JAMES K. POLK AND THE TARIFF.

To the Editors of the Nat. Intelligencer.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
May 30, 1844.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: The interest which I feel, in common with the citizens of Pennsylvania on the subject of the Tariff and the protection of American labor induced me to make an inquiry of Gen. Hardin relative to the views of Col Polk, the recently nominated candidate for the Presidency, on the subject of the Tariff. His answer to that inquiry which he has been so good as to furnish me in writing this morning presents the facts in relation to Col Polk's views on this all absorbing topic in such an important light, that I respectfully ask for them from the people of Pennsylvania and the whole Union that attention which they deserve, and I have no doubt will receive; and I therefore request you to do me the favor to publish the enclosed letter of Gen. Hardin.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.
JAMES IRVIN.

COL. J. K. POLK AND THE TARIFF.

TO THE HON. JAMES IRVIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SIR: Upon the announcement of James K. Polk on yesterday as the nominee of the Baltimore Convention for President, which equally astonished Whigs and Locos, you inquiringly asked 'What are his opinions on the Tariff?'

According to the promise then given I proceed to answer your inquiry.—Mr. Polk is, and claims to be a consistent opponent of a Protective Tariff; has advocated the principle of free trade, substantially; in 1833 was for restoring the tariff to the rates prescribed by the tariff of 1816; and has been a bitter reviler of the Whig tariff of 1842; is for its repeal; and is in favor of returning to the horizontal 20 per cent. rates of duty which prevailed at the time of the passage of the tariff of 1842.

In the session of 1832-'33, Mr. Polk was a member of the Committee of Ways and Means, which reported a bill (which did not pass) greatly reducing the duties below those adopted by the tariff act of the preceeding session, (Tariff of 1832.) *He* made a lengthy speech in favor of the proposed bill, and against the protective system, which will be found in Congressional Debates, vol. 9, pages 1162 to 1175. As a specimen of the views presented in that speech, I will quote a few short extracts:

'It appears from this testimony that the duties upon woollens (now fifty per cent.) may not only be reduced, but that twenty five per cent. will be a sufficient protection, provided there be a corresponding reduction on the raw material, and the duty be fully and fairly collected; and that the manufacturers of cottons, and especially of coarse cottons, would be able to continue their business profitably at the reduced duty of twelve & a half per cent. on the rival foreign article.' * * *

'I propose next to establish, by testimony equally entitled to credit, the third proposition, which is, that the manufactures of the United States were in a prosperous condition under the act of 1816 and for the eight years intervening between the years 1816, and 1824, and also that the act of 1816, afforded them ample incidental protection.'—[Con. Debates, vol. 9, page 1,170.]

'The wool growers consider the duty upon foreign wool as important to their prosperity. This opinion, I apprehend is founded in error. Very little wool of the middling quality, such as we produce is imported. The kinds chiefly imported are either the coarse South American wool; costing eight cents and under the pound, or the fine Saxony wool, costing more than a dollar the pound, neither of which do we produce, or if we do, to a very limited extent.' * * * * *

'My own opinion is that wool should be duty free: but as wool growers think otherwise, we have retained a duty of fifteen per cent. upon the imported article. [Congressional Debates, vol. 9, p 1174.]

In relation to the Tariff of 1842 we are at no loss for his opinions. Mr. Polk was a candidate for Governor in Tennessee in 1843, (in which race, you know, he was a second time defeated by a large majority) and during the canvass he permitted no opportunity to escape him to denounce that tariff in the most bitter terms. In response to an inquiry whether he 'approved of such a tariff as would give protection to home industry, against foreign industry,' he anwered as I am informed by gentlemen who are perfectly familiar with his views, as given on the stump and in his circulars that he was opposed to the principle of protection. His answer to this and other interrogatories will be published as soon as they can be procured from Tennessee.

Fortunately, however, I am at no loss for an authentic document which presents Colonel Polk's views of the tariff of 1842. I have before me the 'Synopsis of Gov. Polk's speech to the people of Madison and the adjoining counties, delivered at Jackson, on the 3d of April, 1843,' printed in pamphlet form and written out for publication by Gov. Polk. From it I quote the following extracts:

'He took other views, briefly presented, of the subject, and proceeded to the discussion of the protective tariff act passed by the last Congress. He showed that it was a highly protective tariff, and not one for revenue. He showed that by the compromise tariff act of 1833, the tax on no imported article was to exceed 20 per cent. upon its value after the 30th of June, 1842. No higher tax than 20 per cent. *was* imposed on any article after the 30 h of June, 1842; until the 30th of August 1842, on which latter day the present tariff law was passed by the Whig Congress. The Whig Congress laid violent hands on the compromise act of 1833, and broke it up.'

'It was clear, therefore, that the tariff act was not a revenue measure. It had raised the rates of duty so high as to shut out imports, and consequently to cut off and diminish revenue.'

'Judging from the amount of revenue received at the Treasury, under the operations of the present tariff act, for the last quarter of 1842, as already shown, it will not produce annually half the amount of revenue which would have been produced by the lower rates of the compromise act, had that act been left undisturbed.

'He was opposed to direct taxes, and to prohibitory and protective duties, and in favor of such *moderate* duties as would not cut off importations. In other words he was in favor of reducing the duties to the rates of the compromise act, where the Whig Congress found them on the 30th of June, 1842.'

'The South, and he with them, had voted for the act of 1843 because it was a reduction of the rates of the act of 1828 though by no means so low as he would have desired it to be; still it was the greatest reduction which could be attained at the time of its passage.'

"The difference between the course of the political party with which he (Mr. Milton Brown) acts and myself is, whilst they are the advocates of Distribution and a protective tariff—Measures which I consider ruinous to the interests of the country and especially to the interests of the Planting States—I have steadily and at all times opposed both.'

These extracts conclusively prove the hostility of Col. Polk to the protective policy, which he considers 'ruinous to the country, especially to the planting States.' That is sufficient argument with him. He therefore is now for 'reducing the duties to the rates under the compromise act, where the Whig Congress found them on the 30th June, 1842;' and Gov Polk himself shows that 'the tax on no imported article was to exceed twenty per cent. upon its value after the 30th of June 1842.' Then it is clearly seen that he is for a horizontal Tariff of twenty per cent. with discriminations (if any are made) below even that rate.

I pass by, without comment, the far seeing statesmanike predictions of Gov Polk, that the tariff of 1842 'had raised the rates of duty so high as to shut out imports, and consequently to cut off and diminish revenue.' The subsequent increase of both imports and revenue under this tariff have given such a fulfilment to this prophecy as must forever immortalize Col. Polk as a wonderful prophet!

During the consideration of the tariff of 1842, as the revenue produced by the twenty per sent. duties of the compromise act were altogether inadequate to defray the expenditures of the government, a proposition was made to lay a duty on tea and coffee, for which a number of the Whigs in Congress voted, in order to increase the revenue and redeem the sinking credit of the Government. Col. Polk seized upon this vote to give a castigation to those Whigs who had voted for this proposition. This called forth a response from the Hon Milton Brown, of Tennessee, and led to a political discussion at Jackson, Tennessee, where Col. Polk delivered the speech above referred to. He was most triumphantly answered by Mr. M. Brown, who clearly demonstrated that the bill of 1833, reported by the Committee of Ways and Means; of which Col. Polk was a member, (and in favor of which he made the speech first quoted from,) proposed to impose a duty of twenty per cent. on tea and coffee—At the time this proposition was made tea and coffee were entirely free of duty; and another striking fact appears from Col. Polk's speech in 1833, that the Government then had 'six millions of revenue from the imports more than we need.'—[Congressional Debates, vol. ix, page 1174]. Yet notwithstanding such was the admitted fact, Col. Polk voted against a proposition to strike out tea and coffee from the proposed bill, so as to continue them free from duty—[Journal House of Representatives 1832-3, pp. 390 and 391]—But this subject was so ably handled, and Col. Polk's ad captandum objection so thoroughly exposed by Mr. Brown in his response to Col. Polk on that occasion at Jackson, Tennessee, that I must beg to call your attention to the extracts from his remarks which I here append;* and I do so the more earnestly as it gives an insight into some of the traits of character of the newly-made candidate of the Locofocos for the Presidency.

Coinciding as Col. Polk does in opinion with Mr. Calhoun and the ultra anti tariff free trade men of the South in his views on the tariff, it is not surprising that they should have been willing to compromise on him, nor is it at all astonishing to hear that Messrs. Pickens and Elmore, the ministers plenipotentiary from South Carolina to Baltimore, although refusing to participate in the proceedings of the Convention, yet, when the nomination was made, rose up in the Convention and pledged the vote of South Carolina for Col. Polk. And it now only remains to be seen whether that large portion of the Democratic party who believe in the policy and propriety of bestowing fair protection upon American industry, will consent to be handed over without notice or consultation to the support of a free-trade-horizontal tariff advocate, who is the makeshift candidate of the Baltimore Convention.

Respectfully, yours,
JOHN J. HARDIN, of Illinois:
WASHINGTON, May 30, 1844.

*As the extracts here referred to would occupy more space than we can spare to-day, they are reserved for publication in another paper.

THE ELECTION OF GOVERNOR.—The Locofocos have evidently no idea of making a contest in Maryland so far as the Presidential election is concerned.—It is idle to deny this, it is equally idle to attempt to prove it. They will however make some effort in the election of Governor, although we do not believe that in respect to that officer they entertain any hopes of success. They will notwithstanding make an effort, and it will be necessary for the Whigs to arouse themselves and assert their power in October, for then will be the only contest. This being the real ground of whatever battle there may be, it is a matter of rejoicing that the Whig candidate for Governor stands on such high ground in regard to the matters which so deeply concern the people of this State. It cannot be unsafe to put in command one who warned us of the shoal on which the ship of State is now stranded. It cannot be unsafe to elevate to the Chief Magistracy of the State one who foretold eight years ago the debt & taxation which are now upon us, and strove with might and main, by art and ingenuity to avert the sad catastrophe.—For eight years the Locofocos have perverted to electioneering purposes the eight million bill and its consequences. We say that they have perverted it to such uses for they have a greater share of the responsibility of it than the Whigs. But the nomination of Mr. Pratt has completely disarmed them, their batteries are closed, their hobby is broken down, spavined ringboned and wind-broken as it always was, it is now completely prostrate and its burden in the mud. Whigs let the name of Pratt be the rallying cry, for whatever fight the Locofocos may make will be in regard to the election of Governor. The office holders will no doubt battle with the energy that despair inspires. It will be a vain strife. The elections of next fall have an interest of the very highest character and on such occasions the Whigs of Maryland are always at their posts.—*Fred. Examiner.*

CONGRESS.

Correspondent of the American.

WASHINGTON June 3, 1844.

The Texas Treaty, it is thought, will be disposed of this week. The session of Saturday with closed doors was upon this treatry, & the discussion from the week's silence upon the subject, and the Baltimore Convention, lost none of its exciting interest. Mr. Buchanan has ventured upon a defence of the immediate annexation of Texas and Mr. Benton, nothing daunted by occurrences at Baltimore, has ventured upon a reply, the boldest perhaps that he has made. Col. Benton and his friends, therefore, do not change their position in regard to the treaty, and of course there is not the shadow of a probability of the ratification or even of a majority vote for it.

The correspondence published this morning and laid before the Senate on Saturday, will strike you as most important. It confirms all former intelligence as to the unheard of assumption of power on the part of the Executive, and as you may readily suppose creates very great excitement on the part of the people.—Mr. Tyler with more time, and under different auspices, would be certainly impeached. These circumstances are that his political race is run, and that a few months will find him no longer with the means of abusing his trust. Both parties here of course, laugh in the faces of his professed friends at his Baltimore nomination.

The next two weeks of the session will be most busy and exciting. A great deal of legislative business is to be transacted and a great deal of an important character in Executive session.

Reported for the Baltimore Clipper.

WASHINGTON, June 5 1844.

The Senate passed early this morning to the consideration of executive business. During the time it was in legislative session, there was an executive communication from the treasury department, covering the report of Professor Morse in relation to his electro-magnetic telegraph now completed between this city and Baltimore. The department speaks highly of the work, & says that its practicability has been fully and satisfactorily established. Professor Morse has received for this magnificent work $30.000, authorised by act of Congress in 1843. The cost estimated in pipe was $583 per mile, on posts from $350 to $400. These estimates however, largely exceed the expenditure & there have been heavy outlays for experiments that will not again be needed. There is left of this appropriation $3,500, which Mr. Morse thinks may still be wanted for sustaining the line until provision by law be made for the organization of a telegraphic bureau, which will enable the telegraph to support itself, and probably become a source of revenue to the government.

The cost of the English telegraph in pipe is $1275 per mile; on posts $662; and Prof. Morse is of opinion that the whole line of American telegraph may be perfected for $125 per mile. I have been thus minute because the subject is one of great interest, & in point of speed has no competitor save in the lightning of heaven.

Mr Pearce presented a memorial from citizens of Cecil county, Maryland, warmly remonstrating against the annexation of Texas. The memorial was not as respectful as it might have been to President Tyler. It says, 'President Tyler appears so devotedly wedded to Texas and her interests, that they pledge themselves to aid him in incorporating himself with that government, yielding to her the honor of possessing in his accidency such a distinguished citizen and zealous friend,' &c. &c. Memorials of this kind are apt to lose the effect which they were intended to have.

In the House they passed at once to the discussion of the civil and diplomatic bill, or rather to the merits of the rival candidates for the presidency, which continued for some time

THE DAY OF ADJOURNMENT FIXED.—The Senate having concurred in the vote of the House of Representatives (passed some days ago) directing the presiding officers of the two Houses to adjourn the same *sine die* on the 17th day of June, it may be considered as settled that the session of Congress will be brought to a close on that day. This decision cannot be reversed or reconsidered without the consent of both Houses.—Nat. Intel.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE CALEDONIA.

FIFTEEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Caledonia, Capt. Lott, arrived at Boston on Saturday morning, in the remarkably short passage of twelve and a half days from Liverpool—bringing Liverpool dates to the 19th, London to the 18th, and Paris and Havre to the 17th of May. The overland mail had arrived at London, bringing intelligence from Bombay to the 1st April, and from Canton to the 27th February.

We annex the following items from the New York Herald and New York Sun, extra:

The price of cotton had fallen still lower.

Parliament has taken hold of the Custom Duty Bill. The Bank of England question has come up for debate.

There has been another revolution in Spain, and a dreadful massacre in Turkey.

The steamer Acadia from Boston, and the packet ship Independence from New York, had arrived out.

The English papers state that the continued dry weather was beginning to have an unfavorable effect on the growing crops.

The sentence of Mr. O'Connell had been postponed until the next term—Meanwhile he is actively engaged in pushing forward his favorite movement. In his address before the last Repeal meeting in Dublin he said that the office of Chief Baron had been offered him by the Marquis of Normandy, and that, being wedded to his country, he refused it, as he would again that or any other offer. At the same meeting the Repeal rent for the week was announced to be £153.

The Mexican Minister in Paris had contradicted the statement that several citizens of France had been massacred in Mexico.

It is stated that the negotiations in progress for the marriage of the Prince de Wappani with Queen Isabella of Spain promises to terminate successfully, notwithstanding the opposition of Louis Phillippe.

A serious riot had taken place at Munich, in Bavaria, in consequence of the advance in the price of beer.

ANNEXATION OF TEXAS.—Wilmer & Smith's European Times of the 19th ult. has the following paragraph:

Few things have taken the British people with greater surprise than the news which came to hand this week, not only that a treaty for the annexation of Texas to the American Union had been signed by the contracting parties, but that the treaty, so signed, with all the necessary correspondence and documents, had been laid before the Senate for ratification. A shell, thrown unexpectedly into a fort or a citadel, could not have produced more general consternation. It will be seen that the Treaty of Texas was mooted in the House of Lords, on Thursday night by Lord Brougham, who is, of course, strongly averse to it, arising out of the slavery question. Lord Aberdeen spoke guardedly, but both of the speakers emphatically denied having ever contemplated, in connexion with this question, the least interference with the institutions of the United States.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

In the British House of Lords, Lord Brougham wished to ask the noble lord, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, if he had received information with respect to the annexation of Texas with the U. States. This was a question of vast importance, so far as the abolition of slavery was concerned but he trusted that the deciding portion of the Congress, namely two thirds of the members, would oppose it. Nothing which had dropped from him or the noble lord at the head of the foreign department even justified the inference that this country, although deploring the existence of slavery, ever contemplated any interference with the constitution of America.

The Earl of Aberdeen said the noble and learned lord could not expect him to give a precise answer to the question he asked. It was a subject quite new and unexampled in the history of nations, and his noble and learned friend might depend upon it that it would receive the most serious attention of her Majesty's government. It was true, he believed that the treaty for the annexation of Texas to the United States had been signed; but he agreed in the hope expressed by his noble and learned friend that the majority of Congress would not agree to the ratification of it.

IRELAND.

THE IRISH STATE TRIALS.—The legal arguments which had occupied the whole week on the motion for a new trial, in the case of O'Connell, and his colleagues, closed in the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench on Saturday evening last, with a powerful speech on behalf of the crown from the Irish Attorney General.

Mr. Whiteside then rose and claimed the right of reply, on the part of the traversers, on account of entirely new matter introduced by the Attorney General, contrary to arrangement.

The Attorney General decidedly objected, but the Court, speaking through Judge Burton, announced that they would consider the matter and decide the point on Monday morning.

On Monday not a syllable was said on the subject either by the Judges or the counsel on one side or the other.

On Tuesday, about twelve o'clock, the judges who had been nearly two hours in consultation entered the court, wearing the appearance of men who had been engaged in very earnest discussion. All the law officers of the crown, with some of the counsel for the defence, and two of the traversers. Messrs. Steel and Tierney, were present. After a short pause, the Lord Chief Justice, addressing the Attorney General, said—'Mr. Attorney; I am sorry to tell you that the Court find they cannot give judgment in the case until next term.' 'The case' of course, was understood to mean that of 'The Queen v. O'Connell and others.' The Attorney General dropped into his seat, and in a moment the Court was comparatively empty.

The ready facility of the Judges has had the natural effect of inviting further dilatory experiments; a variance, it appears has been discovered between the verdict as returned by the jury and the entry of it upon the postea. This is a matter which in Westminster Hall, would not occupy five minutes. The error, if error there be, is the error of the officer of the court, which Lord Denman would order, as a matter of course, to be mended upon a single suggestion.

Trinity term commences on the 22nd instant, and ends on the 12th June. If the decision on the new trial question be against the defendants, then comes the motion for an arrest of judgment, which may occupy the whole of the ensuing term. If not there is the writ of error, which will afford materials for another months speechifying.

INDIA AND CHINA.

We have received intelligence from Bombay to the 1st of April from Calcutta and Delhi to the 23d of March and from Madras to the 23d of that month. The accounts from China are to the 27th of February, the latter contain nothing of interest, further than all was quiet, and the arrangements of Government for carrying on business had proved so far successful. Sir H. Pottinger had directed the reduction of expenditure on erection of government buildings to the lowest point. Some European laborers, on arriving at Hong Kong in quest of employment, had the mortification of discovering that it was in vain to compete with Chinamen. The colony appears to have been more healthy of late than formerly. The accounts received states that the Chinese new year holidays had almost entirely put a stop to business, and few transactions either in imports or exports had been effected.

The news from India; on the whole is not important. Lord Ellenborough had returned to Calcutta on the 28th of February; the second anniversary of his arrival in India. In Scinde every thing is tranquil, and the troops appear to be healthy and comfortable. There have been no more disturbances in Gwailor, and India throughout is peaceful & prosperous.

SPAIN.

Spain, since our last publication, has witnessed another change in her nominal rulers. We say nominal, for their is little doubt but that whoever may be appointed as Minister, the real rulers are Narvaez and the Queen's Mother. The following is a list of the new Cabinet:—General Narvaez, President of the Council and Minister of War; the Marquis de Villunia, Minister for Foreign Affairs; M Mon, Minister of Finance; M. Pidal, Minister of the Interior; M. Mayana Minister of Justice; and General Armero, Minister of Marine. The names all belong to the Ultra-Moderado and Afrancessado party. M. Gonzales Bravo is appointed Ambassador to the Court of Lisbon. The Madrid Gazette publishes the decree abolishing the State of seige throughout the kingdom. The proceedings of the new Ministers have so far proved satisfactory, and evince a disposition to revert to a consequence of legal government.

The Mississippi.—The St. Louis Reporter of the 22d ult. says:

The river rose yesterday about six inches and is still rising. It has already entered many of the stores on the wharf and from present appearances the first floor of but few of them will escape inundation. Illinoistown is scarcely visible. The American bottom is covered with water to the bluffs, except, in a few spots or ridges. The rivers above are still rising.

The village of Cahokia, a few miles below this city on the Illinois shore, is almost entirely inundated.

In addition to the above (says the Louisville Journal) we learn from Capt. Page, that at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning (the 22nd instant) the water had reached within thirteen inches of the first floor of the old warehouse of the American Fur Company, which is the most elevated building on the Levee.

The Red River.—The Alexandria Republican of the 18th ult. states that the river in front of that town had overflowed its banks and continued for several days at an unusual height. The current swept away all the defences against the river, and the water inundated the lower part of the town and the surrounding country, destroying a vast amount of property.—One person Major Duress, was drowned. The loss to the planting interest on the River is estimated at a million and a half of dollars.

Overflow in Arkansas.—The little Rock Gazette of the 15th ult, observes that the late freshets in Red, Washita, Laine, Arkansas and White rivers, have done immense damage to property along their whole extent. Along the Arkansas river, the damage done to the crops, and the loss of stock, &c must amount to from eighty to a hundred thousand dollars.—The high water came when the cotton was just up, & continued until a period to late successfully to plant. The Gazette considers the calamity of sufficient magnitude to call for legislative attention and invites the planters and farmers to make up estimates of the losses in the growing crop, stock, &c.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.—Mr Hickman has received the *eighth edition of 'Dick's Christian Philosopher.'* We copy from this highly useful work the following account of the Electric Telegraph an invention which is at this time arresting the attention of our citizens, who will be pleased to read this account of its discovery and operation:

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.—The electric and galvanic powers have been lately employed in the transmitting telegraphic signals through wires to any assignable distance. More than thirteen years ago, Sir H. Davy, Dr. Ritche, and several others, formed the idea of constructing an electrical telegraph; and in 1837 the model of an apparatus for this purpose was exhibited by Mr. Alexander to the Society of Arts, in Edinburgh. Professor Wheatstone, of King's College London lately made considerable improvements in the construction of these instruments particularly in the reduction of the number of wires requisite in such an apparatus. The general principle on which such an operation is founded, is that of causing galvanic current to deflect a needle poised on a centre, and, by certain arrangements, the needle is made to point to any letter on a dial plate. Professor Wheatstone's apparatus consists of two small galvanic troughs or batteries; four lengths of copper wire; an object resembling a brass clock, with a small opening or lid on the surface sufficient to show a single letter at a time; close by this an upright pivot of brass about three inches high, having a circular top inscribed with the letters of the alphabet all around and from each letter a spike pointing outwards. The whole stands on a table, except the wires, which being four miles in length, and warped in numberless convolutions through the vaults of the college, are observable only at their extremities in connexion with the apparatus. The galvanic property generated in the batteries is made to proceed along the wires, and in its passage to effect the mechanism in the apparatus now described. The letters can be exposed at the rate of two in every second. A gentleman who witnessed the performance says, 'A lady, turning the capstan with her finger, brought into view the word London, in the time it could be uttered letter, by letter although the idea had to travel through four miles of wire.'

The capabilities of the principle of his instrument have been tested on the line of the Great Western Railway.—In September, 1839, the wires of the electric telegraph were carried to Drayton a distance of fifteen miles from London, and the experiment was attended with complete success. To such a question as the following,—'How many passengers started from Drayton by the 10 o'clock train?' the answer could be transmitted from the terminous to Drayton and back in less than two minutes. The wires of communication pass through a hollow iron tube an inch and a half diameter which is fixed about six inches above the ground parallel with the railway, and about two or three feet distant from it; and it is probable that by this time they have been carried forward the whole length of the railway which extends to Bristol, a distance of 117 miles.

In transmitting the electric influence through wires—however great the distance—the time occupied in the transmission is nearly the same, for there is reason to believe that it flies with the same velocity as light whose rate of motion is nearly two hundred thousand miles in a second. Were wires extended from Britain to China, on the other hand, and to America on the other, intelligence could be transmitted to those regions in as short a time as in conveying it across a garden or a large hall! It is hard to say to what extent signals may, in point of fact be communicated, in this way, in the course of the improvements which are now going forward. Were the nations of Europe living in perect amity and peace and in a friendly communication with each other, telegraphs of this description might be ramified throughout the whole extent of the continent from north to south, and from east to west, and the expense of constructing them would be but a slight item compared with the sums expended in useless parade in warfare, and in schemes of folly. They might, at any rate, be spread in different directions throughout the island of Great Britain or at least along the great thoroughfares leading towards the metropolis; and officers established at different stages for communicating and receiving intelligence—with prices affixed corresponding to the distance from which the intelligence is conveyed. It is easy to see that such a rapid communication of intelligence—in numerous instances, which our limits will not permit us to specify—might be highly beneficial to the interests of general society.

Thus it appears that the same physical principle or agent which produces the forked and fire ball lightnings, and all the dread phenomena of a violent thunderstorm—which rends to pieces the sturdy oak, and strikes whole herds of cattle lifeless to the ground—which displays it terrific energy in the awful phenomena of volcanoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes—that the same agent is now, by human art, rendered subservient to the conveyance of swift intelligence from one place to another and to many other useful purposes in society—and perhaps, ere long, its destructive energies may be completely counteracted by the contrivances of human ingenuity, when its nature and properties & its mode of operation shall be more completely unfolded. And, it is not unlikely, as the investigations of philosophy proceed, that new principles may be discovered in the the system of nature, more wonderful than any that have yet come within the reach of our knowledge which may both enlarge our views of the operations of the Creator, and be applicable to manifold beneficial purposes in the economy of human society.

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