The Press.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1858.

FIRST PAGE.—The Old-Line Whigs in 1856 and 1858; General News; The Money Market, etc.

The News.

Electric—*Magnetic*—Cable! was all the talk yesterday. No room for anything else.

The Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine carried off the $500, Boston prize.

The decision of the Attorney General of South Carolina surrenders the captured slaves over to the U. S. Marshal.

The Democratic conferees of the Sixteenth Congressional District, composed of York, Cumberland, and Perry counties, met at the other end of the Harrisburg bridge yesterday, and had fourteen ballots for a candidate for Congress, without making a choice. York stood by Fisher, Cumberland by Ashe, and Perry by McIntyre. The conferees try it again this morning.

The Democratic State Convention of Michigan meets at Detroit to-day.

Page's factory, in Wayne, Ashtabula county, Ohio, has been destroyed by fire. Loss $20,000.

Adjutant General Cooper has gone to Old Point to meet General Scott.

YESTERDAY'S CELEBRATION.

We have had our great telegraph celebration, and it has proved not only all, but a great deal more than the most sanguine could have anticipated. From sunrise to within a few hours of the time of our going to press, the day has been one of gratulation, pride, and thankfulness. Gratulation, on account of the success of the greatest scientific work of our time; pride, that it was suggested by American intellect, and mainly completed by American perseverance; and thankfulness that the Almighty, in his wisdom, has given such knowledge of the laws of Nature to Man as enabled this wondrous consummation to be accomplished.

It well became Philadelphia, so long the adopted home of FRANKLIN, and that in which, "after life's fitful fever," his ashes rest, to render especial honor to an achievement which unquestionably owes much to the investigations which he so perseveringly and indefatigably pursued. Indeed, the name of FRANKLIN is doubly connected with this great event, for, not only did he match the lightning from Heaven "Eripuit fulmen coelo," but no American gave a greater impetus, in this country, to the noble art of Printing, without which the speculations and pursuits of science must have been profitless and scant. Whatever FRANKLIN'S wildest anticipations may have been—and Philosophy sometimes indulges in dreams as wild as ever the wizard Imagination gave birth to in her dreamy aspirations—we may be assured that joining the two hemispheres by what is comparatively a mere thread, and sending Thought through that attenuated line, in lightning-winged words, never entered into his mind. He would have rejoiced to have seen this day—this day so full of glory to his native land, so full of promise to mankind. He would have exulted in seeing Civilization thus presented with another servant, more potent than any other, with few exceptions, which human means placed in her service.

Yesterday, amid the Celebration, the *reality* of the achievement which we commemorated was significantly and practically shown. Here, and in New York, while the population were on the full tide of rejoicing, there flashed across the Atlantic a message of congratulation from the Directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company in London—a message probably delivered to the Cable some time *after*, the hour when it reached its destination in America.

It would be a frightful catastrophe, if, after the Atlantic Telegraph is once in business operation, the public should suddenly be deprived of its use. This may occur, at any period, and this must be guarded against. It is impossible, now that the practicability of the Sub-Atlantic Telegraph is a fixed fact, that the communication between this country and England shall be trusted to a single wire, about the thickness of a man's forefinger. Indeed, the question involved is not alone the communication between England and the United States, but between the Old World and the New. We had an instance of this the other day, when a single Atlantic telegram brought us news from China, India, Egypt, Prussia, Russia, France, and England. In fulness of time, it is most probable that France, and other European countries, objecting to their telegraphic communications passing exclusively through England, will have Atlantic Telegraphs of their own. But, in the meantime, accident to the present line must be provided for. A pretty thing it would be, after we have been accustomed, (as we soon shall be,) to have our foreign news served up, in company with our own domestic intelligence, at our breakfast-table, every day, if there was a sudden cessation—a break in the wire! There was an example of this, only a few years ago, when the Telegraph Cable was first laid between England and France. It worked very successfully for a few weeks, and then the communication ceased. The wire had got abraded by some sharp rocks, close to the terminus on the French coast, and a considerable time elapsed before the cable could be repaired, and the communication restored. Common sense, as well as common prudence, suggests that a second cable, if not a third and fourth, shall be laid with as little delay as possible. The money can readily be raised for this purpose.

In the first flush of success, so welcome and latterly so unexpected, many journalists spoke of the Atlantic Telegraph as "the greatest event the annals of the world." The exaggeration in of this pardonable boast is natural enough, and certainly we shall not be so ill-natured or so captious as to condemn or ridicule it. Undoubtedly, it is one of the most remarkable events in the world's history—one of the most surprising, though it is not *the* greatest.

We look back, only a few hundred years, and the Invention of Printing looms grandly out of the Past—an invention of mechanics, almost of handicraft, which may be said almost to be the parent of every other grand discovery since made. By means of Printing, the word of God, heretofore a sealed book to the multitude, because it took a very large sum to purchase a manuscript copy of the Bible, was scattered widecast over the world, and soon was translated into a variety of languages, that each man might make himself familiar with Scripture history, prophecy, and morality. Ever since Printing has performed a wonderful mission, the vast importance of which seems to be every day upon the increase. Without the aid of printing, more especially, the news which the Atlantic Telegraph will daily convey across the ocean, would be limited to a mere handful of people—if sent at all. It is the newspaper which gives it publicity, it is the newspaper which has communicated to the world every detail respecting the inception, progress, failures, and ultimate success of the great scientific operation which was so honored yesterday, by general rejoicings in this city and elsewhere.

Passing the Mariner's Compass, which has been prettily called "the trembling soul of Navigation," and certainly may compete, for utility, with Printing itself, we would submit that the application of Steam, as a great working force, and its adaptation to water and land travelling, may take precedence, in importance, of all that the Atlantic Telegraph, at its best, may be expected to accomplish. Indeed, the public, somewhat ungratefully and forgetfully, seem to ignore the fact that prior to the laying of the Cable such a thing as the Electric Telegraph had been in successful operation all over the world, but chiefly in this country, its birthplace, for several years. That very success induced the Oceanic experiment; one is but the offspring of the other. Yet, view it as we may, this extension of the Telegraph system, linking us with the Old World, as it does, is a surprising and great event.

We have left ourself only room to add, that yesterday's celebration passed off most happily. During the day, there probably were as many as half a million of persons in Chestnut street. From various parts of the State, and largely from New Jersey, visiters were attracted, on this occasion, to the city of Franklin, the great electrician.

☞ A letter from Dr. D. Jayne, in favor of the Chestnut and Walnut Street Railroad, will be found in our advertising columns. Dr. J. is one of the heaviest property-holders in Chestnut [illegible]

THE CABLE! THE CABLE! THE CABLE!

THE OCEAN CABLE!

GRAND CELEBRATION.

"MAKING BOTH ENDS MEET."

PHILADELPHIA WILD!

INTERNATIONAL FEELING EXUBERANT.

FUN AND FROLIC.

GRAND MILITARY DISPLAY.

MAGNIFICENT ILLUMINATIONS.

BLAZES OF FIREWORKS.

FLASHES OF LIGHTNING.

ELOQUENT ORATION OF JUDGE KELLEY.

SPIRIT-STIRRING SPEECHES.

IMPRESSIVE PRAYERS.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS.

MEETING AT JAYNE'S HALL.

Letters from Distinguished Statesmen.

CYRUS W. FIELD CONGRATULATES US.

THE LONDON DIRECTORS DO THE SAME.

MORSE REMAINS QUIET.

BRILLIANT DISPLAY BY THE FIREMEN.

Sayings and Doings, &c., &c.

Our city yesterday presented a beautiful and joyous appearance, in honor of the great event which was so creditably celebrated. The streets were thronged with people eager to note each feature of the day. The military, civic, and firemen's displays were very imposing. The addresses, the orations, and the prayers do honor to the genius of their authors. The torchlight procession and the fireworks equalled anything of the kind ever before witnessed in our city. Many of the transparencies and illuminations were really magnificent; and, taken all together, the ovation was a grand proof of the readiness of the popular heart to bestow its warmest meed of applause upon the peaceful triumphs of science as well as upon the bloody deeds of war.

A more propitious time for the celebration could not have been fixed upon. The weather was delightful, with a cool breeze to temper the bright sunshine, without being blustery or unpleasantly cool. By daybreak, or soon after, those who designed joining in the celebration were astir, and every inch of bunting in town was flung to the morning breeze. Flags streamed from every point—they flouted the breeze from lofty staffs, they fluttered from lines stretched across the streets, and they decorated the masts and rigging of the vessels lying in the Delaware and in the Schuylkill.

THE MILITARY.

The military display was a most grand and imposing one, and constituted an attractive feature of the day. They met at the appointed hour, the right resting on Broad below Walnut, then countermarching, proceeded in the following order:

FIRST REGIMENT INFANTRY,
FIRST BRIGADE.
GEN. ROBT. PATTERSON AND STAFF.
GEN. GEO. CADWALLADER AND STAFF.
Pennsylvania Colored Band.
Artillery Battalion.
Beck's Philadelphia Band.
Col. W. D. Lewis.
Grey Battalion, Commanded by Col. J. K. Murphy.
Washington Greys—Capt. Perry, 65 men.
Philadelphia Greys—Lieut. Otter, 55 men.
National Artillery—Lieut. Simms, 25 men.
Cadwallader Greys—Capt Breese, 30 men.
State Fencibles—Capt. Page, 40 men.
National Guards—Captain Lyle, 100 men.
Independent Greys—Captain Strickland, 34 men.
Logan Legion—Lieut. George Moore, 20 men.
Philadelphia City Guards—Capt. Valle, 26 men.
Washington Blues—Capt. Gosline, 30 men.
THIRD BRIGADE.
RIFLE REGIMENT.
Gen. WILLIAM REILLY.
Col. Monaghan.
United States Cornet Band.
Manayunk Rifles—Captain Shearer, 35 men.
Continental Guards—Captain Spear, 30 men.
Mechanic Rifles—Captain Barr, 20 men.
Rifle Battalion—Captain Fraser, 22 men.
Columbia Rifle—Lieut. Charlton, 38 men.
Spring Garden Rifle—Capt. Barous, 35 men.
Jackson Rifle—Capt. Randolph, 20 men.
United Rifle—Capt. Grant, 30 men.
SECOND BRIGADE.
Gen. J. D. MILES.
A. McMahon, Brigade Major.
Dr. Burns, Surgeon.
Philadelphia Artillery—Capt. Einstein, 50 men.
Hibernia Greens—Lieut. McGough, 28 men.
Irish Volunteers—Capt. O Kane, 22 men.
Jackson Guards—Capt. Murphy, 22 men.
Montgomery Guards—Capt. Harvey.

The procession then proceeded over the route to the square.

CIVIC PROCESSION.

At 10 o'clock the civic bodies assembled at Franklin Square, and formed in the following order:

Chief Marshal—Wm Kerr, of the Niagara.
Assistant Marshals—E. W. McGregor, Frank Timmon.
Liberty Cornet Band.
United States Marines—Sergeant Walmsley, 16 men.

The crew of the Niagara, consisting of 25 men.

The crew of the Susquehanna, consisting of 20 men.

A pole, with a long piece of the Cable attached, was carried by one of the crew of the Niagara.

The Jasper Section of the Sons of Temperance.

After the line was formed, it proceeded to Eleventh and Market streets, where the St. George's and the Albion Societies joined in, and the whole proceeded to the Square.

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE.

The ceremonies here were of a very interesting and attractive character. The exercises were opened at 10 minutes of 12 o'clock, by the entrance of the civic procession, headed by the crew of the Niagara, escorted by marines, who were admitted and marched around the Square, with flags flying and music playing. The streets bounding the Square were thronged to excess to people, who mounted the railing, making a dark fringe entirely round the three open sides.

In front of the platform, on the main avenue, was a painting of the Coat of Arms of Pennsylvania, with a banner bearing the following inscription:

"Franklin, Oersted, Morse, Field—God sends his lightnings to bless the Union of the Old and New World with intelligence, peace, and prosperity."

The stage was also decorated with flags.

The Niagara's crew took up their position just beneath the platform.

The military procession soon followed, sweeping around the walks in grand style, and their music echoing in harmonious tones.

At precisely four minutes past twelve the procession from Franklin and Select Council Chambers appeared upon the platform, and tightly packed it was with the "distinguished" and the officers of the meeting.

After the military had been admitted, and formed into line, the gates of the Square were thrown open for the admission of the crowds without, while a living human tide of people and men poured in with an impetuosity that seemed truly startling, and yet which presented a scene rarely equalled in its imposing grandeur. On and on they came with a surge which soon filled the Square, and hemmed in the military in an apparently inextricable human wall. Those who have been familiar with the city, and its great events for years, declare that there never was seen in Old Independence Square—the customary ground of public gatherings—such a large, happy, gay, and brilliant crowd. The music struck up its inspiring strains as the crowd gathered and gathered around the platform, and hundreds and hundreds came. The music soon changed from "Hail Columbia" and the "Star Spangled Banner" to "God Save the Queen," an air which we fancy has not been heard in that square since the days of the Colonies. The same anthem was also played by the chimes of St. Stephen's Church. The ringers did it in good style.

It was a thrilling scene, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to be in a position to see and hear.

Morton McMichael, Esq., called the meeting to order, and Rev. Dr. Boardman was chosen prayer as *fellow-citizens*, for such a title he considered eminently appropriate, at this time, whether they were born on our soil or not; whether they were landsmen or seamen. "*Fellow-citizens*," said he, "my duty is simply to call this meeting to order, and to move that the Honorable Ellis Lowis take the chair." [Applause.]

Mr. Lowis came forward, and after the applause with which he was greeted had ceased, he spoke as follows:

JUDGE LEWIS' REMARKS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: I thank the committee of arrangements for proposing, and you for sanctioning, the honor just conferred upon me.

We are now assembled to celebrate the greatest event that the world has ever witnessed.

The Great Admiral of Antiquity, with his ark loaded with the richest freight that ever floated on the waters of the great grey main, made known by telegraph to gain intelligence that the flood had abated. The third was rewarded with the olive branch of safety. When our great naval commanders of the present day were endeavoring to establish telegraphic communication between the Old World and the New, they, in like manner, made three efforts, all of which were unsuccessful but perseverance, and an abiding faith in the God of Providence which overrules all for the best, led them to a fourth effort. God rewarded them with a success that surprised and startled a doubting world.

The telegraph established by Agamemnon of old, to announce to the States of Greece that the ten-years siege of Troy was ended, was nothing in comparison with the great act of intelligence which, a few weeks ago, the Agamemnon of the royal navy started to establish.

We are told in the religious fables of the heathen world, that when Prometheus brought the fire from heaven, and gave it to man for the useful purposes of life, the gods were so indignant that they chained the offender to a rock to be tortured for ages, for giving to man a blessing, which was supposed to be fit for the gods alone. But our God—the God of true religion—blesses every effort of his creatures to advance in knowledge and prosperity. When the American Prometheus brought the lightning from heaven and made it subservient to the uses of man, instead of punishment, he was rewarded with the blessing of God. And that blessing has been extended to all the noble minds which have been instruments in completing the great enterprise we are here to celebrate.

In this celebration we should never forget that it is God that "sends his lightning to bless the union of the Old and the New World with intelligence, peace, and prosperity." In view of, our own humble reliance upon Providence, the Rev. Dr. Alfred Nevin will open the proceedings with prayer.

Judge Lewis having called on the Albion and St. George's Societies to send up the English flag, and Gen. Patterson to send up the American flag, those banners were placed upon the platform in conjunction.

Col. P. C. Ellmaker then read the following list of officers of the assembly:

OFFICERS OF THE MEETING.

PRESIDENT.
Ellis Lewis.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

William Rush,	James Ross Snowden,
Thomas Norman,	Horace Binney,
W. L. Dennis,	John Edgar Thompson;
Samuel C. Morton,	M. W. Baldwin,
Henry Vethake,	W. C. Ludwig,
William H. Allen,	Samuel J. Reeves,
John C. Cresson;	David S. Brown.

SECRETARIES.

William Bradford,	E. S. Sandford,
Charles Megargee,	Philip F. Kelley.

These officers were unanimously confirmed by the meeting.

Cheers were heard here for the American and English flags, and the flag of the Niagara, which also waved upon the platform.

The Chair then called upon Rev. Alfred Nevin, who delivered the following impressive prayer:

REV. DR. NEVIN'S PRAYER.

O Thou, whose name alone is *Jehovah*, the most high over all the earth! Thou art the author of all existence, the source of all blessedness, and the centre of all perfection. Thou art glorious in holiness, venerable in majesty, doing wonders! Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence of all them that are about Thee. O Lord God of hosts who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? or to thy faithfulness round about Thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, Thou stillest them. Thou art God over all; blessed for evermore! Thy glory is infinite, for Thou art the Eternal. immortal, invisible, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and whom no man hath seen or can see: And thy greatness is unsearchable, for Thou hast measured the waters in the hollow of Thy hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. Before Thee, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, Thou takest up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt-offering.

Yet, O Lord God, though Thou art high above all nations and Thy glory is above the heavens, Thou humblest Thyself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth, and Thou art the Hearer of prayer, and unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Look down upon us, then, we devoutly beseech Thee, in the plentitude of Thy compassion, as we gather around Thy mercy-seat in the precious Name of Thy dear Son, in whom we have redemption, through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: and O for the work's sake of the wonderful life and sacrificial death of our great Intercessor, let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

We come before God, in this hallowed place, which is consecrated by so many thrilling associations, to speak of the glorious honor of Thy Majesty, and of Thy wondrous works. We come to utter abundantly the memorial of Thy great goodness, and to adore Thy righteousness. We come to consider the operations of Thy hands, to talk of Thy power, and to make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of Thy Kingdom. We humble ourselves before Thee to acknowledge our deep conviction that, without Thy blessing, nothing is pure, nothing is strong, nothing is safe, nothing can prosper.

O God, our heavenly Father, great has been Thy favor toward our nation, through all the vicissitudes of its eventful history! Thou hast guided us by Thy paternal counsel, and guarded us by Thy providence, and o'ershadowed us by Thy wings. Marvellous hast Thou, notwithstanding our iniquities so multiplied and aggravated, shielded us from dangers, and strengthened us in weakness and blessed us with the richest tokens of Thy love and goodness and honor. Thou hast ruled over those who have occupied our places of authority and power; Thou hast breathed into us, as a people, the spirit of obedience to law and order, and of reverence for the institutions of Thy Word. Thou hast made us so signally blessed; Thou hast saved us from infidelity and discord and disunion, and Thou hast clothed our pastures with flocks, and covered our valleys with corn, and made the little hills to rejoice on every side.

And now, O Thou blessed and only Potentate, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, while we call to remembrance the past, we desire to look forward in confidence and dependence and supplication, to trust Thee for the future. Ever be our nation's light, and strength, and glory! Thou, Thou, the glorious Creator, God, grant to diffuse among us its healing radiance, and exert upon us its elevating, and sanctifying, and ennobling power. Ever establish us in righteousness and deliver us from sin. Be Thou the Saviour of all the citizens of this Imperial and State Governments. Make our colleges and seminaries of learning sources of moral and spiritual, as well as of intellectual power and cultivation. Particularly Thy fear incline the hearts of all who have charge of the public press, that this engine may be productive of good, and not of evil. Let the people praise Thee, O Lord; let all the people praise Thee.

And grant, O God, at this time, do we pray that Thy blessing may rest upon that wonderful achievement which has this day convened us and upon all the nations with which it has brought us into the relation of connection. Its Thy doing, great God, and marvellous in our eyes. Make it, then, we entreat Thee, a mighty agent in the promotion of civilization, and liberty, and peace, and commercial prosperity. Be Thou, as it were above it, as a bond of union which all tribes and kindreds shall be united in a holy brotherhood, and an instrumentality by which thou wilt subdue the kingdoms of this world to the dominion of Jesus which we read of, dem and sway the sceptre of universal dominion! O, let all science and art be sanctified, and consecrated to the service of Him by whom and for whom all things were created, unto whom, O Lord, every knee must bow, unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake. Amen.

Letters were then read by Col. Bradford, of the joint committee, from the President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and from Cyrus W. Field.

Letters from Distinguished Persons.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, August 30, 1858.—Hon. ELLIS LEWIS, Chairman: I have been honored by the invitation of "the Committee of Arrangements for celebrating, on the first of September, the completion of the Atlantic Telegraph, to participate in this rejoicing."

I regret that it will not be in my power, on account of the pressure of public business, to unite with my fellow citizens at Philadelphia in celebrating the triumph of this wonderful enterprise, which has been accomplished by the indomitable skill, and energy of the British and American people. It is a grand event in the history of the world, and let us hope that, under a superintending Providence, it may, in its consequences, promote the peace and advance the civilization and happiness of all nations. Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

To Hon. Ellis Lewis, Philadelphia.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY CASS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28th, 1858.—Sir: I beg you to tender to the Committee of Arrangements my acknowledgments, for their kind invitation to attend the ceremonies of the consummation of the Atlantic Telegraph, and also my excuse for declining to accept it, as my official duties will prevent me from being present on that interesting occasion. I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY TOUCEY.

WASHINGTON, August 30th, 1858.—Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 27th inst., inviting my participation in the ceremonies for celebrating, on the 1st prox'mo, the completion of the Atlantic Telegraph, and beg leave to assure the committee that it would give me great pleasure to be present on the interesting occasion, did not my official duties at the seat of Government prevent my attendance.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ISAAC TOUCEY.

Ellis Lewis, Esq., Chairman, Philadelphia.

LETTER FROM CYRUS W. FIELD, ESQ.

GRAMERCY PARK,
NEW YORK, August 30th, 1858.

Gentlemen:—Please accept my cordial thanks for your letter conveying the invitation of the joint committee of the City Councils and citizens of Philadelphia, to participate in your festivities on the first of September.

As I have been assigned a part in the celebrations of other cities, I regret that I cannot be present in person; but in thought I will be with you.

Fully appreciating the high compliment you have paid me, and again thanking you for your kind invitation, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Sincerely your friend,
CYRUS W. FIELD.

To the Joint Committee, &c.

AN ODD SENTIMENT.

The following sentiment, sent to the Committee by Dr. Samuel Forke Atlee, of Washington city, was read by the Chairman:

The Atlantic Telegraph Cable.—A tongue that wags at both ends; and the longest that ever spoke the English language. May it never become unruly, and disgrace its vernacular by uttering unmeaning words; but in accordance with its first lessons, taught by the Queen and the President, perpetually inculcate the sentiments of Christian charity and international good will."

Applause followed the reading of each of these letters—especially that from Mr. Field.

Col. B. announced the receipt of a number of other letters from distinguished sources, as they would be found hereafter in the papers of the city.

JUDGE KELLEY'S ORATION.

Hon. Wm. D. Kelley was then introduced to the immense audience by Judge Lowis, as the orator of the day. He spoke as follows:

[Reported by D. Wolfe Brown, Phonographer, 810 Chestnut street.]

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and Fellow-Citizens:—Though not unused to mingling with my townspeople on public occasions, participating in their deliberations or their festivities, I am filled with unwonted joys—it is with unfeigned diffidence I come before you on this occasion. And yet let me not detain you with apologies for my manifest unfitness for my subject, after having reminded you that this celebration could not be gotten up with telegraphic speed; that its suggestion is, as it were, but of yesterday, and that the first note of preparation made by the committee was not that which summoned your orator to perform his duty.

The occasion is not a local one. It has been fitly spoken of as "the festival of cities," commemorating an event, the influence of which shall be felt while time lasts, and by every member of the human family. It is eminently fitting that the city of Philadelphia should participate in that festival. I will not pause now to show the great historic or geographical interest she has in this event; but, ere I close, you will see that nothing could be more fitting.

Ours is the age of invention. During the last three-quarters of a century, science has extorted from nature her secrets, and genius wrought her newly disclosed powers into combinations of utility with such rapidity, that man has almost seemed to lose his faculty of wonder. And yet, marvellous as is the progress that has been made, wonderful as have been its phases since the eager eye of Columbus rested upon the dim outline of the outlying land of this continent, no event has occurred which is to work so large an influence upon nations and people, upon the social, political, commercial, and economical relations of mankind—no event, the influence of which is to be so far reaching, or so all-pervading.

What is the event we celebrate? One which has made the whole earth vocal—one which has given to the word of admonition, the voice of warning, the message of woe or of joy, wings that compete with time in their swift flight. It has not destroyed or obliterated space; it has not driven up oceans; and yet it has brought the nations of the earth face to face, that they may enter into social converse. Has it not, so far as it regards science, and social, commercial, and political life, obliterated both time and space, and given to the scholar and the statesman, the thinker and the man of facts, ubiquity? [Applause.]

To whom shall be ascribed the glory of this great event? Not unto us, not unto any one nation, not unto any nation of men; but unto the great Omnipotent One, who, having created this beautiful earth and all its mysteries, gave to man the dominion. Let us, therefore, ascribe the glory to Him; and while doing so devoutly, let us not forget that the great men and the humble men who have wrought this miracle were his ministers, deserving to be honored by us, and cherished in our memories. [Applause.]

This great event does not stand solitary and isolated in the history of the world. It has been undertaken and accomplished by two great nations, whose people, under the flag of their respective countries, have invested the capital, have expended the powers of mind, and brave the torturing anxieties necessary to this magnificent work: that its glories belong not alone to those two nations. It had its precursors; and they, I am happy to say, were the works not of members of a single community or State, not of a particular nation, not of any one of earth's named localities; but they belonged to various nations and races. Although they dreamed not of the great result that lay before them, the work they were ultimately to accomplish was for the world and man; and it was fitting that the human family should have its hand in it.

It is now a little more than a century since Franklin drew from the clouds the electric spark, and made the lightning subservient, in some degree, to the will of man. [Applause.] That was in the provincial town of Philadelphia. Volta, who was born while Franklin was planning his first experiments, gave us the electric pile and the galvanic battery. His birthplace was in Como, and his workshop at the University of Pavia. Poor Galvani, who knew not the power he handled, and who died under great delusion as to its sources and its influence, made his experiments in his native town of Bologna. Oersted, without whose discoveries the great work could not have been completed, comes to us from Copenhagen, and there gave us first the thing known as electro-magnetism. These were followed by Ampere, at Paris; by Oxr—our own Coxe—who, in 1816, demonstrated the power of conveying messages through a long wire, here in our city; and Weber—Henry—a name never to be forgotten in this connection, and which will suffer great injustice if it be not recorded as that of the man who gave to successful patentees their power; Steinheil, at Munich; Cooke and Wheatstone, in London; Morse, at Washington, in 1837. And, mark you, these last not English feats, and the flag of the Niagara, which also waved upon the platform.

The Chair then called upon Rev. Alfred Nevin, who delivered the following impressive prayer:

REV. DR. NEVIN'S PRAYER.

O Thou, whose name alone is *Jehovah*, the most high over all the earth! Thou art the author of all existence, the source of all blessedness, and the centre of all perfection. Thou art glorious in holiness, venerable in majesty, doing wonders! Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence of all them that are about Thee. O Lord God of hosts who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? or to thy faithfulness round about Thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, Thou stillest them. Thou art God over all; blessed for evermore! Thy glory is infinite, for Thou art the Eternal. immortal, invisible, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and whom no man hath seen or can see: And thy greatness is unsearchable, for Thou hast measured the waters in the hollow of Thy hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. Before Thee, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, Thou takest up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt-offering.

Yet, O Lord God, though Thou art high above all nations and Thy glory is above the heavens, Thou humblest Thyself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth, and Thou art the Hearer of prayer, and unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Look down upon us, then, we devoutly beseech Thee, in the plentitude of Thy compassion, as we gather around Thy mercy-seat in the precious Name of Thy dear Son, in whom we have redemption, through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: and O for the work's sake of the wonderful life and sacrificial death of our great Intercessor, let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

We come before God, in this hallowed place, which is consecrated by so many thrilling associations, to speak of the glorious honor of Thy Majesty, and of Thy wondrous works. We come to utter abundantly the memorial of Thy great goodness, and to adore Thy righteousness. We come to consider the operations of Thy hands, to talk of Thy power, and to make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of Thy Kingdom. We humble ourselves before Thee to acknowledge our deep conviction that, without Thy blessing, nothing is pure, nothing is strong, nothing is safe, nothing can prosper.

O God, our heavenly Father, great has been Thy favor toward our nation, through all the vicissitudes of its eventful history! Thou hast guided us by Thy paternal counsel, and guarded us by Thy providence, and o'ershadowed us by Thy wings. Marvellous hast Thou, notwithstanding our iniquities so multiplied and aggravated, shielded us from dangers, and strengthened us in weakness and blessed us with the richest tokens of Thy love and goodness and honor. Thou hast ruled over those who have occupied our places of authority and power; Thou hast breathed into us, as a people, the spirit of obedience to law and order, and of reverence for the institutions of Thy Word. Thou hast made us so signally blessed; Thou hast saved us from infidelity and discord and disunion, and Thou hast clothed our pastures with flocks, and covered our valleys with corn, and made the little hills to rejoice on every side.

And now, O Thou blessed and only Potentate, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, while we call to remembrance the past, we desire to look forward in confidence and dependence and supplication, to trust Thee for the future. Ever be our nation's light, and strength, and glory! Thou, Thou, the glorious Creator, God, grant to diffuse among us its healing radiance, and exert upon us its elevating, and sanctifying, and ennobling power. Ever establish us in righteousness and deliver us from sin. Be Thou the Saviour of all the citizens of this Imperial and State Governments. Make our colleges and seminaries of learning sources of moral and spiritual, as well as of intellectual power and cultivation. Particularly Thy fear incline the hearts of all who have charge of the public press, that this engine may be productive of good, and not of evil. Let the people praise Thee, O Lord; let all the people praise Thee.

And grant, O God, at this time, do we pray that Thy blessing may rest upon that wonderful achievement which has this day convened us and upon all the nations with which it has brought us into the relation of connection. Its Thy doing, great God, and marvellous in our eyes. Make it, then, we entreat Thee, a mighty agent in the promotion of civilization, and liberty, and peace, and commercial prosperity. Be Thou, as it were above it, as a bond of union which all tribes and kindreds shall be united in a holy brotherhood, and an instrumentality by which thou wilt subdue the kingdoms of this world to the dominion of Jesus which we read of, dem and sway the sceptre of universal dominion! O, let all science and art be sanctified, and consecrated to the service of Him by whom and for whom all things were created, unto whom, O Lord, every knee must bow, unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake. Amen.

Letters were then read by Col. Bradford, of the joint committee, from the President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and from Cyrus W. Field.

Letters from Distinguished Persons.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, August 30, 1858.—Hon. ELLIS LEWIS, Chairman: I have been honored by the invitation of "the Committee of Arrangements for celebrating, on the first of September, the completion of the Atlantic Telegraph, to participate in this rejoicing."

I regret that it will not be in my power, on account of the pressure of public business, to unite with my fellow citizens at Philadelphia in celebrating the triumph of this wonderful enterprise, which has been accomplished by the indomitable skill, and energy of the British and American people. It is a grand event in the history of the world, and let us hope that, under a superintending Providence, it may, in its consequences, promote the peace and advance the civilization and happiness of all nations. Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

To Hon. Ellis Lewis, Philadelphia.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY CASS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28th, 1858.—Sir: I beg you to tender to the Committee of Arrangements my acknowledgments, for their kind invitation to attend the ceremonies of the consummation of the Atlantic Telegraph, and also my excuse for declining to accept it, as my official duties will prevent me from being present on that interesting occasion. I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY TOUCEY.

WASHINGTON, August 30th, 1858.—Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 27th inst., inviting my participation in the ceremonies for celebrating, on the 1st prox'mo, the completion of the Atlantic Telegraph, and beg leave to assure the committee that it would give me great pleasure to be present on the interesting occasion, did not my official duties at the seat of Government prevent my attendance.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ISAAC TOUCEY.

Ellis Lewis, Esq., Chairman, Philadelphia.

LETTER FROM CYRUS W. FIELD, ESQ.

GRAMERCY PARK,
NEW YORK, August 30th, 1858.

Gentlemen:—Please accept my cordial thanks for your letter conveying the invitation of the joint committee of the City Councils and citizens of Philadelphia, to participate in your festivities on the first of September.

As I have been assigned a part in the celebrations of other cities, I regret that I cannot be present in person; but in thought I will be with you.

Fully appreciating the high compliment you have paid me, and again thanking you for your kind invitation, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Sincerely your friend,
CYRUS W. FIELD.

To the Joint Committee, &c.

AN ODD SENTIMENT.

The following sentiment, sent to the Committee by Dr. Samuel Forke Atlee, of Washington city, was read by the Chairman:

The Atlantic Telegraph Cable.—A tongue that wags at both ends; and the longest that ever spoke the English language. May it never become unruly, and disgrace its vernacular by uttering unmeaning words; but in accordance with its first lessons, taught by the Queen and the President, perpetually inculcate the sentiments of Christian charity and international good will."

Applause followed the reading of each of these letters—especially that from Mr. Field.

Col. B. announced the receipt of a number of other letters from distinguished sources, as they would be found hereafter in the papers of the city.

JUDGE KELLEY'S ORATION.

Hon. Wm. D. Kelley was then introduced to the immense audience by Judge Lowis, as the orator of the day. He spoke as follows:

[Reported by D. Wolfe Brown, Phonographer, 810 Chestnut street.]

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and Fellow-Citizens:—Though not unused to mingling with my townspeople on public occasions, participating in their deliberations or their festivities, I am filled with unwonted joys—it is with unfeigned diffidence I come before you on this occasion. And yet let me not detain you with apologies for my manifest unfitness for my subject, after having reminded you that this celebration could not be gotten up with telegraphic speed; that its suggestion is, as it were, but of yesterday, and that the first note of preparation made by the committee was not that which summoned your orator to perform his duty.

The occasion is not a local one. It has been fitly spoken of as "the festival of cities," commemorating an event, the influence of which shall be felt while time lasts, and by every member of the human family. It is eminently fitting that the city of Philadelphia should participate in that festival. I will not pause now to show the great historic or geographical interest she has in this event; but, ere I close, you will see that nothing could be more fitting.

Ours is the age of invention. During the last three-quarters of a century, science has extorted from nature her secrets, and genius wrought her newly disclosed powers into combinations of utility with such rapidity, that man has almost seemed to lose his faculty of wonder. And yet, marvellous as is the progress that has been made, wonderful as have been its phases since the eager eye of Columbus rested upon the dim outline of the outlying land of this continent, no event has occurred which is to work so large an influence upon nations and people, upon the social, political, commercial, and economical relations of mankind—no event, the influence of which is to be so far reaching, or so all-pervading.

What is the event we celebrate? One which has made the whole earth vocal—one which has given to the word of admonition, the voice of warning, the message of woe or of joy, wings that compete with time in their swift flight. It has not destroyed or obliterated space; it has not driven up oceans; and yet it has brought the nations of the earth face to face, that they may enter into social converse. Has it not, so far as it regards science, and social, commercial, and political life, obliterated both time and space, and given to the scholar and the statesman, the thinker and the man of facts, ubiquity? [Applause.]

To whom shall be ascribed the glory of this great event? Not unto us, not unto any one nation, not unto any nation of men; but unto the great Omnipotent One, who, having created this beautiful earth and all its mysteries, gave to man the dominion. Let us, therefore, ascribe the glory to Him; and while doing so devoutly, let us not forget that the great men and the humble men who have wrought this miracle were his ministers, deserving to be honored by us, and cherished in our memories. [Applause.]

This great event does not stand solitary and isolated in the history of the world. It has been undertaken and accomplished by two great nations, whose people, under the flag