

and 8,050 submarine belonged to cable companies. In Chili, in 1892, of 13,730 miles, 8,000 belonged to the state.

1172. Telegraphy was the first interest to bring the Governments of the world together to form a union—the first subject on which they sought a mutual understanding and formed a code of regulations, which each of them signed and which all of them have kept. The Inter-nation Telegraphic Union was founded in Paris, in May, 1865, France calling a convention of European states with a view to put an end to the annoyances, delays and exorbitant charges experienced for want of concerted action. The Paris convention was followed by those at St. Petersburg, in July, 1875, at London, 1879, at Berlin, 1885, and again at Paris, 1890. Twenty states responded to the call in 1865. There were over 100 delegates present at the congress of 1890, and at present thirty-eight different nations and thirteen private companies are subscribers to the constitution. Thirteen other private companies follow the rules of the union, though not regular members, and several others are indirectly connected with it. The central office of the International Telegraph Bureau is at Berne, Switzerland. To Berne are sent all modifications of the tariff, all interruptions of routes, all extensions and changes on each line in the union, to be sent to all the lines affected by wire if of immediate importance, by circular if less urgent. According to statistics published by the International Bureau, 207,595,000 telegrams were despatched in Europe during 1891, and 88,422,000 in the other parts of the world, making a total of 296,017,000 messages, and according to the same authority there were 67,465 telegraphic offices in Europe and 31,000 elsewhere.

1173. The first submarine cable was laid in 1851, between Dover and Calais, and was 25 miles in length. In 1852, 10 miles of cable were laid between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, being the first laid in North America. In 1853 two submarine lines were laid, one between Dover and Ostend, the other between Orford and Scheveningen, in Holland. In 1857 two vessels left Ireland, carrying a length of 2,500 nautical miles of electric cable to connect Valentia, in Ireland, and Trinity Bay in Newfoundland. The cable broke after 380 miles had been payed out. The next year success attended the second effort, and on the 12th August, 1858, Queen Victoria and the President of the United States exchanged greetings by cable messages. On the 1st September, 1858, the first transatlantic cable was rendered useless by a breakage. For a few years little was done in the way