

been deprived of the use of the telegraph. The mind can scarcely comprehend the vast advantages to the whole country that will ensue if this system is adopted. The experience of cheap telegraphy in Europe has demonstrated that sixty per cent. of dispatches sent are upon social or family matters, while here it is rarely used except upon urgent business. A money order system, such as is adopted in Europe, would be of incalculable benefit to the whole country, and would stimulate and promote all kinds of business to an extent that few now can comprehend. If you desire to pay any sum of money on a given day at New Orleans, San Francisco, or any other point, whether near or remote, you will have but to step to a postal telegraph money-order office, deposit the amount you desire to pay with twenty cents for a dispatch, and in an hour your correspondent on the Pacific Coast has your money. From careful estimates, I am convinced that the postoffice department could add to itself the telegraph business of the country, and that it could do that business, with good wires, at an expense of \$3,500,000 per annum—one-half, or less than one-half, what telegraphing now costs the country; that it could and would do five times the amount of telegraphing done to-day, at from one-fifth to one-tenth the rates charged at present, and be not only self sustaining, but a small source of revenue to the Government.

This favorite scheme of Mr. Washburn has not been put in operation, and the correctness of his views have not therefore been tested. His labors, however, in its behalf may not be lost, as at some future time the subject may again receive serious attention, and his investigations may prove of value.

In Congress, Mr. Washburn was a hard worker, and brought to bear on all important measures, the entire force of his strong mind and extensive business experience. He was not a frequent speaker; his most valuable service was on committees, where he never failed to exert a powerful influence, and always in the right direction. When he did speak, he received marked attention, and presented his views in clear and forcible language; never failing to make himself fully understood, and never attempting to conceal a wrong. He hated all kinds of jobbery, and dishonesty in every form, and never failed to raise his voice in earnest protest against any effort to defraud the government. He carried into Congress the energy and integrity of character, in the consideration of public business, that ever characterized his conduct in his private transactions. His motto was to do right, and most nobly did he live up to its requirements.

At the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, Mr. Wash-