinburgh to London was something like 12s. 6d. (a little over \$3), it was now possible to telegraph from Scilly to Shetland, or from Jersey to John O'Groats for 1s. (25c.). Fifty thousand miles of wire in 1870 had increased to considerably more than 100,000 in 1882; 2,200 instruments worked by all the companies had increased to nearly 9,000 worked by the Post-office, and 2,500 telegraph offices under the old régime had increased to more than 5,500 under the new. Four thousand persons of all classes employed by the companies had increased to nearly 12,000 employed by the Post-office, and of these about 1,600 were women, of whom 600 are employed in the central telegraph office alone. As to the transmission of news for the press, the Post-office had converted into an attractive monopoly what used to be a rather repulsive combination on the part of the old telegraph companies, and on one occasion quite recently as many as 700,000 words, equal to 350 average columns, had been transmitted from the central office alone.

A dispatch from Independence, Missouri, on the 19th ult. says that the excitement caused there last September by the robbery of the Chicago & Alton express train by Jesse James' gang was revived that day (March 19) by the arrest of John Matt, the telegraph operator at Glendale, who, the detectives have discovered, was an accomplice of the outlaws and kept them informed of the movements of the express train which was attacked. Matt was captured just before daybreak that morning by Special Detective W. W. Gorham, of Providence, R. I., who has been working on the case in the interests of the United States Express Company for some time. Gorham has been piping Matt for several weeks, and has secured proof that will undoubtedly land him in State prison for the remainder of his natural life. At the time of the robbery Matt was holding the position of telegraph operator, and therefore, through him, the gang found it an easy matter to keep thoroughly posted on the movements of trains, as well as the movements of the numerous posses of officers who assembled at Glendale a few hours after the commission of the crime. He was also shrewd enough to know that his safety depended upon his keeping close to the business of the station long after the deed, and by so doing he succeeded in evading suspicion for several months. The arrest was skillfully planned that the prisoner was found in bed, and therefore had no opportunity of making resistance. He was terribly excited, and it is believed that he will make a full confession.

The proprietors of the Janesville "College" ask us to correct a typographical error that occurred in their note published in THE OPERATOR of March 1, as they wished to say that they do, and not that they do not, supply operators (?) for

the Metropolitan Telegraph Co. If the professors in question, and, for the matter of that, the proprietors of other colleges, would be as fair with us as we have been with them, we should have less grounds for complaint. The Messrs. Valentine say, for instance, in their "Monthly Bulletin" for March: "We find very often when persons ask at a (railroad) station for a railroad ticket to Janesville, the operator says, 'Are you going to that telegraph school?' and then does his best to keep him away. Our advice to anyone who has this experience is to ask the operator if he belongs to the 'Brotherhood.' He may lie to you by saying he does not. But he does all the same, and does not dare admit it, because he knows his company is opposed to the Brotherhood. Then inform us of the case, and we will make it so warm for the young man that he won't need a fire for a year." There is no honor in this kind of argument; but, really, we do not expect much, and we may soon hear what the Brotherhood may, through its Prosecution Fund, do for these swindling concerns. Among other fraudulent institutions is "Thompson's College," which advertises in the daily papers that "any one who can read and write can learn telegraphy." While these manifestly unjust statements are made purposely in public, we do not think that any stretching of the ordinary rules of courtesy will allow us to yield them any more space for advertising under the guise of corrections, refutations and other communications.

Mr. John F. Thissell, an alleged operator on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad, at Galva, Kansas, takes the trouble to write us a letter, which in print would make over a column and a half, in answer to "Victim," and in defense of the Western School of Telegraphy, of Janesville, Wis., a place where he professes to have "learned" the business. As the Messrs. Valentine have already been afforded space to reply in their own terse and business-like style to "Victim's" charges, and as Mr. Thissell's copy and primitive phraseology both argue that he has not yet learned the most essential features of our business, we can scarcely be accused of unfairness in declining to print so long and meaningless a letter. Mr. Thissell is obviously a generous, whole-souled fellow—we heartily wish him further advancement in the profession—and he doubtless wishes thus to cancel an old debt which the Messrs. Valentine may have on the slate against him, but he is scarcely heavy enough, as an operator, to vouch for what an operator should be. If, however, the Messrs. Valentine can produce a single operator in the United States who graduated at their school, and who is now receiving at least \$75 per month (the very least that a first-class operator can be hired for), and if that man is known—as all the better class of operators are known, each to the other—and can be vouched for, we shall be glad to accord him space to recite his experience, and we shall vie with the talented professors of Janesville in a display of genuine fair play. Meanwhile, their thistles that grow wild, their thorns without the roses, and their other Wisconsin flowers must blush unseen and unheard. Referring to the subject of divining true character by names, we may as well point out that, in the circular of the Messrs. Valentine for January (second page), among the list of their graduates promoted is one Mr. Breaky. If "Breaky" does not condemn him for a plug, then there is no virtue in science.

Information from Bangkok has been received in this city stating that the King of Siam has decided to construct several lines of telegraph, connecting Bangkok with the British system on the eastern side of the empire, and the French lines now extending from Saigon through the Province of Cambodia. The construction of these is to be placed under the immediate supervision of Mr. Davidson, an English engineer and electrician of experience, who has been in his Majesty's service several years. A survey has been made of the route from Bangkok to Tavoy, via Amya, but as the Indian government prefers that a connection should be made by the way of Miedta, it is thought probable that this route will be adopted. It is said that the selection of the latter route will greatly increase the cost of the line, as it will pass through almost interminable jungles and over

trackless mountains. For these reasons the King has recently suggested to the English authorities that it would be advisable to adopt the northern route, passing through Rapang, since it would enable him to establish direct communication with all his northern and north-western provinces. His Majesty has also decided to introduce the postal system in his kingdom. In a recent speech his Majesty said: "When Siam is connected with foreign countries by telegraph, it will become necessary to have some convenient means of forwarding correspondence such as exists in all civilized countries which have post-offices. At present every one in Siam is compelled to send his own messenger, a waste of time and labor, and the more the correspondence increases the more will the inconvenience be felt. We have, therefore, resolved to institute a postal system in Bangkok, and shall extend it gradually to the Provinces as best we can. It will be difficult to organize a postal system in Siam, and Siamese will hardly understand its use and advantages, and will have their doubts about it until it is fairly established. It will certainly not yield revenue to the government, for correspondence in Siam is too limited. We introduce it now because we wish for it in connection with our lines of telegraph, and because we believe it will promote the interests of trade. We have entrusted this matter to our youngest brother (His Royal Highness the Krona Hiuang Bhanu Bandhawongs, varadej), and after full consideration shall make you all acquainted with the result of the same."

## NEW YORK CITY ITEMS.

### Echoes from 195.

A parcel came to 195 a few days ago addressed: "Miss ———, Female Reservation, Main Office, W. U. Tel. Co., N. Y."

In answer to our chivalrous defense of his military title, Col. John Lenhart writes us as follows, his sword in its scabbard, but his eye in a fine frenzy rolling:

"Chill Penury repressed their noble rage  
And froze the genial current of the soul."

The economizing tendency of the Western Union is shown by the signs out with "Offices to rent in this building." Several of the officials who formerly had each an entire room to himself, have been crowned into one. One room in some instances answers now where three were formerly used.

"This, Mr. Editor, tells the story. I care nothing for fame, for honors, for titles. But money—gifts of cottages at Long Branch, houses on Fifth avenue, horses and carriages, pensions, or even more salary. No more titles. 'Tis all I can do now to keep up my present dignity.—J. L."

Professor Tommy Allen was coming up in the elevator a few days ago, and he noticed an unusual number of millionaires about the building and in the elevators. He asked the smart attendant what was the cause of the unusual commotion. "Oh!" replied the latter, "we have directors' meetings on both floors. Are you going down?"

They receive applications for positions at 195 from all parts of the world. A few days ago a letter was received from Waitara, New Zealand, dated Jan. 27, desiring to know if there was any demand for a good operator, one who was capable of reading by sound. Another was from a German, who says: "I was active as telegraph assistant at Munchen," etc. The latter is a great curiosity in composition, chirography and stationery.

"Die maisten menschen erhalten nach dem schien," as they say in German, or, translated into English, "Most people judge according to appearances." If they were to judge in that manner, without further knowledge, they might make egregious blunders, as few men would suspect that some of the plain, unpretentious, seedy-looking people they see about the Western Union building hold the highest offices.

Mr. George K. Walcott has been working the Norwich, Conn., wire uninterruptedly for thirteen years. In addition to being an excellent telegrapher, he possesses many other accomplishments, and is noted for his versatility. The beautiful schedules of chirographic art which

often adorn the bulletin board are specimens of his handicraft. Mr. Walcott is a devoted disciple of the heavenly maid of whom the poet so rapturously sings: "When Music, heavenly maid, was young, in ancient Greece she sung."

St. Patrick's Day in the morning was duly celebrated in the Cable Department, by the green flag of Erin and the stars and stripes being elevated side by side on a gas fixture, but the patriotic and loyal demonstration did not evoke a responsive echo in the soul of the "ruler of the President's navee," and was peremptorily ordered down. There were many other demonstrations by the numerous sons of Ireland in the office, and sprigs of green and other emblematic tokens were visible on every side.

"Ireland, great, glorious and free,  
The home of the brave and the Queen of the sea."

At the annual meeting of the Telegraphers' Aid Society, held March 12, the following officers and committees were elected for the ensuing year: President, E. C. Cockey; Vice-President, A. T. Creelman; Secretary, W. Maver, Jr.; Treasurer, F. W. Baldwin. Executive Committee: G. A. Newton, J. M. Moffatt, E. F. Cummings, J. W. Moreland, K. C. Murray, M. M. Davis, P. J. Tierney. Auditing Committee: S. A. Coleman, E. T. Barberie, L. R. Hallock. The quarterly report of the society shows an active membership of 135, a gain of fifteen members for the quarter. There were disbursed for benefits in same time \$237, leaving a balance of \$447.70 cash on hand.

A correspondent writes: Everyday office life in a large city telegraph office should interest not only those engaged in remote country offices but also those in the larger towns and cities of our country. As I have never seen anything upon this subject in print, and as to see anything in print, no matter how weak or trifling it may be, always gives it additional power and zest, adds new importance and interest thereto, I will endeavor to explain how operators work while on duty in the great general Western Union office. The largest number of operators come on duty at 8 in the morning and remain until 5.30 p. m., when the night force arrives. In addition to those two principal forces there are other reinforcements constantly added at nearly all hours of the day and night, to relieve those whose term of duty has expired. How do they work and pass the time while on duty? The great majority are constantly occupied from the time of their arrival until their departure, and especially is this the case of those engaged in manipulating the printing telegraph, and the amount of work they do is perfectly enormous. The labor on different wires varies very much. Some operators are constantly employed, while others have only occasional spurts of work. Some prefer to be at work constantly, because the mind, being thus occupied, the time passes away more rapidly, while a few others will not do much unless requested to by those in charge. What do they do when not engaged? Most of them remain at their posts, or are occupied in some legitimate duty, while a few prowl around the office and interfere with the duties of others—indulging in what are called, in the vernacular of the day, "stiffs." Of course all the old and reliable operators go through their work without any prompting, but young ones and newcomers require a great deal of prompting and watching; and here the duties of the chiefs come in.

#### Other City Items.

The Telegraphers' Association of New York is discussing the feasibility of giving a literary, dramatic and musical entertainment, to take place immediately after the lenten season.

Mr. A. B. Chandler, President of the Fuller Electric Light Co. of this city, will long be remembered with pleasant recollections by the telegraph fraternity. The Fuller Company has made rapid strides during the last few months. The Wood lamp and Gramme generator are used by this company.

Among the bids for lighting the city opened March 27 were two from electric light companies. The Brush Company offered to light a certain territory, requiring about 272 electric "avenue" lamps, at 70 cents per lamp; also at High Bridge, at \$1 per night. The United States

territory at 70 cents each lamp per night. The lowest bid of the gas companies was \$17.50 per lamp for the year.

As Mary A. Castle was passing through Fifty-third street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, one morning recently, Thomas Kelly, 22 years old, snatched her pocket-book from her hand and ran off with it. Francis Rogers, a District Telegraph boy, 17 years old, pursued him and caught up with him as he turned the corner. Rogers sprang upon Kelly and struggled with him to secure the pocket-book until officer Lane took him in custody. The Mutual District Company has complimented young Master Rogers on his praiseworthy conduct.

The Brush Electric Light Co. continues to light the streets in this city in the most satisfactory manner, and is rapidly completing its pole lines to different parts of the city. The Edison company is vigorously at work on its gigantic undertaking of an underground system and central stations for distributing electricity, and promises, in the end, to abolish the use of gas. Mr. G. W. Heberd, President of the United States Electric Light Co., is systematically reorganizing that company. Maxim's lamp and Weston's generator are used by this company. Some of its lights have recently been put up at the Grand street station of the Third Avenue "L" road.

At a meeting of the directors of the American District Telegraph Company, held on the 21st ult., General Thomas T. Eckert was elected President in place of Mr. W. F. Drake, resigned; Mr. W. F. Drake was elected General Manager. The following persons compose the board: Jay Gould, T. T. Eckert, Chauncey M. Depew, A. B. Cornell, D. H. Bates, T. C. Platt, W. F. Drake, A. B. Johnson, F. E. Wallace, J. B. Patterson and E. N. Andrews. One of the directors said that he did not think that the details of any working agreement with the Western Union Telegraph Company had been decided on, but the company was to be run in connection with the Western Union in New York and Brooklyn. One of the features of the agreement would be the use of American District messengers to deliver Western Union messages.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the New York Electrical Society took place at Mott's Memorial Hall, March 15. President Jones in the chair. After transacting routine business, the amendments to the constitution and by-laws were taken up and passed, and the society proceeded to elect the following officers for the ensuing year ending March 2, 1883:

President, F. W. Jones.
1st Vice-President, Geo. B. Scott.
2d " " Professor Vander Weyde.
3d " " C. S. H. Small.
4th " " E. C. Cockey.
5th " " W. J. Johnston.
6th " " G. L. Wiley.

Recording Secretary, J. M. Moffatt.  
Financial Secretary, M. M. Davis.  
Treasurer, C. S. Shively.

Executive Committee, F. W. Jones, H. W. Pope, J. W. Moreland, M. W. Doran, E. L. Bradley, M. M. Davis, J. M. Moffatt.

Prof. P. H. Vander Weyde has consented to read a paper on "Electro Motors," before the Society at the next meeting, Wednesday evening, April 5, at 64 Madison avenue.

#### PERSONAL.

Bogardus was heard from at Cañon Diablo, A. T., on the night of the 17th. It is said that he is prospecting.

Mr. B. F. Stone, late in charge of the Western Union office, corner of Fifth Avenue and Monroe St., Chicago, was appointed, March 15, manager of Palmer House W. U. office, same city.

Wanted, the address of Fred. J. Reny. Any one furnishing the information will be doing a kind act. Address, T. K. Hicks, Manager W. U. Tel. Co., Rockford, Ill.

Mr. T. P. Wheeler has resigned his position with the Mutual Union in St. Louis and resumed his former one on night press for the Western Union, same city.

J. P. Keene is manager W. U. at Franklin, Pa., assisted by Mr. A. M. Smiley, formerly

Pittsburgh Convention by Mr. Wm. Hunter, of Oil City.

Mr. W. O. Ryan was the delegate and Mr. E. J. Peabody, alternate, from Milwaukee to the Cincinnati Convention. It is the intention of the Milwaukee operators to at once establish a Council of the Brotherhood there.

Mr. C. N. Cotton, formerly operator for the C., Mt. V. & C. Railroad at Mt. Vernon, O., but now representing the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad at Fort Wingate, N. M., has returned to his native State for a visit, and called upon his many Akron friends, thrilling them with accounts of the doings of Apaches and cow-boys.

Mrs. Hannah B. Sellers, mother of Mr. Calvin T. Sellers, late superintendent of the Philadelphia, Pottsville and Reading Telegraph Company, who died several years ago, and who was probably the most popular telegraph official in America, died at Reading, Pa., on the 20th inst. In writing her obituary it is praise enough to say she was the mother of Calvin Sellers.

Mr. Heber C. Robinson, manager of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company at Philadelphia, has resigned. He was for many years manager of the Western Union Company in the same city. It is understood that Mr. William B. Gill, formerly superintendent of the Western Union, sixth district, will succeed Mr. Robinson as manager of the Mutual Union.

Mr. George B. Pennock has been appointed Wire Chief for the Baltimore and Ohio Company at Upper Darby, near Philadelphia, which has been made a kind of substitute for a main office in the city. Mr. Pennock has full charge over the B. & O.'s leased wires (four) from Baltimore to New York. He is also Wire Chief for the American Rapid Company. Mr. Pennock is a tried and reliable operator, and will do honor to his new and responsible position.

At the Commencement of the University of Pennsylvania, on the 15th ultimo, Provost Pepper conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon Mr. George Taylor Robinson, who was also awarded the Alumni prize, and is named among the "honor men" of 1882. Doctor Robinson is the son of Mr. Heber C. Robinson, the manager of the Mutual Union main office in Philadelphia, and who for many years held the same position in the Western Union service in that city.

BALTIMORE, MD.—Mr. E. L. Bussard, a well known Western Union operator, is lying dangerously ill of consumption at his home. Among the late arrivals at the B. & O. are Messrs. Ward and French, both old P. R. R. operators. Tom Farley has returned from Atlanta, Ga., and is working extra for the Mutual Union. Mr. T. J. Thirkield, late manager of the Mutual Union, has left for parts unknown. Mr. James Moan was elected treasurer of the Telegraphers' Beneficial Association at a meeting held March 19. Mr. John Campbell, of the Pittsburgh Brotherhood was in Baltimore last week in the interest of the above association.

G. W. RY., WESTERN DIV.—Mr. Geo. Clark, Mr. Munson and Mr. Ed. Whitaker are train dispatchers, with headquarters at London. They have charge of the following operators: Hyde Park Junction, Mr. McIntosh; Komak, Mr. Croubie, days, and Geo. Wade, owl; Louwood, Mr. Hawkins; Glencoe, Mr. Ellis, day and B. Heywood, owl (the latter gentleman going to accept a position in Michigan soon, rumor says); Newbury, P. Miles; Bothwell, Moore, days, and Geo. W. Russell, owl; Thameville, Mr. Cooper; Chatham, Mr. Kisen, day and J. Watson, owl; Jennett's Creek, Mr. Kontzi Belle River, Mr. Davis, days, and J. Laughli owl; Tecumseh, Mr. Delaney; Windsor, M. Glone, days, and Mr. Dolman, owl. There plenty of work on this end, but only small part therefor, and a good many of the boys congregate going west in the spring.

When operators leave the business it seen that they shine brighter nowhere than in the journalistic profession, a fact which is being brought to our notice almost every day by the vigorous writing and business-like tact of many ex-operators filling leading positions upon various newspapers. Among this class is Mr. Rosewater, editor of the Omaha (Neb.) Bee, one of the liveliest and brightest newspapers in the West. This enterprising journal has just established a branch department in Council Bluffs

Mayne, another ex-telegrapher. Mr. Mayne was formerly in the Western Union office at Omaha, and is well known as an expert and reliable operator, and the sterling qualities displayed by him in our profession are well adapted to the wider field and more responsible position to which he has been called.

M. François Emmanuel Jules Raynaud, D. Sc., a French electrician, has been promoted to the grade of officer of the Legion of Honor. He was previously a Chevalier in the Order. M. Raynaud, who was a member of the commission on electrical units at the Paris Exhibition of Electricity, has written several treatises on electrical subjects, and is one of the *Annales Télégraphiques*. Aided by others, he translated into French the work by Mr. J. E. H. Gordon, "A Physical Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism." As many of those who met him at the exhibition must be aware, M. Raynaud combines a theoretical with a thoroughly practical knowledge. He re-established telegraphic communication during the Franco-German war, while standing in the river up to the waist in water, by making a gutta-percha joint, being only shielded from the vigilant eyes of the German sentries by an arch of the bridge under which he was working.

PORTLAND, ME.—Mr. J. H. Stertworth, cashier W. U., is confined to his house ill. All are anxious to see him around soon. Mr. A. W. Booker, of the M. U. Co., is recovering from slow fever. Mr. P. J. Keeley, the favorite night clerk, who has been on the sick list the past two months, is also steadily improving. Mr. Jared Crane, night operator W. U., is to resign to accept a position with the Western Electric Light Company. The company is working 30 lights and is meeting with good success. Thomas E. Barry, messenger No. 7 W. U., was sentenced to the House of Correction for 30 days for stealing tobacco from the Excelsior Tea Store. Edward A. Bond, one of the boys who stole the money from W. U. Co., with Mountfort and Connors, and who is now under bonds, had his hand cut off at the wrist Saturday at the Whitney Gaiter Company's, where he works. Business is very brisk with the W. U.

CHARLESTON (S. C.) PERSONALS.—Mr. Geo. W. Bell, of the Western Union, has resigned to go into the brokerage business, connecting himself with White & Co., of Philadelphia, and is now permanently located on the bay. George was one of the ablest operators in Charleston, having been connected with the W. U. since the days of the old United States Telegraph Co. The boys all join in wishing him every success in his new enterprise. The force still continues the same, with the addition of Mr. W. J. Wallace, from Montgomery, who fills the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. J. Hillen. The office is conducted under the able management of Mr. J. D. Easterlin, with Mr. Thomas Carter, chief operator, or "Genial Tom," as he is more familiarly known by the men along the line. Mr. A. L. Conover attends to the night press in a manner that does credit to himself and the management of the office. We have also Messrs. M. Harris, J. P. Rivers, P. E. Ryan, and last but not least, Mr. W. J. Fleming, all first-class men, doing excellent work. C. U.

Mr. R. J. Bloxham, chief operator of the Western Union Tel. Co., Baltimore, Md., was presented on Wednesday evening, the 15th ult., by the employes under his charge, with a silver service and a full china set, in celebration of his thirty-third birthday. The presentation took place at Mr. Bloxham's residence, and was made by Mr. A. Grape, on behalf of the employes. Mr. Bloxham was taken completely by surprise, but responded in his usual happy and good-natured style. After the presentation, the company sat down to a splendid collation, and good cheer flowed until a late hour. Mr. Bloxham has been connected with the Western Union for the past eighteen years, and stands high as an electrician and operator. A number of congratulatory dispatches from his brother operators from different parts of the country were received by Mr. Bloxham. Among the prominent Baltimore operators present were Manager De Bree, Messrs. Adams, Bauer, Sprigg, McLean, J. C. Mattson, Hollenstein, Smeeter, Wolff, Kennedy, Hess, Kreh, Baron and O'Malley, also Chief Operator Bender, of Washington.

chief operator and dispatcher, with Messrs. R. C. Anderson, John Woodward, C. C. Walker and W. C. Harris as assistants. At Richmond we have Mr. Joe Hall at "xn." days, with Mr. Furguson at "Q"; at Gordonsville, "Old Man" Smithers, from before the war, in day-time, and M. Joe Bickers as night man; at Lynchburg Junction, Mr. Taylor, days, and Mr. Buckley, nights. At Waynesboro. Miss Annie Kuyk, late manager W. U. office at Harrisonburg, Va., has charge, with Mr. W. A. Witt and Mr. Miller as assistants. At Stanton, there are Messrs. Bell, days, and Richardson, nights; at Goshen, Mr. J. B. Wood is agent and operator, with Mr. Pemberton as assistant operator. At Millboro, Mr. C. F. Carpenter is operator and agent, with Mr. Grace as assistant, and Mr. Kline night man. At Clifton Forge, Mr. A. C. Bryant is agent and yardmaster, Mr. Geo. McDougald, known as Doodles, as day operator, and Mr. Kinney night man. This division is 193 miles long and everything at present is working well. We have no cause to complain of light work, fair salaries and average working hours. Mr. M. B. Leonard, superintendent of telegraphs, has charge of the wires from Yorktown, Va., to Lexington, Ky., a distance of over 700 miles. A great many operators on this line read THE OPERATOR, and it is highly appreciated by all. Success to the telegraphers' organization.

MARRIED.

BOYER—BRADLEY.—Jan. 20, 1882. Mr. George A. Boyer, of the Western Union Telegraph Co., Baltimore, to Miss Ella D. Bradley.

BORN.

LANDY—March 2, to Mr. M. J. Landy, operator M. U. Tel. Co., main office, 45 William street, New York, a daughter.

STAMBACH—March 7, to J. M. Stambach, operator W. U. Tel. Co., Buffalo, N. Y., a son.

DIED.

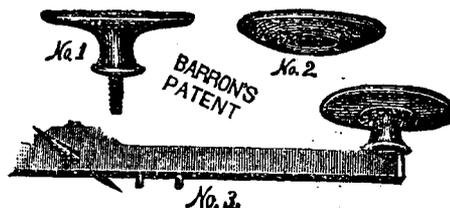
BROWN.—March 11, 1882. Freddie A., oldest child of J. E. Brown, operator W. U. T. Co., Utica, N. Y., aged 2 years, 4½ months.

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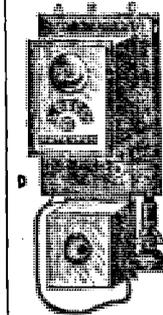
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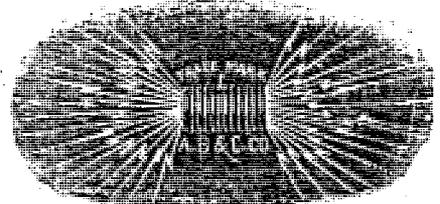


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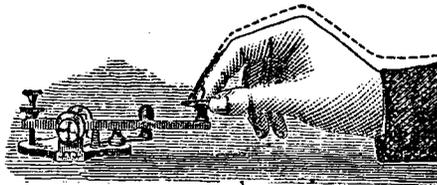
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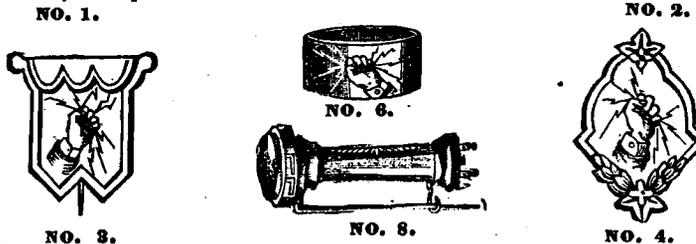
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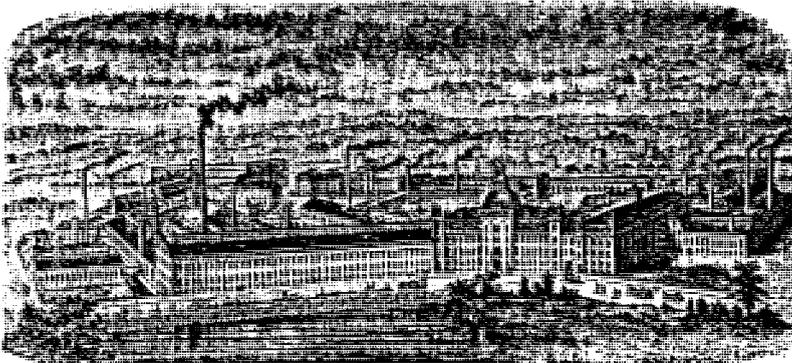
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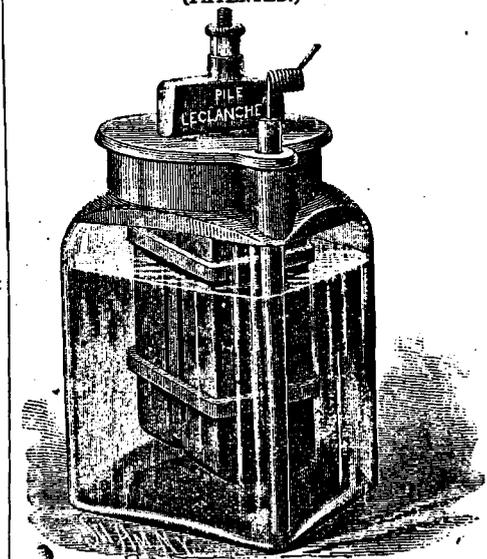
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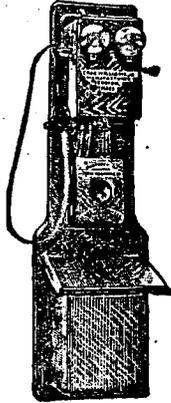
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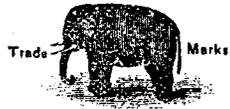
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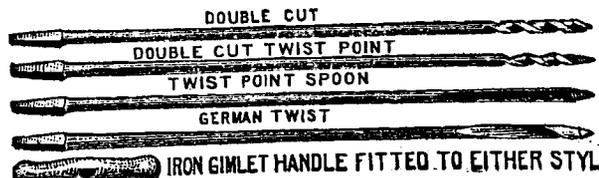
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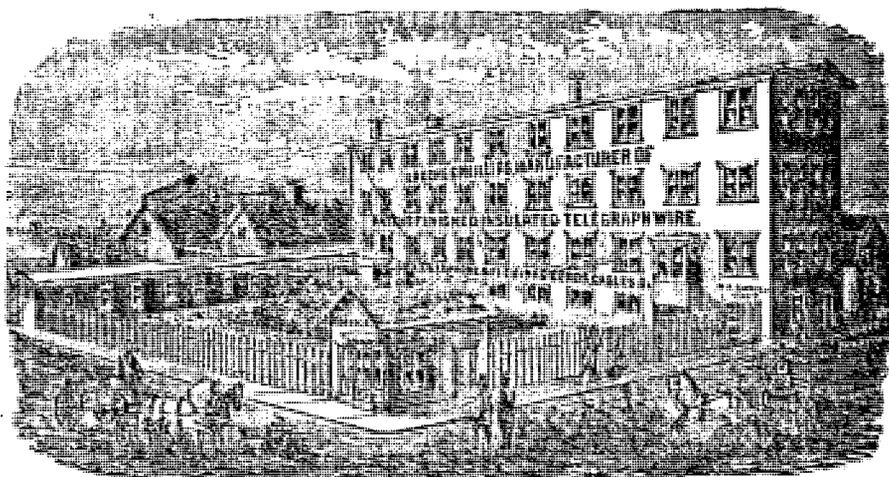
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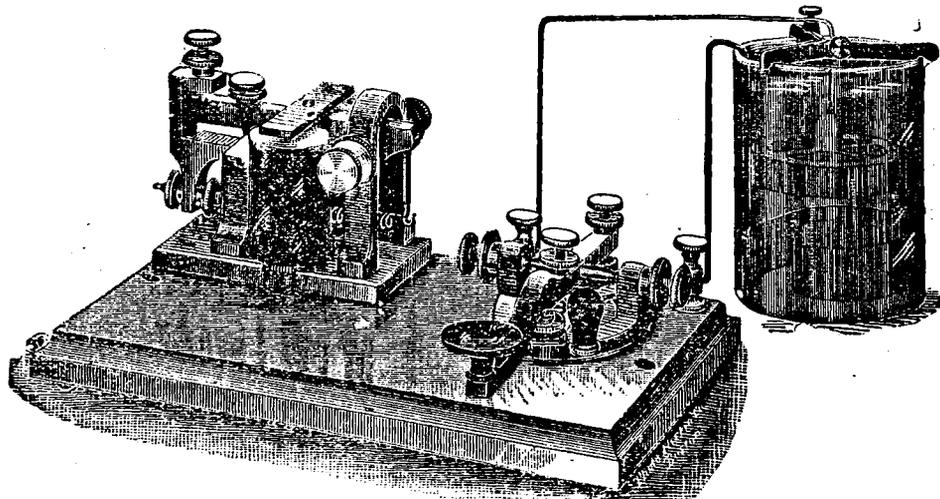
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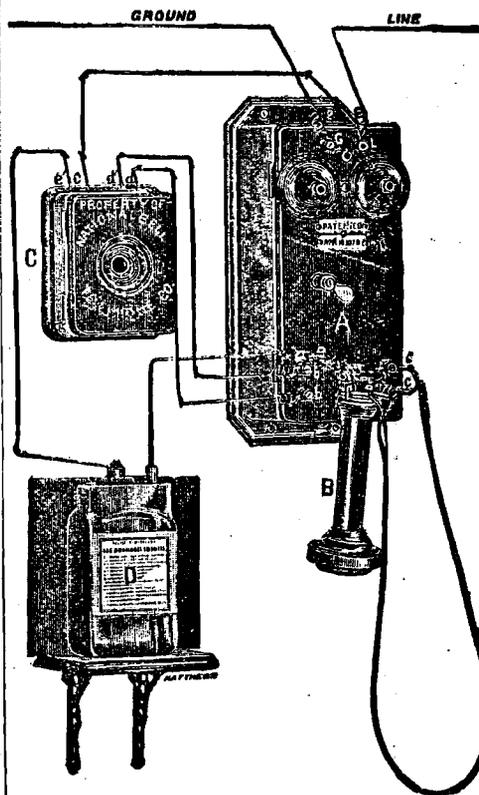
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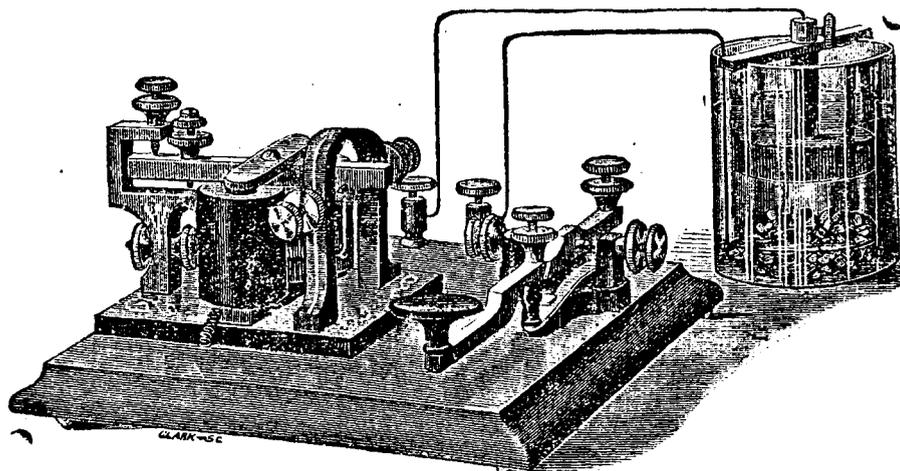
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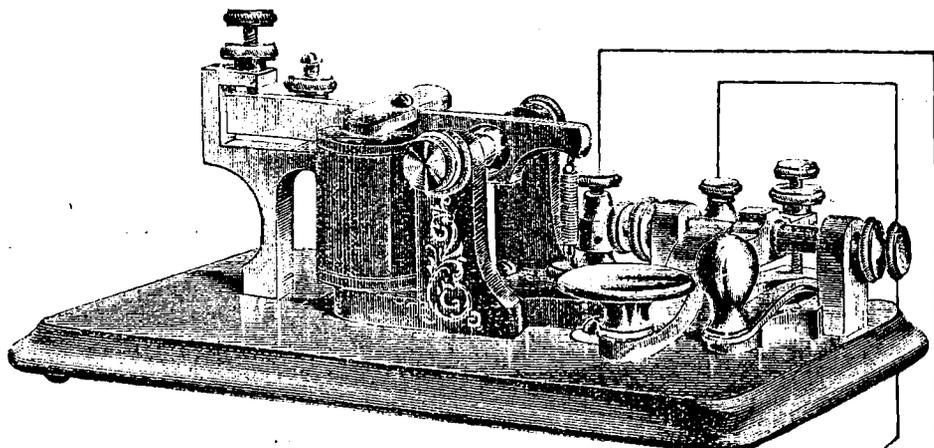
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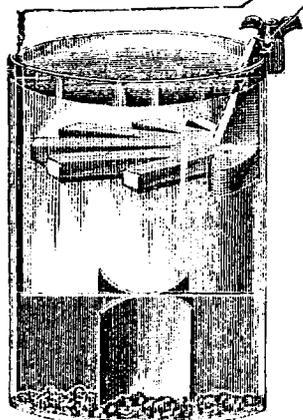


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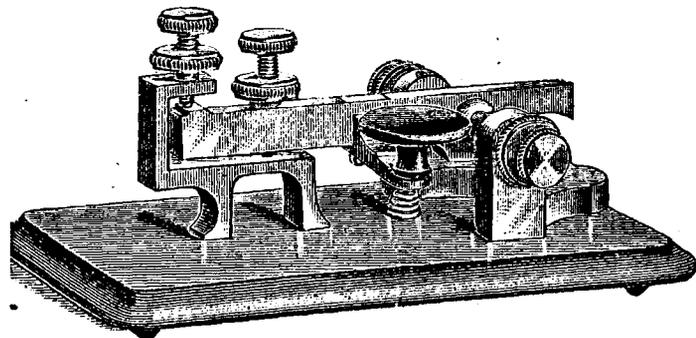
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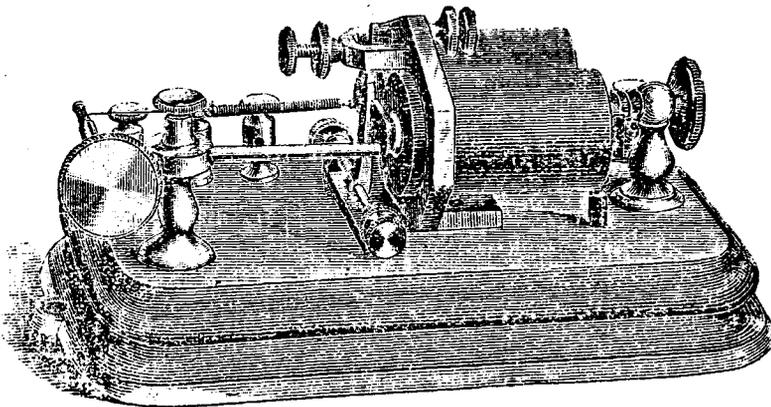
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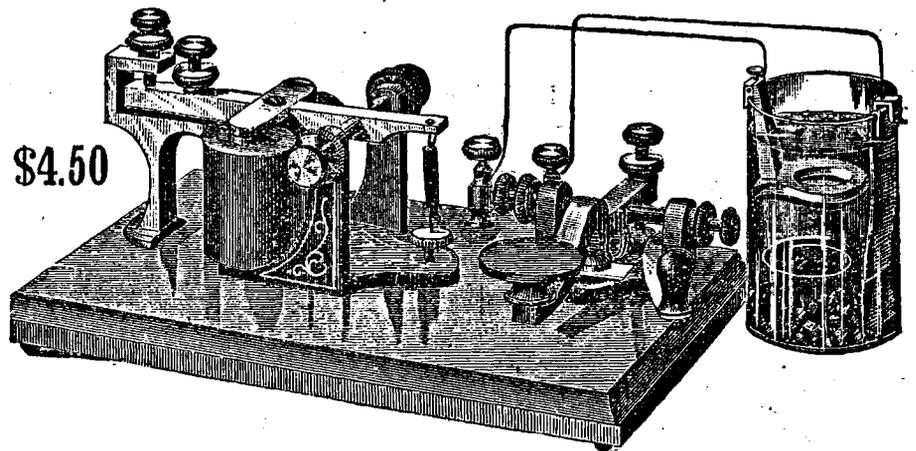
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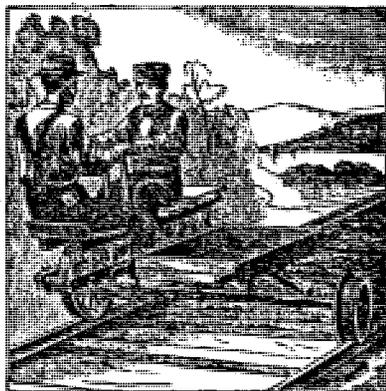
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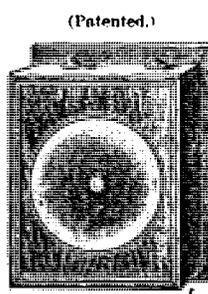
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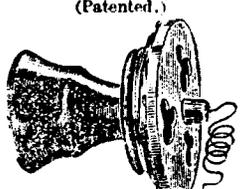
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