

of the State. He was rarely absent from his post of duty, and rarely, if ever, found recorded upon the wrong side of any of the great questions of the day. He was affable and courteous, frank and generous in his intercourse with his fellow-members, and thereby gained a wide and powerful influence, to secure the success of any important measure in which he might become interested. He always guarded with jealous care the rights of the people, and was ever on the alert to secure the passage of such measures as in his view would specially promote their welfare. Our railroads, spreading their networks over every section of the country, quickening into renewed intensity the exchanges of business and the intercourse of men, brought blessings the value of which could never be computed by figures, and yet were destined, he feared, to become at no distant day, great monopolies, managed in such a manner as to add to the wealth of the few, at the expense of the many. He labored faithfully by his voice and vote to provide such safeguards as should insure the people at large their full share of the advantages to be derived from these great thoroughfares.

But he became more especially interested in the telegraph system of the country. To this subject he gave much of his time and strength. This mysterious agency which man had subjected, obediently carried his commands across all lands and seas, and connected all civilized lands together, and was yet destined, as he believed, to unite the families of men even more closely together. To this end he desired its advantages should be enjoyed by every rank and class of society. In England the state acquired by purchase all telegraphs, and so extended the system that in a short time every village in the kingdom enjoyed the inestimable privilege of instantaneous communication with every part of the inhabited globe. He feared that in this country the system was destined to be so managed, that its extravagant rates would confine its advantages to the few, and the great mass of the people would be deprived of its benefits. He accordingly spent much time in the preparation of a measure similar to the English plan, which gave the government the ownership and control of the entire system. It was to be as general and universal in its operations as the postoffice system; and, in fact, to be made a sort of adjunct to that institu-