

The Atlantic Cable Medal of 1866



**Herman Blanton
2006**

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Revision 1: March 16, 2006. Edited sequence of events in paragraph three of the 1866 cable.

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The Atlantic Cable Medal of 1866

Herman Blanton

The completion of the Transatlantic Cable in 1866 is an important milestone in history, especially the history of communication. The cable made it possible for North America and Europe to be connected telegraphically for comparatively instant communication, news could henceforth be transmitted between continents in a matter of a few minutes instead of 10 days each way for transatlantic ship passage. The year 2006 marks the 140th anniversary of the successful laying of the cable. The subject medal was presented in 1867 to show appreciation for the efforts spent and risks taken to complete the task.

The transatlantic cable was the dream of more than a single person, but no one person stands out more than Cyrus Field as the driving force behind the project to develop and install the transatlantic cable. In 19th century parlance, Field is referred to as the "projector" of the cable. In this article we only touch on the history of the project as our interest is primarily about a commemorative medal issued for it. For history of the transatlantic cable see the bibliography for suggested reading.

The 1857 & 1858 Cables

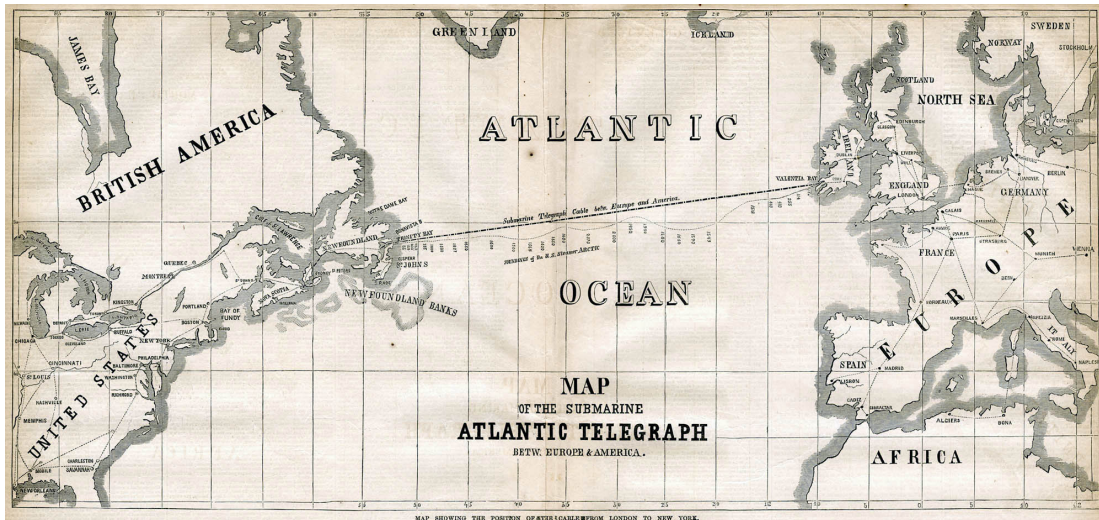
The first attempt at a transatlantic cable was in 1857 as a joint enterprise between England and the United States. Twenty five hundred nautical miles of cable was designed, manufactured and loaded upon two ships, as no single ship was able to handle such a great load. The engineers / scientists among the expedition included Charles Bright, William Thomson (later Lord Kelvin), Edward Whitehouse and Samuel Morse. Starting from Valentia Bay Ireland, they laid four hundred miles of cable before it broke and vanished under the sea. Cyrus Field signaled the ships of the expedition to meet, to discuss the matter, review what had been learned so far and do experiments; afterwards they returned to England. The cost of the failed expedition was £225,000 (about £14,000,000 today), but Field was not deterred.

In 1858 the second expedition commenced, the chief engineer was William Everett, who designed a new "paying out" machine for laying the cable; they had determined the original machine had caused the first failure by braking too hard causing the cable to break in two. The other engineers were Charles Bright, Samuel Canning, William Thomson and C.V. de Sauty. Cyrus Field again led the expedition and this year two ships each carrying half the cable met in the mid north Atlantic, spliced the cable ends and laid cable in both directions simultaneously. As the cable was laid, an electrician aboard ship on each end tested the cable. A terrific storm buffeted the fleet and nearly sank the *Agamemnon*, pushing her off course by 200 miles. After the storm was over, the fleet met and reviewed damages. It was decided to abandon the cable so far laid and lost, and start over, figuring there was sufficient cable left to complete the project.

After laying approximately 150 miles in each direction, the cable broke and was lost again. A review showed the cable failed at a place where it had been damaged in the storm (from sliding and crashing on deck). Still undaunted, Field returned to London

to get supplies to restart the cable laying again, albeit some of the directors gave up hope and resigned from the company. On July 29th, 1858 the ships met and spliced the cable in the mid Atlantic, again. Through much effort and many trials, the cable was successfully landed in Trinity Bay Newfoundland on August 5th, 1858.

The cable did not function very well and it was until August 16th that the first official message was transmitted, a letter of congratulations from Queen Victoria to President Buchanan, within a month however, the cable had failed completely.



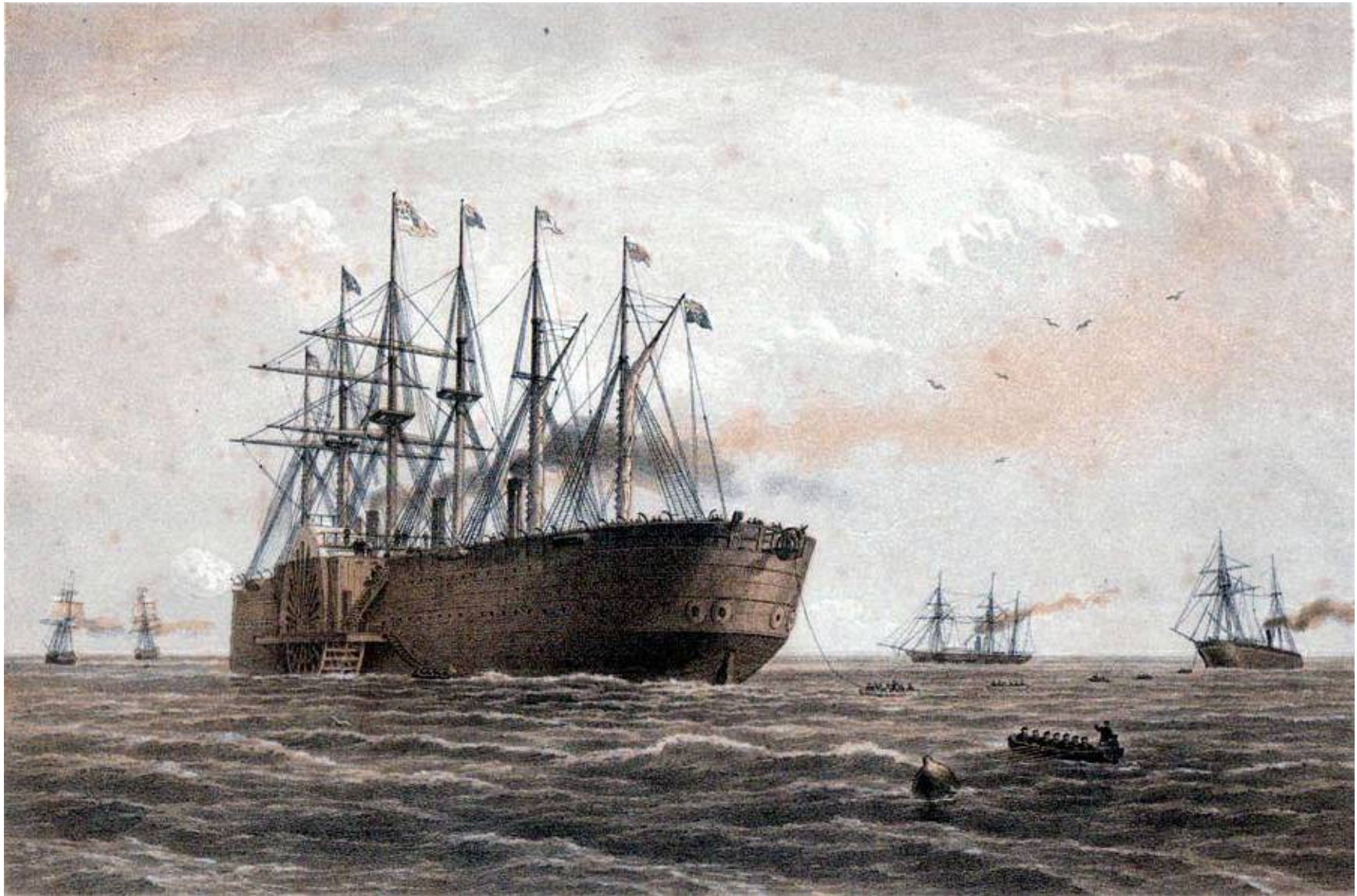
Map of the 1858 Atlantic Cable Route (Courtesy of Bill Burns)
From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, August 21, 1858

The Great Eastern

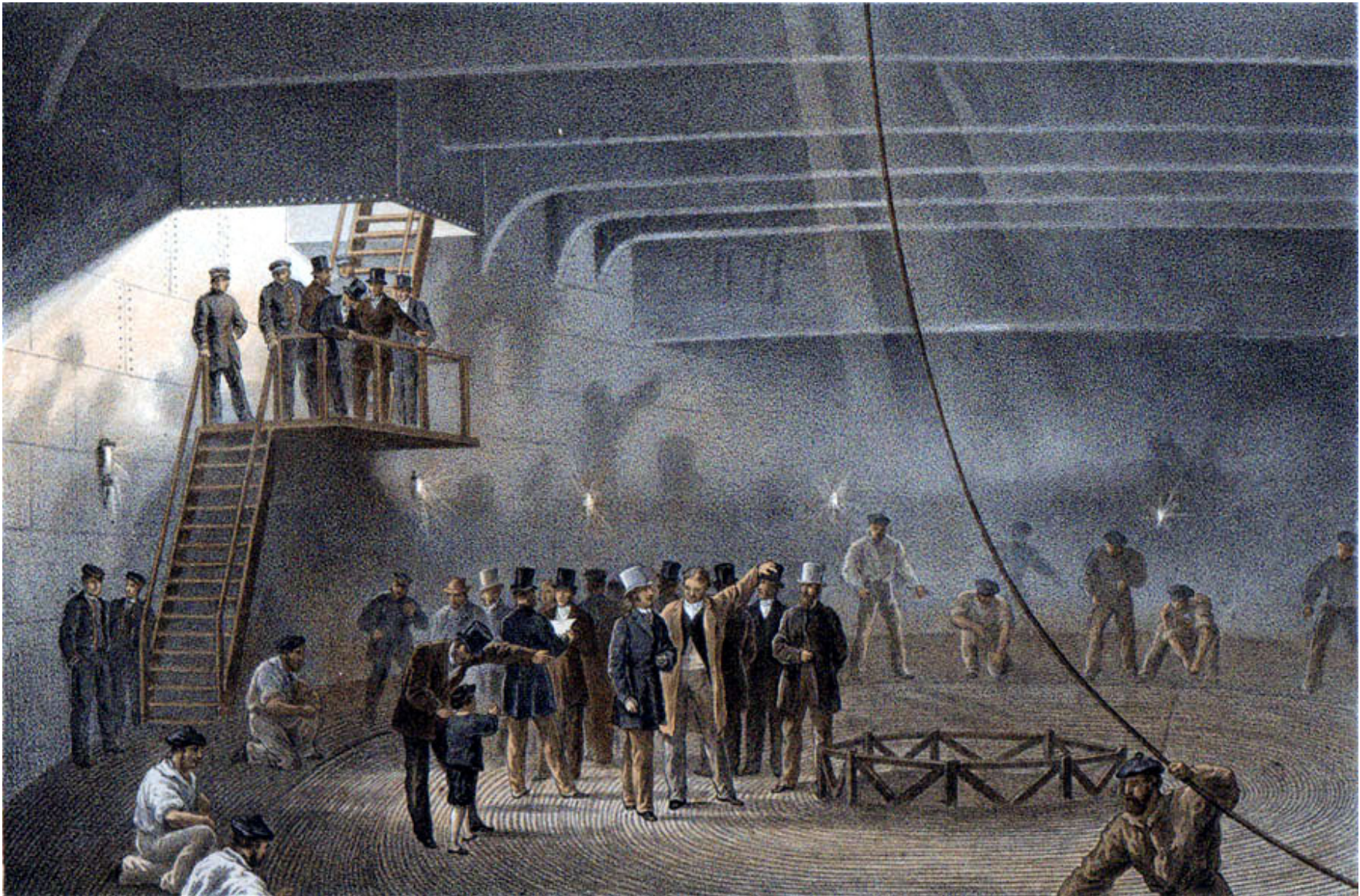
Before another attempt to lay a cable could be made, the US Civil War erupted putting the project on hold, it would be 1865 before another expedition was started. In the meantime the world's largest ship was completed in 1858 and put into service, the Leviathan, renamed the Great Eastern. She was the largest ship ever built until that time, dwarfing every other ship afloat. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel to be the greatest ship ever made, it proved to be too far ahead of its time to be a commercial success, and was converted from a passenger/mail liner to a "cable ship." "She was six times larger than any previous ship. Nearly 700 feet (213 m) long and 82 feet (25 m) broad, she would carry 4,000 passengers (or 10,000 soldiers as a troopship) and 6,000 tons of cargo."¹ It would take 40 more years before ship designers would surpass her in size, two notables of the later large ships; the Lusitania, built in 1906, was 762 ft and the Titanic, built in 1912, was 883 ft.

The following two images are of the Great Eastern during the 1865 expedition, drawn by Robert Dudley and included in William Russell's book *The Atlantic Telegraph*, published in (1865). Provided here courtesy of Bill Burns, who operates the Web site *History of the Atlantic Cable & Submarine Telegraphy* <http://www.atlantic-cable.com> (accessed 1 July 2005).

¹Website of National Maritime Museum, London. *Steam: A New Era, Leviathan*, <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/searchbin/searchs.pl?exhibit=it1066j&axis=1120444173&flash=true&dev=> (accessed 1-July-2005).



The Great Eastern under weigh, July 23: escort and other ships introduced being the Terrible, the Sphinx, the Hawk, and the Caroline.



Coiling the cable in the after-tank on board the Great Eastern at Sheerness: visit of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales on May 24

The 1865 Cable

For the 1865 expedition the cable was redesigned, both the copper core and the insulation. The new cable weighed 3,750 lb per mile whereas the 1857 cable had weighed 2,000 lb per mile. Cyrus Field again led the expedition, as well as coordinating the funding for it. Captain James Anderson was on loan from the Cunard shipping line to command the Great Eastern. The electricians that year were C.V. de Sauty, William Thomson and Cromwell Varley, the chief engineer was Samuel Canning.

With the European end of the cable landed in Ireland, the Great Eastern began laying out cable on July 23rd, 1865. The cable laying operation went much smoother than before and the principal difficulties were with the cable itself. From time to time faults were detected, with each fault detected the cable was cut, retrieved back on board, repaired and spliced before resuming the paying out of the cable. When the expedition was within 600 miles of Newfoundland, another fault was detected, during the retrieval of the cable it broke and vanished, again, under the sea.

Chief engineer Canning determined to retrieve the broken cable by using lengths of wire rope connected together with shackles and terminated with a grappling hook. Captain Anderson navigated the ship to the east and south of where the cable lay, Canning lowered the hook to the bottom of the sea, the ship steamed northward until the cable was hooked. The cable was raised until a shackle broke; sending the cable and a length of the wire rope to the ocean floor. The process was repeated with some adjustments in the technique, each attempt failing, until they were out of wire rope. There was not enough cable left to start over, so the expedition returned to England, a failure, yet again.

The 1866 Cable

Learning from the 1865 expedition, changes were made in the cable design, to the cable paying out machine and to the Great Eastern itself. With these changes the crew could retrieve the cable by running the paying-out machine in reverse without snagging the cable in the ship's propeller.

With the shore end of the cable landed in Ireland, the Great Eastern started out on the inauspicious day of July 13th 1866, a Friday. The chief engineer was Samuel Canning, the chief electrician Willoughby Smith and consultant William Thomson. By Tuesday the 24th of July, the Great Eastern had passed the point where the 1865 cable had broken; traveling 60 miles to the south of it, for the expedition had plans to retrieve the 1865 cable and did not want the two cables close to each other for the grappling procedure. On July 27th, 1866 the cable was spliced with the shore-end at Heart's Content Newfoundland, the cable was laid. Cyrus Field sent the following report to New York, "Heart's Content, July 27 – we arrived here at nine o'clock this morning. All well. Thank God, the cable is laid, and is in perfect working order. Cyrus W Field."²

² Field, Henry M. 1893. "The Story of the Atlantic Telegraph." p. 344.

The expedition now turned to the task of retrieving and splicing the 1865 cable, some 600 miles to the east. Two of the ships in the cable fleet, the Albany and the Terrible, departed Heart's Content on August 1st, 1866. The Great Eastern and Medway followed on August 9th. For more than three weeks and with much difficulty, the ships fished the ocean floor for the cable. Success finally achieved on the 30th attempt, the cable was spliced on September 2nd. They were able to do this through an ingenious technique of lifting the cable only part way up off the ocean floor, greatly reducing the load on the grappling ropes as well as on the cable itself. This they did at multiple points along the cable, each rope connected to a buoy supporting only part of the load of the sea cable. Then they intentionally broke the end of the cable so the main length of cable could be raised completely and spliced. After the splice was made at sea, the Great Eastern laid cable westward to Heart's Content and landed the second cable on September 7th, 1866.

The successful completion of the cable was met with much celebration and recognition in England and the United States. One of the celebrations was the awarding of a gold medal, in Liverpool, the subject of this article.

The primary source is the minute books of the American Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool. The Chamber was founded in the year 1801, in Liverpool, as an English association to promote trade between England and the USA. The association was dissolved in 1908. A survey of the minutes tells that cotton was the primary trading commodity. As the telegraph cable project overlapped the US Civil War, the minute books are an interesting read from the cotton trade aspect as well as the subject medal.

The Chronology of the Medal

The 1866 cable was landed at Heart's Content Newfoundland on July 27th 1866. The 1865 cable was retrieved from the ocean floor, spliced and tested on the 2nd of September 1866. The main company of the expedition arrived back in England the same month; this is when the history of the medal commences.

Laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable

This Chamber was invited by the Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with that Body in a banquet to be given to the principal gentlemen connected with the successful completion of the Atlantic Cable but it was not deemed expedient that this Chamber as an associated Body should take part in the proposed entertainment. It was however considered proper that the Chamber as the oldest Mercantile Association in Liverpool and as representing in a special manner the American trade should in some way make its sense of the great importance of the completion of this undertaking and of the skill and perseverance of those by whom it has been accomplished. It was therefore resolved after full consideration that handsome gold medals commemorative of the event should be presented by the Chamber to the Chiefs of the Departments engaged in the work, viz. To Captain Sir James Anderson, Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Willoughby Smith and Mr. Cyrus W. Field. The Medals have been struck by Messrs Wyon of London from designs submitted by them and approved by the Chamber and it remains for the Chamber to decide how they shall be presented.

Liverpool January 1867

Resolved That the Report be received and adopted.

(The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce invited the American Chamber of Commerce Liverpool; these were two distinct organizations, author).

Monday 18th February 1867

Atlantic Cable, Presentation of Medals

The President was requested to write to Sir James Anderson, Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Willoughby Smith and Mr. Cyrus W. Field to intimate that the Chamber had resolved to present a Gold Medal to each of them to commemorate the successful laying of the Cable and to enquire whether Thursday the 14th of March would suit them to be present at a Banquet when they would be presented.

Mr. Maclean undertook to see Mr. Eberle as to the arrangements for the Banquet and to report to the next Meeting.

Mr. Willoughby Smith's book

On the 19th February, 1867, I received the following letter:

American Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool, February 18th, 1867.

Dear Sir,—The American Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool being desirous of commemorating the successful completion of the Atlantic Cable between England and America, resolved in September last to present Gold Medals to yourself, Sir Samuel Canning, Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, as representing the enterprise.

The Medals are now ready, and it is proposed that they should be presented at a banquet to be given by the Chamber at Liverpool on the 14th of March next.

I have ascertained that this day will suit the convenience of Captain Sir James Anderson and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, and I shall be obliged if you will let me know as early as possible whether you will be able to honour the Chamber with your presence at the time proposed, or if not, what other day in that week will suit you, as Sir James Anderson and Mr. Field leave England in the following week.

*I remain,
Yours truly,
HENRY W. GAIR, President.*

*WILLOUGHBY SMITH, Esq.,
Anglo-American Telegraph Co.,
London.*

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

No. 1419 – Vol. L. SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1867. WITH A SUPPLEMENT,
FIVE PENCE

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH MEDAL GIVEN BY THE
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT LIVERPOOL

The American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool resolved some months ago that a gold medal should be made and presented by the Chamber to Sir Samuel Canning, chief engineer; Mr. Cyrus W. Field, of New York, the original projector of the Atlantic Telegraph; Sir James Anderson, the Commander of the Great Eastern steamship; and Mr. Willoughby Smith, the electrician, in commemoration of the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph cable.

It should be observed that the American Chamber of Commerce is the oldest commercial association in Liverpool, having been founded in the year 1801, principally through the instrumentality of the late Mr. William Rathbone. The Chamber consists of the principal firms in Liverpool, English and American, engaged in the American trade, which as many of our readers are aware, is the most important branch of commerce in Liverpool. It has also, on several occasions been instrumental in effecting improvements of the mercantile law of this country. The Merchants and Factors Act, of 1842, which effected, in that branch of the law probably one of the greatest improvements of modern time, was originated and finally carried mainly by efforts of this Chamber. The Bill of Lading Act, of 1855, another public measure, by which the remedy of consignees of cargo for damage to goods on shipboard was greatly facilitated, was likewise obtained by the American Chamber of Liverpool.

The medal, of which we give an Illustration, was designed and manufactured by Mr. Wyon. It is of solid gold, weighing more than three quarters of a pound. On one side is represented the Great Eastern steam-ship, in full sail upon the ocean, encircled by the words "Atlantic Telegraph Cable," with the heraldic arms and legends of the kingdom of Great Britain and of the United States of America beneath the ship. On the reverse side is engraved in a scroll cut specially for each of the four gold medals the name of the gentleman to whom it is given, below which are the arms and legend of the town of Liverpool.

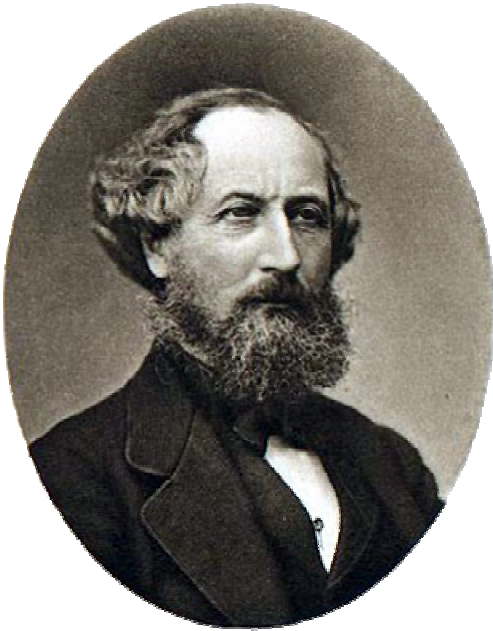


MEDAL PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT LIVERPOOL TO THOSE ENGAGED IN LAYING THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The presentation took place, on the 14th ult., at a banquet given by the Chamber to the four gentlemen we have named and to the Hon. C.F. Adams, the Minister of the United States in this country. The entertainment was sumptuously and elegantly prepared in the Law Association Rooms, Cook-street. Mr. William Rathbone, jun. (grandson of the late Mr. William Rathbone, who founded the Chamber) occupied the chair on this occasion; but Mr. Gair, being at the present time the president of the Chamber; also took part in the proceedings. Sir Samuel Canning was, unfortunately, not able to come; but Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Willoughby Smith were seated on the Chairman's right hand, while the American Minister sat on his left. The Mayor of Liverpool, the United States Consul (Mr. T.H. Dudley) and the Vice-Consul, the Hon. C. Fisher, Attorney-General of New Brunswick; Major-General Sir John Garvock; Captain Prowse, R.N.; the Venerable Archdeacon Jones; Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; Mr. Malcom Ross, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Hugh Mason, chairman of the Lancashire Cotton-Spinners' Association, were among the guests, and had the occasion to speak in their turns. Mr. Rathbone, who performed the honours of the table with much grace, proposed the health of the "Projector of the Atlantic Telegraph and his Assistants at Laying the Cable," at the same time handing a medal to each of the three gentlemen present, Mr. Cyrus Field, Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Willoughby Smith, who were entitled to receive it. These gentlemen returned thanks, and several other toasts were proposed and acknowledged. A telegram was sent from the dinner-table to President Johnson and received in less than half an hour in Newfoundland.

(end of newspaper article)

The Four Medal Recipients



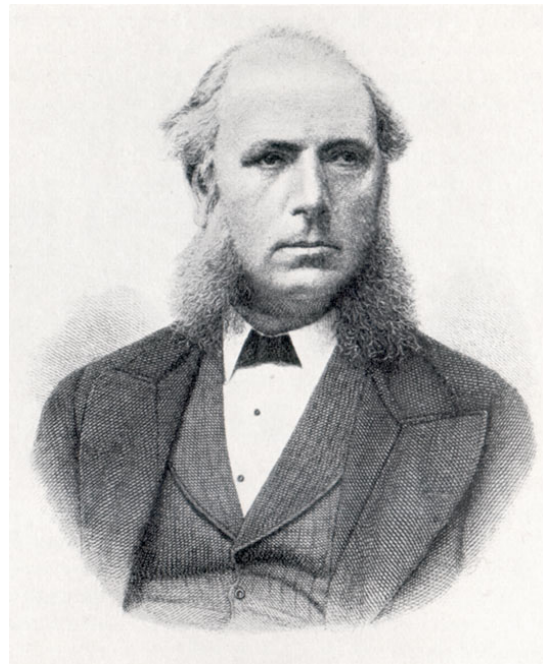
Mr. Cyrus W. Field



Sir Captain James Anderson



Sir Samuel Canning



Mr. Willoughby Smith

Images courtesy of Bill Burns

The Atlantic Medal

The four gold Atlantic Cable medals were made by the firm J.S. and A.B. Wyon of 287 Regent St. London. This is the address noted in the correspondence; the address imprinted inside the medal case is "2 Lanham Chambers, London, W." Joseph Shepherd Wyon and Alfred Benjamin Wyon were brothers, members of the famous Wyon family of medallists and engravers.



Obverse: The shields of Great Britain and of the United States, superimposed upon the ocean, with mottoes below. Above is the Great Eastern steamship. The motto on ribbon beneath the shield of the United Kingdom; "DIEU ET MON DROIT." The motto on ribbon beneath the United States shield: "E PLURIBUS UNUM." The central design is appropriately surrounded by an unbroken length of cable. The peripheral legend, "ATLANTIC • TELEGRAPH • CABLE ★ 1866 ★." The medallists' mark, "J.S. & A.B. WYON SC." located beneath the UK motto. SC is an abbreviation for the Latin *sculpsit* "he (they) engraved it."



Reverse: The central design on a field of stars has two laurel branches above, the recipients name inscribed in a frame in the center and at the bottom, the symbol with motto for the city of Liverpool. The motto inscribed on ribbon: "DEUS NOBIS HAEC OTIA FECIT." The central region is surrounded by an unbroken length of cable. The peripheral legend: "PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • LIVERPOOL ★." The medallists' mark, "J.S. & A.B. WYON SC." located beneath the frame. The inscription on the illustrated medal is "TO SIR SAMUEL CANNING."

A first hand examination of the medal shows it to be bronze with a heavy gold plating, gilt, not solid gold. The medal is 76 mm in diameter, which is 3 inches. The edge is plain and the alignment is what is referred to as "medal alignment" in the US, if rotated on 12 to 6 o'clock axis, both the obverse and reverse are upright. The medal weighs 206.8 grams, (7.29 oz avoirdupois, 6.50 oz troy). If the same size medal were of 22k gold it would weigh approximately 432 grams (15.4 oz avoirdupois, 13.9 ounces troy) using relative density of bronze 8600 kg/cubic meter and gold at 19320 kg/cubic meter. There is no apparent correlation of the medal's weight with the Illustrated London News account, curiously however, the medal with case weighs 12 ounces avoirdupois, which is three quarters of a pound.

In addition to the four gold medals recorded in the documentation there is a silvered medal, without engraved name on reverse, possibly a trial strike, in the collection of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich England. The medal is cataloged as number MEC1293 and illustrated on the museum's Web site: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/> An image of the medal is on the Maritime Museum Web site at: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/explore/object.cfm?ID=MEC1293> (accessed 9 July 2005).

Catalog Citations

The medal is mentioned, but not assigned a catalog number in *Spink's Catalog of British Commemorative Medals 1558 to the Present Day with Valuations* by Daniel Fearon, 1984. The listed item, #317.3, is a 26 mm bronze medal dated 1866, the subject medal is mentioned under this entry as "A much larger medal (79 mm) was made by J.S. and A.B. Wyon for presentation by the American Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool." Laurence Brown lists the medal, without illustration, as catalog number 2867 in his book, "British Historical Medals" volume 2. Known in silver and in bronze, 76 mm. Additionally Brown cites catalog number N/20 in "British and Foreign medals relating to naval and maritime affairs" by the Rht Hon. the Earl of Sandwich, 2nd edition, London, 1950.

Acknowledgements: Liverpool Central Library, Youngstown State University Maag Library, Ohio State University Thompson Library, and Bill Burns who provided important information and most of the images in this article.

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Appendix

Chronological Listing of Medal Origin and the Presentation Banquet

American Chamber of Commerce Liverpool. *Minutes of the American Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool, 1801-1908*. Transcription excerpts from original Minute Books of the American Chamber of Commerce Liverpool, in custody of Liverpool Central Library. Copyright 2005 Herman Blanton.

Illustrated London News, Saturday March 30, 1867. No. 1419. – Vol. L.
Transcription from original copyright 2005 Herman Blanton.

Smith, Willoughby. *The Rise and Extension of Submarine Telegraphy*. London: J.S. Virtue & Co., 1891. Transcription copyright 2005 Bill Burns.

September 20, 1866	<i>Minute Books of the American Chamber of Commerce Liverpool.</i>
September 27, 1866	_____
September 27, 1866	_____
October 19, 1866	_____
October 22, 1866	_____
December 11, 1866	_____
December 13, 1866	_____
January 1867	_____
February 18, 1867	_____
February 19, 1867	<i>Rise and Extension of Submarine Telegraphy</i>
February 22, 1867	<i>(American Chamber)</i>
February 25, 1867	_____
February 27, 1867	_____
March 4, 1867	_____
March 13, 1867	_____
March 13, 1867	_____
March 27, 1867	_____
March 30, 1867	<i>Illustrated London News</i>
Feb 14, 1868	<i>(American Chamber)</i>

Thursday 20th September 1866

At a meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at No.10 Water Street Liverpool, at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr James Spence In the chair

“ Stolterfoht

“ H.W. Gair

“ G. Martin

“ Rome

“ Guion

“ Thompson

Laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable

Read the following Circular

Chamber of Commerce
Liverpool 17th Sept. 1866

Commemoration of the completion of the Atlantic Telegraph

Dear Sir.

It has been proposed that the president and council of the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the commercial community of Liverpool should invite the principal gentlemen connected with the successful completion of the Atlantic Cable to a Public Dinner at an early day – I am instructed to ask you as chairman of your association whether you will give the influence of your position and such aid as may be in your power to the reception.

An immediate answer will oblige.

The Chairman of the
Steamship Owners
Association

Yours very faithfully
William Blood
Secretary”

Resolved that whilst fully sympathizing with the Chamber of Commerce in the object they have in view this Chamber does not deem it expedient to take part, as an Associated body in the proposed entertainment.

That the President, Mr. Guion, Mr. Rome and Mr. Stolterfoht be appointed a committee to consider what should be done by this chamber to celebrate the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Company.

James Spence
Chairman

Thursday 27th September 1866

At a Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at the Office of Messrs Guion & Co. in Rumford Street at 1 p.m.

Present

Mr. James Spence, In the Chair

“ Rome

“ C. MacIver

“ H.W. Gair

“ J.N. Stolterfoht

“ Nosworthy

“ Edgar Garston

“ D. Mac Iver

“ George Martin

“ Guion

“ S.H. Brown

“ S.G. Rathbone

“ H. Stolterfoht

Atlantic Telegraph

Read the following Report from the Sub Committee, viz.

American Chamber of Commerce.

Report of the Sub Committee appointed 20th September 1866 consisting of

The President

Mr. Guion

“ Rome and

“ Stolterfoht

“To consider what should be done by this Chamber to celebrate the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable.”

The Sub Committee beg to report that after consideration they have agreed to recommend to the Chamber.

1st That Gold Medals to be struck for the occasion with a suitable device and inscriptions (at a cost not exceeding £200) be presented by the Chamber to the three Chiefs of the Departments engaged in laying the Cable and to Mr. Cyrus Field.

2nd That such Medals be presented at a Banquet to be given by the Chamber to which the following guests be invited in addition to the parties to whom the Medals are to be presented viz.

The Bishop of Chester

The Earl of Sexton, Lord Lieutenant of the County
The Earl of Derby
The American Minister
The American Consul
The Members of Parliament for the Borough
The Members of Parliament for the Southern Division of the County
The Mayor of Liverpool
The Mayor of Manchester
The Chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board
The Collector of Customs
General Commander in the District
Admiral Evans
Captain Paynter of HMS Donegal

Read the following letter from Mess. Wyon in reply to a letter addressed to them by the Secretary under the Presidents instructions.

287, Regent Street London W
 26 September 1866

Sir

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of yesterdays and in reply beg to state as follows: The time required for the preparation of dies for medals and the cost entirely depends upon the nature of the design and the quality of workmanship. The medals themselves should be made in a few days when the dies are ready and their cost independently of the dies or engraving would be about as follows.

<i>For handsome gold medals with Morocco cases</i>			
<i>1½ inches in diameter}</i>		<i>8 guineas each</i>	
<i>1¾</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>
<i>2½</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>“</i>
		<i>12</i>	<i>“</i>
		<i>20</i>	<i>“</i>
		<i>35</i>	<i>“</i>

If you should wish these medals very quickly and no more than four should be required we might engrave or chase them in three weeks without dies. Perhaps you would favor me with an idea of the expense which the Chamber is prepared to incur and we will with pleasure send designs which we have not time to prepare today and in which it would no doubt be suitable to introduce the Great Eastern. If the Chamber should desire we would not object to run down to Liverpool to confer on the subject.

Awaiting the favor of your reply.

We are sir

Your obed^t Servants

J.S. & A.B. Wyon

A.T. Squarey Esq^{re}

Resolved That a Sub Committee consisting of the President, Mr. Guion, Mr. Stolterfoht, Mr. Rome and Mr. S.H. Brown be authorized to procure 4 Gold Medals with such device and inscription as they may think . . . appropriate at a cost not exceeding £300.

Resolved That as soon as the medals are ready a meeting be summoned to determine how they shall be presented.

James Spence
Chairman

Thursday 27th September 1866

At a Meeting of the Sub Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce appointed this day to procure Gold Medals to be presented to parties connected with the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable held at the Office of Messrs Guion & Co. in Rumford Street, Liverpool after the meeting of the Chamber.

Resolved *That Messrs Wyon & Co. and Mr. Mayer be requested to send in designs for a medal to be struck in a die with estimates of the entire cost of 4 Medals in Gold of 2½ in, 3 in & 3½ in. diameter respectively and of Silver Medals of the same sizes.*

Friday 19th October 1866

At a Meeting of the Sub Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce appointed 27th September 1866 held at the Office of Messrs Guion & Co. Rumford Street Liverpool at 2 p.m.

Present

*Mr. James Spence
“ Guion
“ S.H. Brown*

The Secretary submitted designs received from Messrs Wyon and from Mr. Mayer.

After examining the designs it was resolved that those of Messrs Wyon should be adopted with some alterations in the details as to which the Secretary was instructed to communicate with Messrs Wyon.

Monday 22nd October 1866

Atlantic Cable Medals

The designs for the Medal selected by the Sub Committee were submitted to the Meeting.

Moved by the Chairman

Seconded by Mr. Guion

Resolved *That the Sum to be applied for the proposed Medals be increased from £300 to £350.*

*James Spence
Chairman*

Tuesday 11th December 1866

At a Meeting of the Sub Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce appointed 27th September last to procure Gold Medals to be presented to parties connected with the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable held at Messrs Guion & Co^s. Office Rumford Street Liverpool, this day at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr. James Spence, President

“ Guion

“ S. H. Brown

“ Stolterfoht

“ Rome

Atlantic Telegraph Cable

Resolved That the following names be engrossed on the four Gold Medals respectively,

Sir James Anderson

Sir Samuel Canning

Willoughby Smith

———and———

Cyrus W. Field

James Spence

Chairman

Thursday 13th December 1866

At a Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at Messrs Guion & Co^s. Office at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr. James Spence In the Chair
“ *Maclean*
“ *Guion*
“ *G. Martin*
“ *S. H. Brown*
“ *Rome*
“ *Stolterfoht*
“ *Fry*
“ *Watts*

Atlantic Telegraph Medals

The following letter from Messers Wyon was read.

287 Regent Street London W
12th December 1866

Dear Sir:

We very much regret to have to inform you that only one of the dies for your Medal has passed through the process of hardening safely – the other has so grievously broken that we are compelled to do it over again de novo. The new die will probably be at least a fortnight before it is ready, so that if no mishap occurs to this one the earliest moment at which we can hope to send you the Medals will be the beginning of next month.

You may rely upon not a minute being lost the new die being already in progress.

We are, Dear Sirs
Yours faithfully
J. S. & A. B. Wyon

A.T. Squarey Esq^{re}

The discussion of the arrangements for presentation was accordingly deferred.

Laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable

This Chamber was invited by the Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with that Body in a banquet to be given to the principal gentlemen connected with the successful completion of the Atlantic Cable but it was not deemed expedient that this Chamber as an associated Body should take part in the proposed entertainment. It was however considered proper that the Chamber as the oldest Mercantile Association in Liverpool and as representing in a special manner the American trade should in some way make its sense of the great importance of the completion of this undertaking and of the skill and perseverance of those by whom it has been accomplished. It was therefore resolved after full consideration that handsome gold medals commemorative of the event should be presented by the Chamber to the Chiefs of the Departments engaged in the work, viz. To Captain Sir James Anderson, Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Willoughby Smith and Mr. Cyrus W. Field. The Medals have been struck by Messrs Wyon of London from designs submitted by them and approved by the Chamber and it remains for the Chamber to decide how they shall be presented.

Liverpool January 1867

Resolved That the Report be received and adopted.

Monday 18th February 1867

At a Meeting of the Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at Messrs Guions Office at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr. H.W. Gair
“ S.H. Brown
“ J.N. Stolterfoht
“ S.B. Guion
“ Maclean
“ James Spence

Atlantic Cable, Presentation of Medals

The President was requested to write to Sir James Anderson, Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Willoughby Smith and Mr. Cyrus W. Field to intimate that the Chamber had resolved to present a Gold Medal to each of them to commemorate the successful laying of the Cable and to enquire whether Thursday the 14th of March would suit them to be present at a Banquet when they would be presented.

Mr. Maclean undertook to see Mr. Eberle as to the arrangements for the Banquet and to report to the next Meeting.

Mr. Willoughby Smith's book

On the 19th February, 1867, I received the following letter:

American Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool, February 18th, 1867.

Dear Sir,—The American Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool being desirous of commemorating the successful completion of the Atlantic Cable between England and America, resolved in September last to present Gold Medals to yourself, Sir Samuel Canning, Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, as representing the enterprise.

The Medals are now ready, and it is proposed that they should be presented at a banquet to be given by the Chamber at Liverpool on the 14th of March next.

I have ascertained that this day will suit the convenience of Captain Sir James Anderson and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, and I shall be obliged if you will let me know as early as possible whether you will be able to honour the Chamber with your presence at the time proposed, or if not, what other day in that week will suit you, as Sir James Anderson and Mr. Field leave England in the following week.

*I remain,
Yours truly,
HENRY W. GAIR, President.*

*WILLOUGHBY SMITH, Esq.,
Anglo-American Telegraph Co.,
London.*

Friday 22nd February 1867

At a meeting of the General Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at Messrs Guion & Co^s. Office at 11 a.m.

Present

*Mr. H.W. Gair, In the Chair
T. Stolterfoht
J.N. Stolterfoht
S.B. Guion
Maclean
J. Spence
S.H. Brown*

Atlantic Cable Banquet

Mr. Maclean reported that he had been in communication with Mr. Eberle as to the dinner and that Mr. Eberle recommended that the dinner should be given at the Law Association Rooms.

The list of guests to be invited was considered and settled

Resolved that the Dinner be given at the Law Association Rooms

That Mr. Maclean, Mr. S.H. Brown and Mr. J.N. Stolterfoht be a Sub Committee to arrange for the Dinner and wines with Mr. Eberle.

That Mr. Guion, Mr. Spence and Mr. Thos. Stolterfoht be a Sub Committee to arrange for the appropriate decoration of the Room and Music.

That Mr. Forget and Mr. Guion be a Sub Committee to arrange as to the Invitations and Tickets.

That each of the Committee have authority to add to their numbers out of the General Committee.

Monday 25th February 1867

At a Meeting of the General Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at Messers Guion & Co^s. Office at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr. H. W. Gair In the Chair

“ Thos. Stolterfoht

“ James Spence

“ S.B. Guion

“ J.N. Stolterfoht

“ S.H. Brown

Atlantic Cable Banquet

On the recommendation of the Invitations Committee it was resolved that the 12 Delegates now in this country from the British North American Provinces as to the proposed Federation of those Provinces be invited to the Banquet.

The Secretary was instructed to send twelve Cards of invitation to Mr. Baines of the Liverpool Office and to request him to fill up the Cards and deliver the same.

Resolved

That in addition to the Captain of the ‘Terrible’ and the Commander of the ‘Medway’, Captain Harris of that Vessel and the Commander of the ‘Albany’ and the Captain of that Vessel be invited to the Banquet.

That the Secretary do prepare a List of Toasts to be considered by the Committee.

That Invitations be sent to the Editors of the following Papers. The ‘Albion’, ‘Mercury’, ‘Daily Post’ and ‘Courier’.

*H.W. Gair,
Chairman*

Wednesday 27th February 1867

Atlantic Cable Banquet

Resolved That as the President and Vice President of the Chamber desire to be excused from taking the chair at the Banquet to be given on the 14th of March, Mr. Wm. Rathbone Junior a member and former President of the Chamber be requested to take the chair on that occasion and that the Vice President and Mr. Hyslop be requested to communicate this Resolution to Mr. Rathbone.

American Chamber of Commerce Liverpool

Monday 4th March 1867

At a meeting of the Chamber held this day at Messrs Guions' Office 2 p.m.

Present Mr. H.W. Gair in the Chair

<i>Mr. S.H. Brown</i>	<i>Mr. S.B. Guion</i>
<i>W. Rathbone Jun'r</i>	<i>J. Spence</i>
<i>W. Barber</i>	<i>J.N. Stolterfoht</i>
<i>Thos. Stolterfoht</i>	<i>J.C. Boyd</i>
<i>G. Melley</i>	<i>H. Stolterfoht</i>
<i>W. Langton</i>	<i>C. Forget</i>
<i>M. Hyslop</i>	<i>Karch</i>
<i>Mr. T A Patterson</i>	

Atlantic Cable Banquet

Mr. Hyslop reported that with Mr. S H Brown he had waited on Mr. W. Rathbone Jun'r in accordance with the Resolution passed at the last meeting and informed him of the desire of the Chamber that he should preside at the Banquet to be given on the 14th instant and that Mr. Rathbone had consented to do so.

Wednesday 13th March 1867

At a Meeting of the Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce held this day at Messers Guion & Co^s. Office.

Present

Mr. H.W. Gair In the Chair

- “ J.N. Stolterfoht
- “ J. Spence
- “ W. Rathbone Junior
- “ S.B. Guion
- “ Thos Stolterfoht
- “ Maclean
- “ S.H. Brown
- “ C. Forget

Arrangements for Atlantic Cable Banquet

It was arranged that the General Committee should act as a Committee of Reception at the Banquet.

Arrangements were made as the places to be occupied by the Invited Guests and the Members of the Chamber.

*H.W. Gair,
Chairman*

Wednesday 13th March 1867

At a Meeting of the General Committee summoned without notice by order of the President.

Present

Mr. H.W. Gair In the chair
“ W. Rathbone Junior
“ S.H. Brown
“ Thos. Stolerfoht
“ J. Spence
“ S.B. Guion
“ J.C. Boyd
“ J.N. Stolerfoht
“ C. Forget

Atlantic Cable Banquet

Resolved That the following additional guests be invited, viz.

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Liverpool

“ “ Ship Owners Association
“ “ East India & China Association
“ “ Cotton Brokers Association
“ “ Chamber of Commerce, Manchester
“ “ Cotton Spinners Association

The Duke of Richmond the new Secretary of the Colonies.

Mr. Lyster, Dock Engineer

The Mayor of Manchester

The Town Clerk of Liverpool

The Town Clerk of Manchester

The Stipendiary Magistrate of Liverpool

That the Invitation Committee be empowered to issue such further invitations as they may think proper.

H.W. Gair
Chairman

Wednesday 27th March 1867

At a Meeting of the Chamber held this day at Messers Guion & Co. at 2 p.m.

Present

Mr. H.W. Gair In the Chair

<i>Mr. W. Rathbone Junr.</i>	<i>Mr. Forget</i>
<i>“ J.N. Stolterfoht</i>	<i>“ S.H. Brown</i>
<i>“ S.B. Guion</i>	<i>“ D. MacIver</i>
<i>“ Karck</i>	<i>“ J. Spence</i>
<i>“ Thos Stolterfoht</i>	<i>“ J.C. Boyd</i>
<i>“ Brown (Bird & Gillian)</i>	<i>“ H. Stolterfoht</i>

Atlantic Cable Banquet

Moved by Mr. H. Stolterfoht

Seconded by Mr. J.C. Boyd

Resolved *That the best thanks of this Chamber be given to W. Rathbone Junr Esqre for the readiness with which he acceded to the request of taking the Chair to the Banquet given to the leading men of the Atlantic Cable Enterprize and for the ability and dignity with which he presided on the occasion.*

Resolved *That the thanks of the Chamber be given to Messrs Elkington & Co. for the handsome and liberal manner in which they placed a large quantity of valuable Bronzes and Plate at the service of the Chamber gratuitously on the occasion of the Atlantic Cable Banquet lately given by the Chamber.*

The Secretary was requested in communicating the above Resolutions to Messrs Elkington & Co. to state that the Chamber would be glad to pay any expense incurred by Messrs Elkington & Co. in the removal of the articles in question.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

No. 1419 – Vol. L. SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1867. WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVE PENCE

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH MEDAL GIVEN BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT LIVERPOOL

The American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool resolved some months ago that a gold medal should be made and presented by the Chamber to Sir Samuel Canning, chief engineer; Mr. Cyrus W. Field, of New York, the original projector of the Atlantic Telegraph; Sir James Anderson, the Commander of the Great Eastern steamship; and Mr. Willoughby Smith, the electrician, in commemoration of the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph cable.

It should be observed that the American Chamber of Commerce is the oldest commercial association in Liverpool, having been founded in the year 1801, principally through the instrumentality of the late Mr. William Rathbone. The Chamber consists of the principal firms in Liverpool, English and American, engaged in the American trade, which as many of our readers are aware, is the most important branch of commerce in Liverpool. It has also, on several occasions been instrumental in effecting improvements of the mercantile law of this country. The Merchants and Factors Act, of 1842, which effected, in that branch of the law probably one of the greatest improvements of modern time, was originated and finally carried mainly by efforts of this Chamber. The Bill of Lading Act, of 1855, another public measure, by which the remedy of consignees of cargo for damage to goods on shipboard was greatly facilitated, was likewise obtained by the American Chamber of Liverpool.

The medal, of which we give an Illustration, was designed and manufactured by Mr. Wyon. It is of solid gold, weighing more than three quarters of a pound. On one side is represented the Great Eastern steam-ship, in full sail upon the ocean, encircled by the words "Atlantic Telegraph Cable," with the heraldic arms and legends of the kingdom of Great Britain and of the United States of America beneath the ship. On the reverse side is engraved in a scroll cut specially for each of the four gold medals the name of the gentleman to whom it is given, below which are the arms and legend of the town of Liverpool.



MEDAL PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT LIVERPOOL TO THOSE ENGAGED IN LAYING THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The presentation took place, on the 14th ult., at a banquet given by the Chamber to the four gentlemen we have named and to the Hon. C.F. Adams, the Minister of the United States in this country. The entertainment was sumptuously and elegantly prepared in the Law Association Rooms, Cook-street. Mr. William Rathbone, jun. (grandson of the late Mr. William Rathbone, who founded the Chamber) occupied the chair on this occasion; but Mr. Gair, being at the present time the president of the Chamber; also took part in the proceedings. Sir Samuel Canning was, unfortunately, not able to come; but Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Willoughby Smith were seated on the Chairman's right hand, while the American Minister sat on his left. The Mayor of Liverpool, the United States Consul (Mr. T.H. Dudley) and the Vice-Consul, the Hon. C. Fisher, Attorney-General of New Brunswick; Major-General Sir John Garvock; Captain Prowse, R.N.; the Venerable Archdeacon Jones; Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; Mr. Malcom Ross, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Hugh Mason, chairman of the Lancashire Cotton-Spinners' Association, were among the guests, and had the occasion to speak in their turns. Mr. Rathbone, who performed the honours of the table with much grace, proposed the health of the "Projector of the Atlantic Telegraph and his Assistants at Laying the Cable," at the same time handing a medal to each of the three gentlemen present, Mr. Cyrus Field, Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Willoughby Smith, who were entitled to receive it. These gentlemen returned thanks, and several other toasts were proposed and acknowledged. A telegram was sent from the dinner-table to President Johnson and received in less than half an hour in Newfoundland.

Friday 14th February 1868

General Report

The General Report was read as follows

The American Chamber of Commerce

Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chamber to be held on February the 14th day of February 1868.

Atlantic Telegraph

On the 14th March last the Chamber presented the four Gold Medals issued by them in commemoration of the successful laying of the Atlantic Cable (referred to in the last Report) to Captain Sir James Anderson, Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Willoughby Smith and Mr. Cyrus W. Field, at a banquet given by the Chamber to them at which the Representatives of the Municipal and Commercial Bodies in Liverpool and others attended as guests.