

**STATISTICS OF
TELEGRAPHY, READ BEFORE
THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY,
JUNE 18TH, 1872, PP. 1-121**

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JAMES ANDERSON

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STATISTICS
OF
TELEGRAPHY



BY

SIR JAMES ANDERSON.

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PREFACE.

I DID not anticipate that this paper would assume dimensions requiring a preface as an apology for its length, but a glance at the Index will show that there is a great variety of considerations forced upon the attention of any one who may attempt to deal with this subject.

Although the Telegraph has been twenty years in general use, it is still a comparatively new power, startling in its effects even yet, and so much a part of the Imperial, commercial, and social system of every civilised nation, that it must be maintained and extended; cost what it may, it can never be abandoned.

It can hardly fail to be of great interest to many to learn that there are established principles which regulate everything connected with it; fixed points of departure which govern the science of electricity, and the form of cable, as well as tariff. I have dealt only with the principles affecting tariff, and the type of cable best suited for submarine telegraphs. No one will dispute my claim to have had opportunities of forming some decided opinion upon both of these points. I have endeavoured to understand them without any bias one way or another, and having accepted the task of

placing on record the statistics upon this subject, I am obliged to acknowledge that the desire to be brief, and yet deal fairly with those practical points which are conclusively established, the want of leisure to enter deeper into the anomalies which I am sure investigation would remove, and the fact that sufficient reliable data of private Companies and many States do not yet exist, by which one can do more than confirm general principles, all combine to make this paper but a first contribution to a comprehensive treatment of Telegraph Statistics; five years hence it can be resumed with decided practical advantage, and whoever attempts it may learn from this first instalment what may with profit be discarded, elaborated, or added.

To the thousands who are interested in the reduction of tariff, and in this class of enterprise as an investment, these pages, with all their faults of style and method of treatment, are respectfully dedicated by

Their faithful servant,

JAMES ANDERSON.

London, *July*, 1872.

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