

**EUROPE AND AMERICA: REPORT  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT AN  
INAUGURATION BANQUET;  
FRIDAY, THE 15TH APRIL, 1864**

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**MR. CYRUS W. FIELD**

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©

EUROPE AND AMERICA.

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REPORT

OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT AN

INAUGURATION BANQUET,

GIVEN BY

Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD,

OF NEW YORK,

AT THE PALACE HOTEL, BUCKINGHAM GATE,

ON FRIDAY, THE 15th APRIL,

1864,

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE RENEWAL BY THE

**ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,**

*(After a lapse of Six Years,)*

OF THEIR EFFORTS TO UNITE IRELAND & NEWFOUNDLAND,

BY MEANS OF

A SUBMARINE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.

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*Printed for Private Circulation only.*

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# INAUGURATION BANQUET

TO COMMEMORATE THE

RENEWAL OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH ENTERPRISE.

*Friday, April 15th, 1864.*

**Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD** in the Chair.

*The following Guests were present :—*

The Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, THE AMERICAN MINISTER.

Captain WM. C. ALDHAM, C.B. R.N.

Mr. GEORGE ASHBURNER.

Mr. WILLIAM BARBER.

Mr. HENRY FORD BARCLAY.

Captain A. B. BECHER, R.N.

Mr. GEORGE P. BIDDER, C.E.

Mr. SAMUEL BIDDER.

Mr. CHARLES S. P. BOWLES.

Mr. THOMAS BRASSEY.

Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.

Mr. CHARLES BURT.

Mr. ALEX. HENRY CAMPBELL.

Mr. SAMUEL CANNING.

Mr. JOHN CASSELL.

Mr. JOHN CHATTERTON.

Mr. LATIMER CLARK.

Mr. HENRY CLIFFORD.

Mr. EDWARD CROPPER.

Mr. FREDERICK M. EDGE.

Mr. CHARLES EDWARDS.

Mr. GEORGE ELLIOT.

Mr. RALPH ELLIOT.

Mr. WILLIAM EVANS.

Hon. WILLIAM M. EVARTS.

Mr. WILLIAM FAIRBAIRN, F.R.S.

Mr. JAMES NICOL FLEMING.

Sir CHARLES FOX.

Captain DOUGLAS GALTON, F.R.S.

Mr. RICHARD ATWOOD GLASS.

Mr. DANIEL GOOCH.

Hon. ROBERT GRIMSTON.

Mr. SAMUEL GURNEY, M.P.

Lord JOHN HAY.

Captain AUGUSTUS T. HAMILTON.

Mr. WM. T. HENLEY.

Mr. M. J. JONASSOHN.

Mr. C. M. LAMPSON.

Mr. WM. MACKINNON.

Mr. CHARLES MANSBY, F.R.S.

Mr. J. S. MORGAN.

Hon. FREEMAN H. MORSE.

Captain C. T. A. NODDALL, R.N.

Captain HERARD OSBORN, C.B., R.N.

Captain HENRY C. OTTER, R.N.

Mr. JOHN PENDER, M.P.

Mr. JAMES READMAN.

Mr. JULIUS REUTER, F.R.G.S.

Mr. W. G. ROMAINE, C.B.

Mr. PHILLIP ROSE.

Mr. GEORGE SAWARD.

Mr. WILLIAM F. SCHOLFIELD.

Mr. WILLIAM SHUTER.

Mr. JOHN SMITH.

Mr. HENRY STEVENS.

Mr. C. F. VARLEY.

Mr. RICHARD WARREN WESTON.

Prof. C. WHEATSTONE, F.R.S.

Mr. WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT.

Mr. E. J. WILLIAMS.

Hon. JOHN YOUNG.





## THE BANQUET.

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The cloth having been removed, the several toasts of "*The Queen*," "*The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family*," and "*The President of the United States*," were proposed by the Chairman, and enthusiastically received "with all the honours."

Mr. CYRUS W. FIELD then said: Gentlemen—We are honoured on this occasion by the presence of one to whom both England and America are greatly indebted for his continued, earnest, and sincere exertions during the last three years to maintain peace and good understanding between these two great kindred countries. (Hear, hear.) That gentleman descends from a line of statesmen. His grandfather was considered worthy to be the successor to the Presidential chair of George Washington; his father was the sixth President of the United States; and he himself is the honoured representative of my country in Great Britain. Without another word, I give you the health of His Excellency Charles Francis Adams, the American Minister. The toast was enthusiastically received.

His Excellency the AMERICAN MINISTER. Mr. Cyrus Field: After the very kind notice you have been pleased to take of my humble labours, I suppose I must feel myself as being what is called "in for a few remarks." Since I have had the honor of holding the post I at present occupy, I have had the pleasure also of repeatedly seeing my friend on the left, who has come to visit us in pursuit of the great object of his life—the revival of a scheme which, if finally successful, will be among the most memorable events in the history of the world; in connection with which the name of our friend, I think, has about as good a chance of

immortality as that of anybody I know at present living. (Cheers.) He has mentioned with approbation the slight efforts I may have made in the course of my mission here, towards keeping in harmony two nations of the same race, when there was a good deal of danger that they might differ; but, after all, I believe that the best and most permanent plan for uniting them is to establish this Atlantic Telegraph, for that and every other thing which tends to bring those two nations closer together will have the effect, I am sure, of increasing their knowledge of each other, and thereby perpetuating a good understanding between them. From the observations I have been enabled to make since I came to England, one thing has struck me with great force, and that is, the existence of prejudices on both sides of the Atlantic, which require to be removed by a more familiar and personal intercourse between them. (Hear, hear.) I have seen statements made in the public prints here in regard to my countrymen, which I know the English people would never have believed, if they had had any opportunity of knowing them by closer personal experience; while, again, on the other side of the Atlantic, there are newspapers which have made statements with regard to Great Britain, which would not have been believed if the American public had been reasonably well informed as to what the British people really are, and what are their true feelings. I do not wish to enter further into this matter, and I will, therefore, conclude with one remark personal to myself in connection with my friend's project. Although entirely friendly to his scheme, I must confess I am not very anxious it should be carried out *immediately*. It is a great object no doubt to bring the two countries together, but I cannot help arguing with myself that if, with the two countries three thousand miles apart, I get so many despatches per week that I can with difficulty attend to them all satisfactorily, what would be my fate if the Cable succeeds, and I had to receive and answer them every day? Therefore, I shall wish success to the Submarine Telegraph between Europe and America, but that it may happen with just about as little delay as may bring it to the moment when I hope to be back in my native country.

MR. FIELD. It grieves me very much to differ from a gentleman so esteemed for his sound judgment as Mr. Adams; but I do

so with the greatest respect, and in two particulars.—Firstly, I submit that instead of saying “if” the cable be a success his expression should have been “when” it is a success, for of its success I doubt, no more than of the reality of our existence here this evening, and secondly—I submit that as regards the daily despatches, Mr. Adams does not take his usually clear view of the deep interest he has in the immediate success of our cable. When I have had occasion to call on him, at Upper Portland Place, I have been often informed that, by the tedious process of ordinary pen and ink, it frequently occupies him all day to compose and write the elaborate despatches incidental to that form of communication; but if we only had the telegraph in constant work between England and America, he would receive a short message, instead of a long despatch, and would reply to it with equal brevity; and, in that case, instead of being hampered with business all day long, he would have plenty of time to bestow upon his numerous friends. Gentlemen, I next desire to give expression to the peculiar pleasure which I feel in meeting round this table so many gentlemen who have been of service to the Atlantic Telegraph Company and the great undertaking which it has in hand; and at this moment I desire especially to refer to those officers of the British Navy who were engaged in assisting, on the first and second occasion, in submerging the Atlantic cable. There are here Captain Aldham, who rendered such aid in H.M.S. “Valorous,” in 1858, Master Commander Noddall, who so ably commanded the “Agamemnon” in 1857, Captain Otter of H.M.S. “Porcupine,” for whom we were all so anxiously on the look out on the evening of the 4th August, as we were entering Trinity Bay, and who so successfully steered our course to the head of that bay. It is with regret that I have to notice the absence from this table of Captains Wainwright, Preedy, and Dayman, who, unfortunately, are prevented from being present. We have derived great benefit from the cheerful, ready, and intelligent services of the officers of the Royal Navy, who have ever shown themselves most anxious and willing to do all in their power for this enterprise. When I saw the ships of both countries going out to lay the cable it was with great pride I witnessed the generous rivalry between the officers of the two Navies. It was a rivalry to see which would do