

DALE NICHOLS

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munication. In three years he was able to exhibit his telegraph at New York University. It consisted of an electromagnet near which an iron arm was alternately released and stopped by pressing a key.

In 1843 Congress granted Morse \$30,000 to build a line from Washington to Baltimore. Morse and his partners first tried to place it underground, but they finally had to string it through the air on poles, using the necks of glass bottles as insulators. In 1844 the first message was sent: "What hath God wrought?"

Morse first suggested joining the New and Old Worlds by a submarine cable for telegraphic messages. The first attempt to lay one across the Atlantic was made

largely through the efforts of Cyrus W. Field. It failed in 1857 when the heavy wire snapped as the ship carrying it was just one day's journey from shore. Field tried again and then again in the face of discouragement. On his third attempt in 1858 the British and the United States ships met in mid-ocean and the two cables were successfully spliced. There was great excitement when Queen Victoria in England sent a message to President Polk. But within three months the insulation of the cable was burned because an operator tried to get a more rapid transmission by applying too strong a current to the cable. A still heavier cable was then laid in 1865 by the largest steamship of its day, and a new invention by Sir