

**ACCU  
2022**

# **THE VICTORIAN INTERNET**

**JIM HAGUE**

# THE VICTORIAN INTERNET

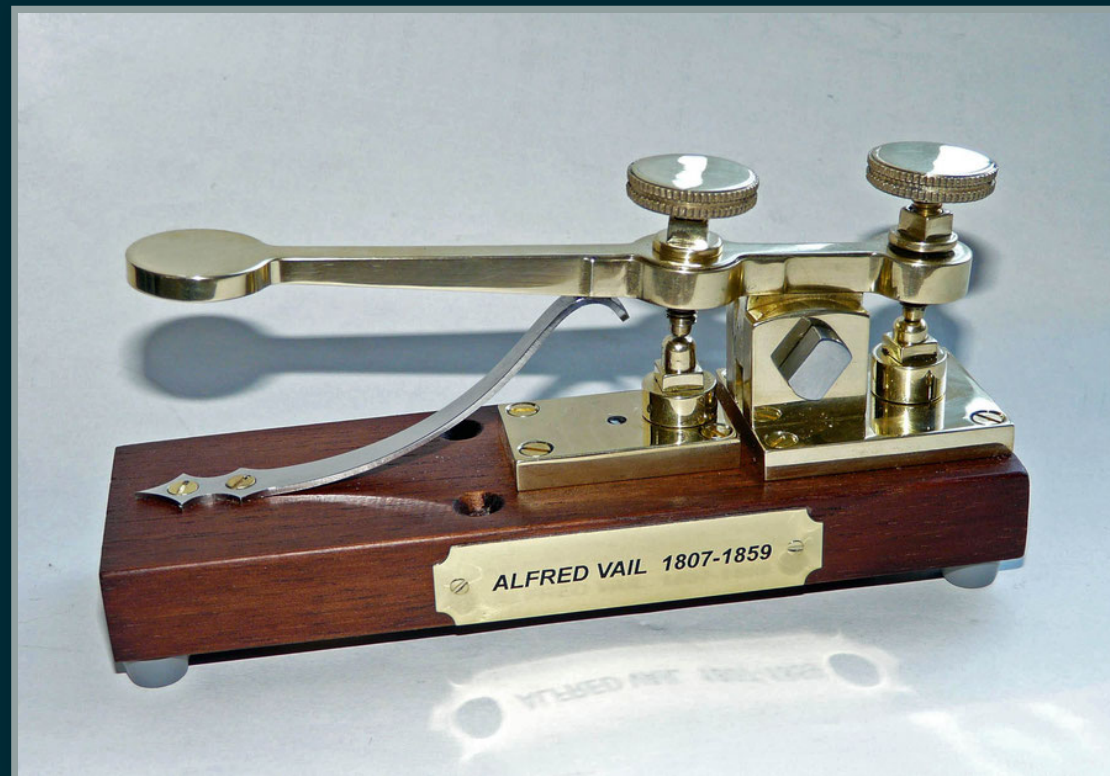
LIFE ONLINE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Jim Hague

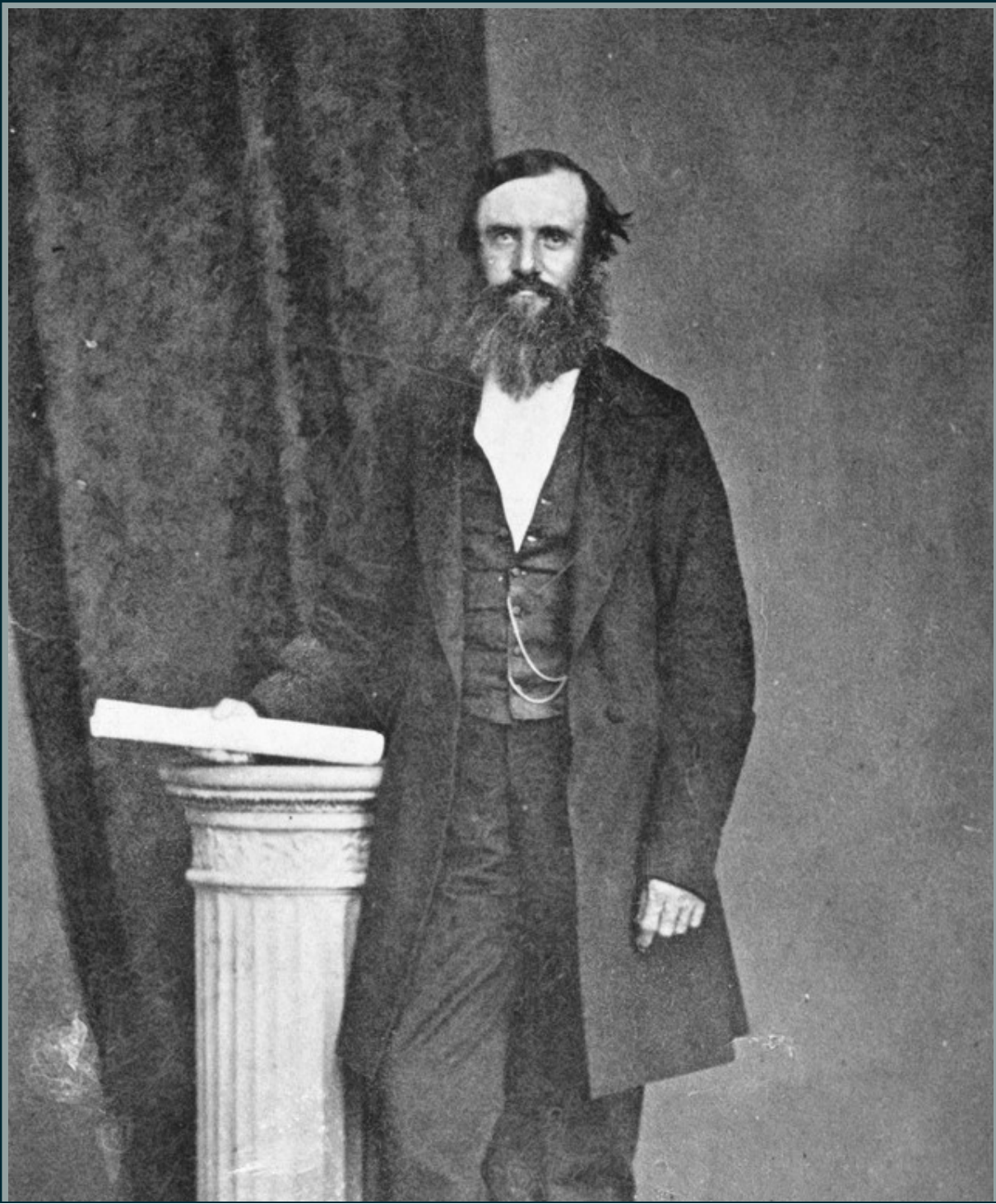
inMusic

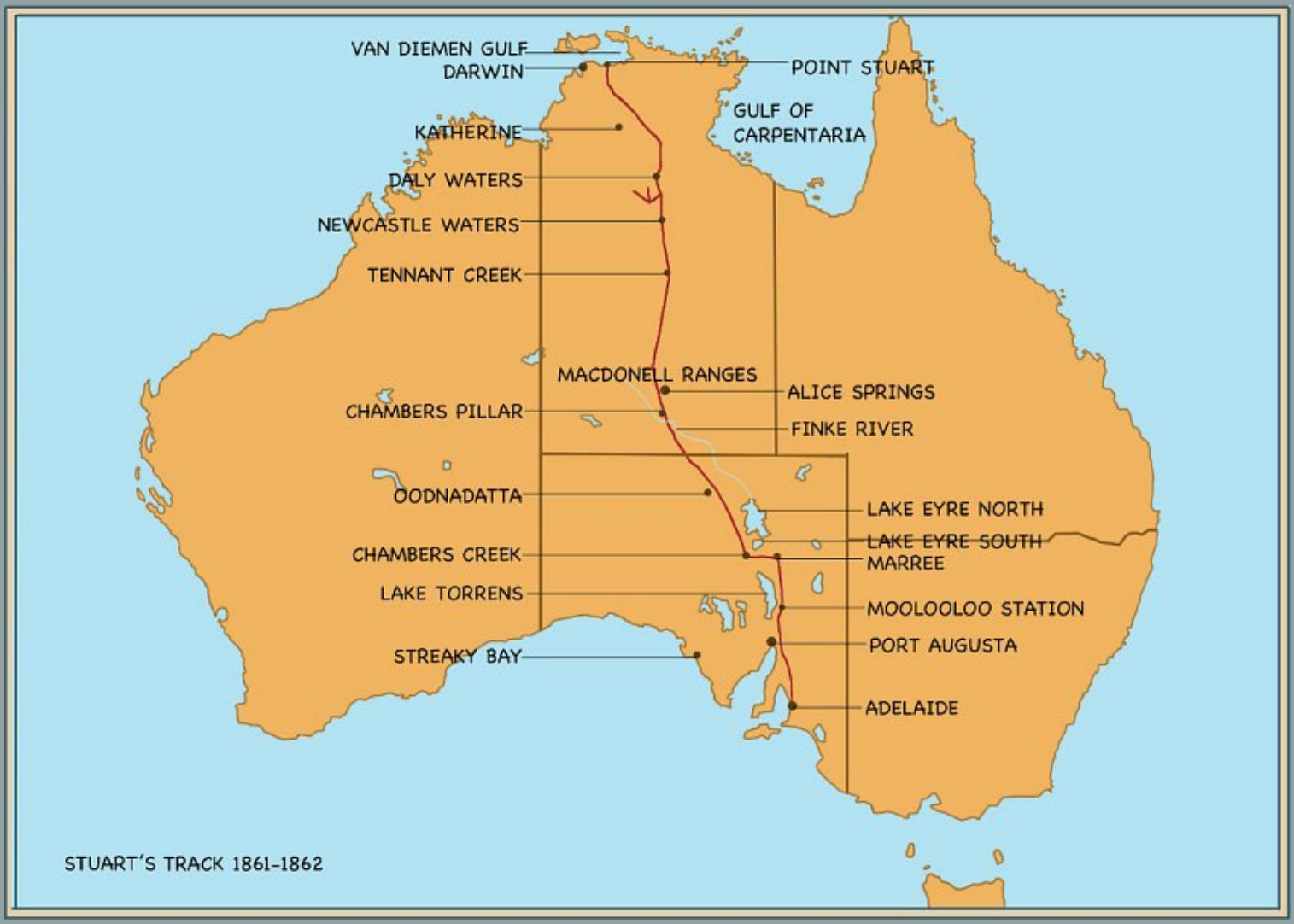
[jim.hague@acm.org](mailto:jim.hague@acm.org)

[@banbury\\_bill](#)











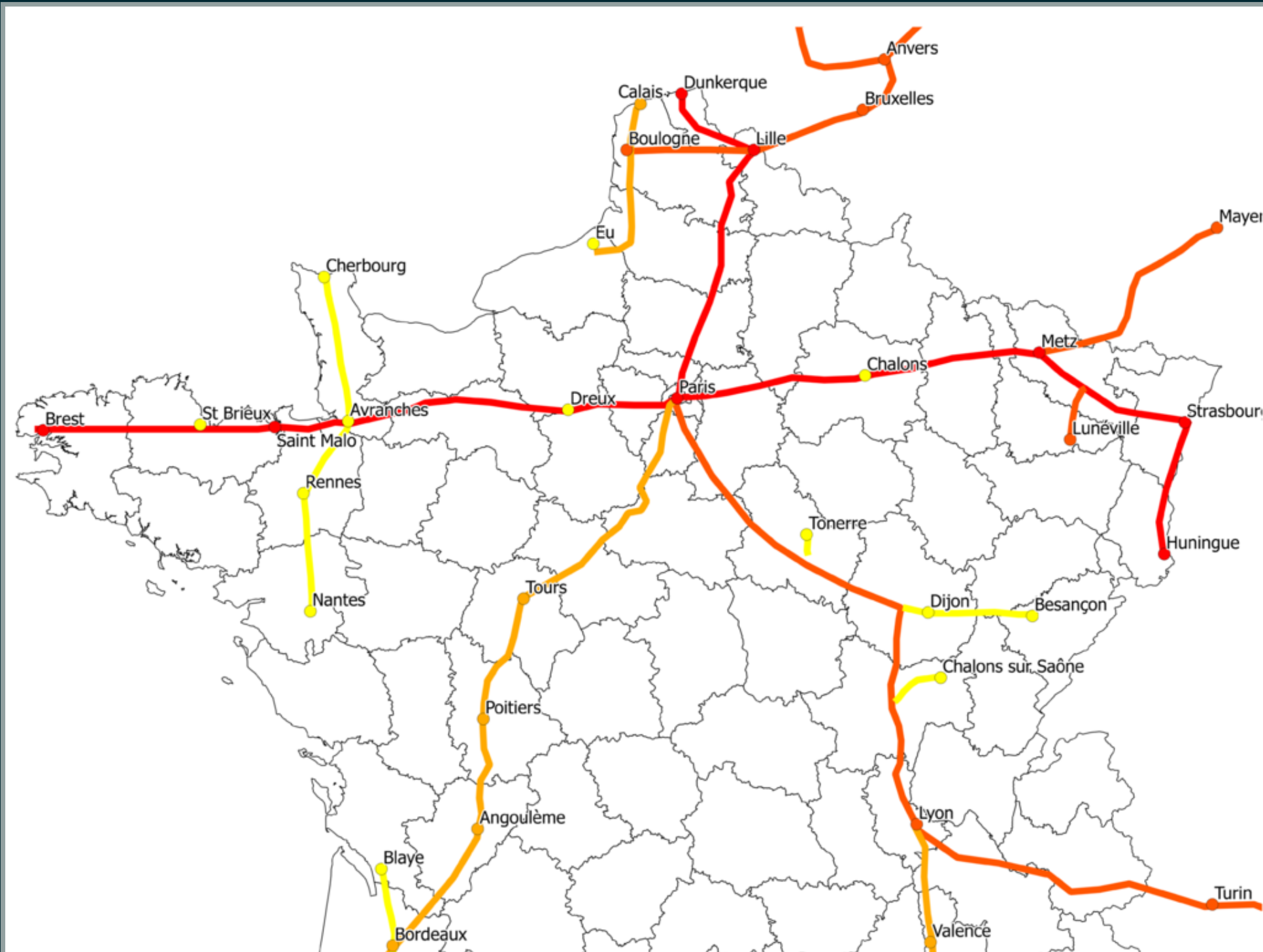


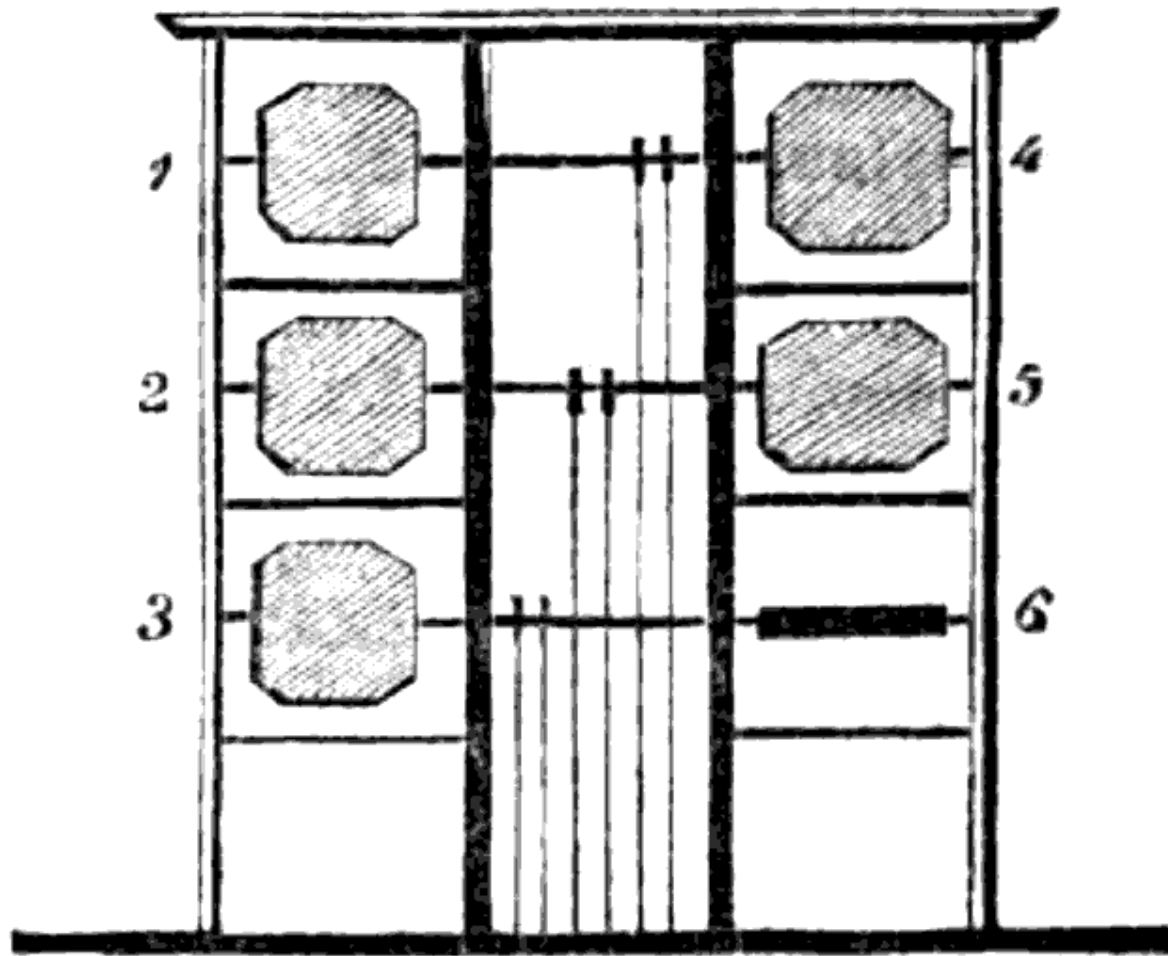




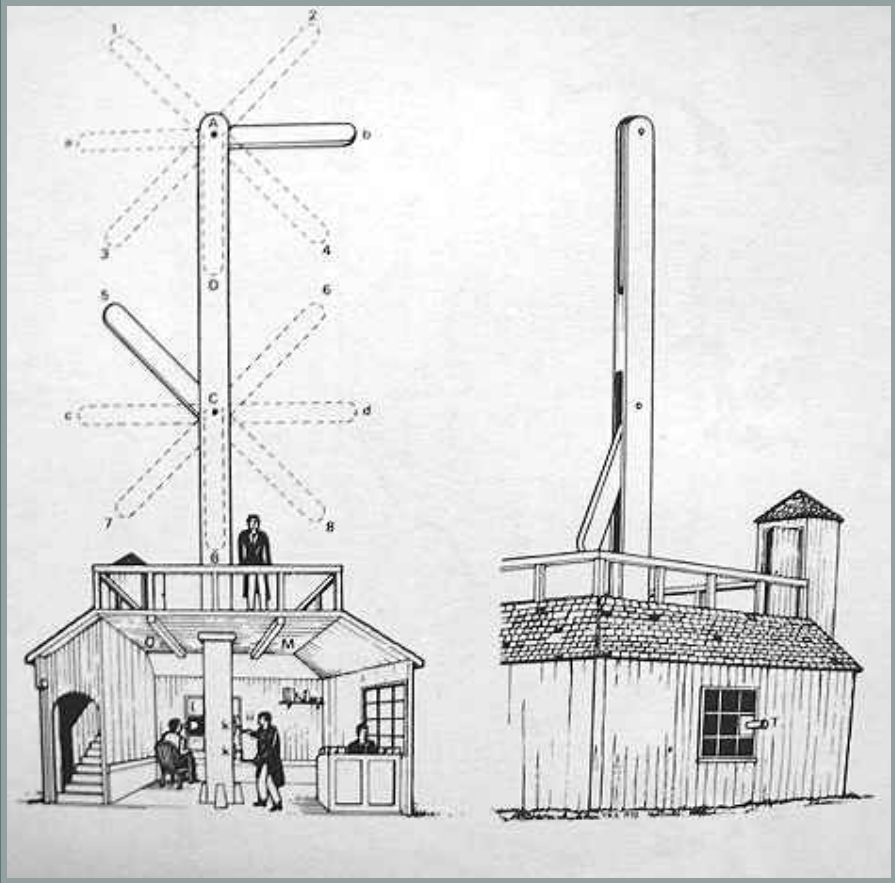








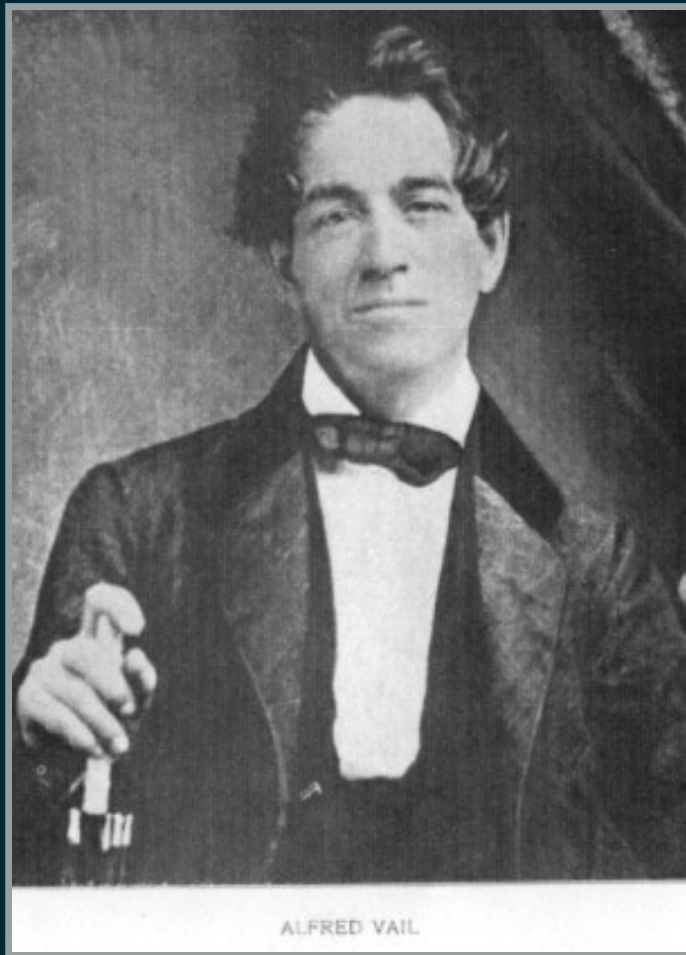
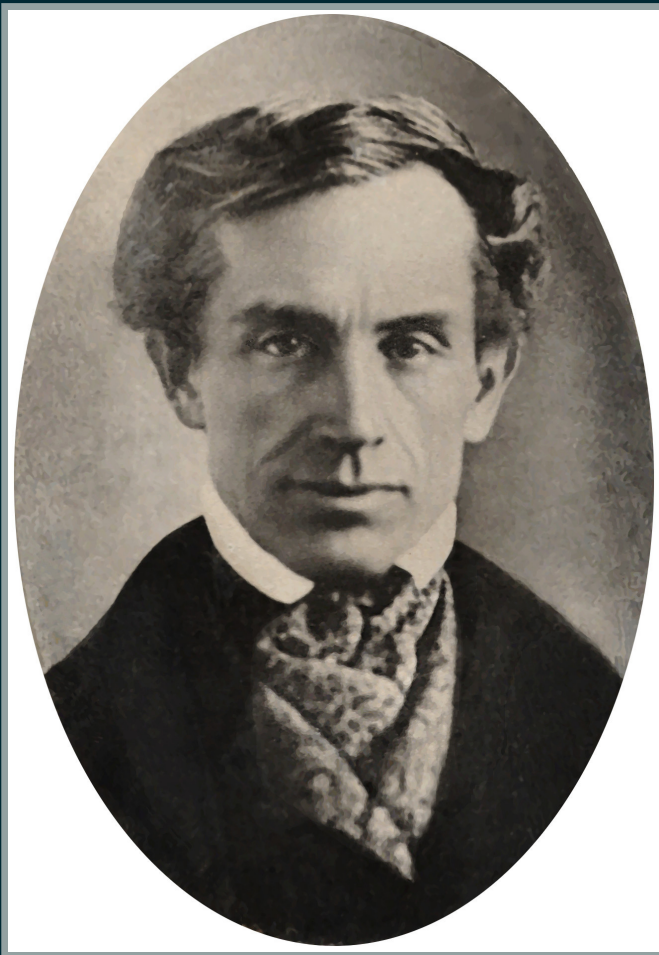










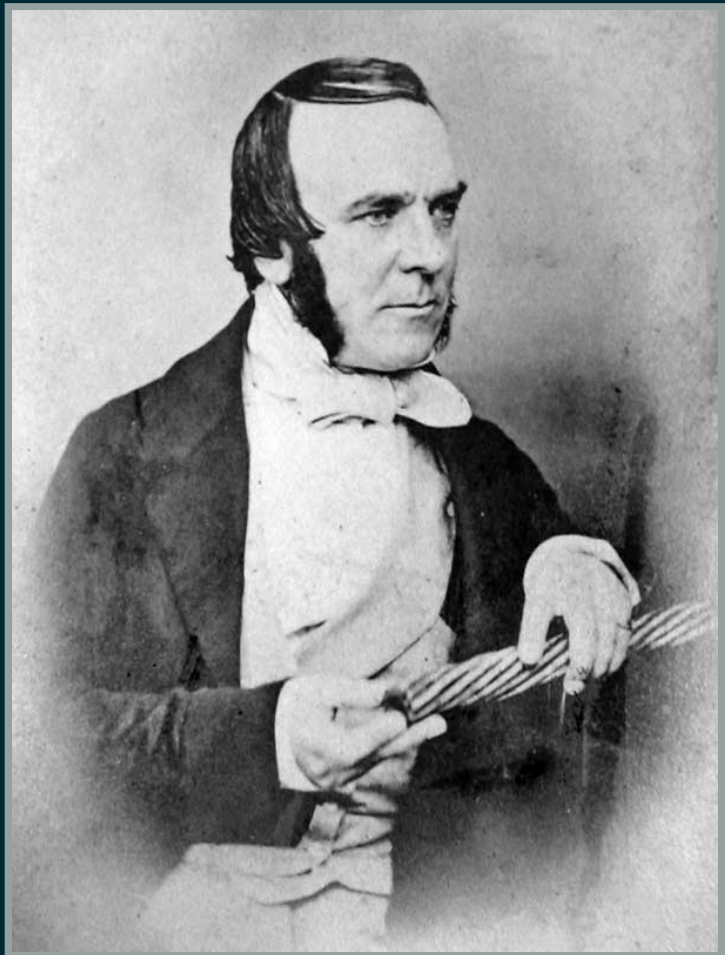




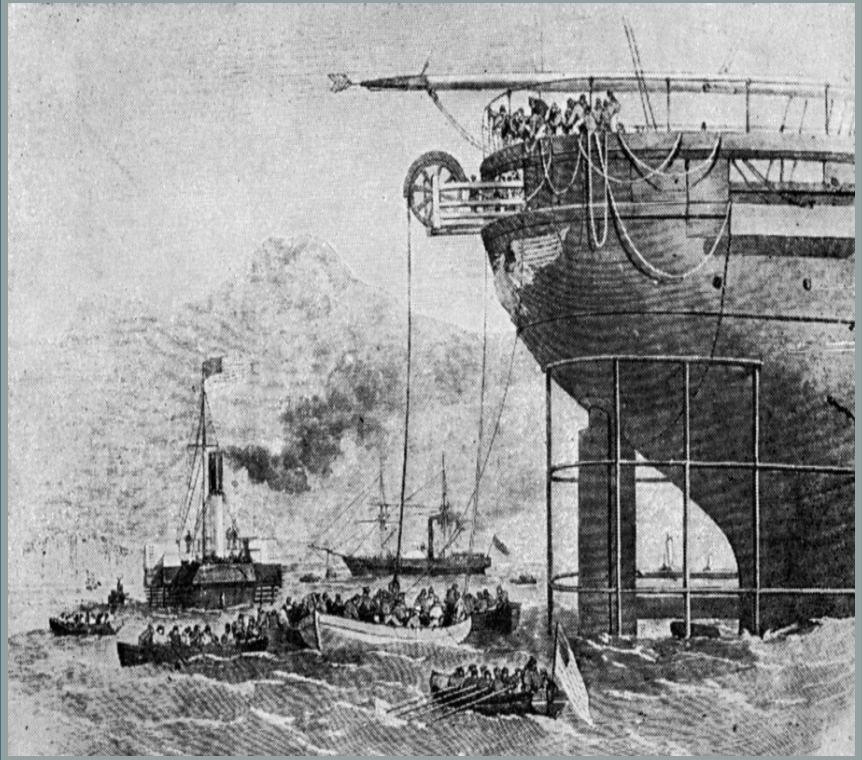
# “THE FIRST TELEGRAM “WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT””

WAS SENT FROM THE CAPITOL IN  
WASHINGTON TO BALTIMORE MAY 24,  
1844 OVER WIRES LAID ALONG THE  
RIGHT OF WAY OF THE B&O RAILROAD  
ADJACENT TO THIS HIGHWAY. THE  
TELEGRAPH WAS INVENTED BY  
SAMUEL F.B. MORSE (1791-1872).

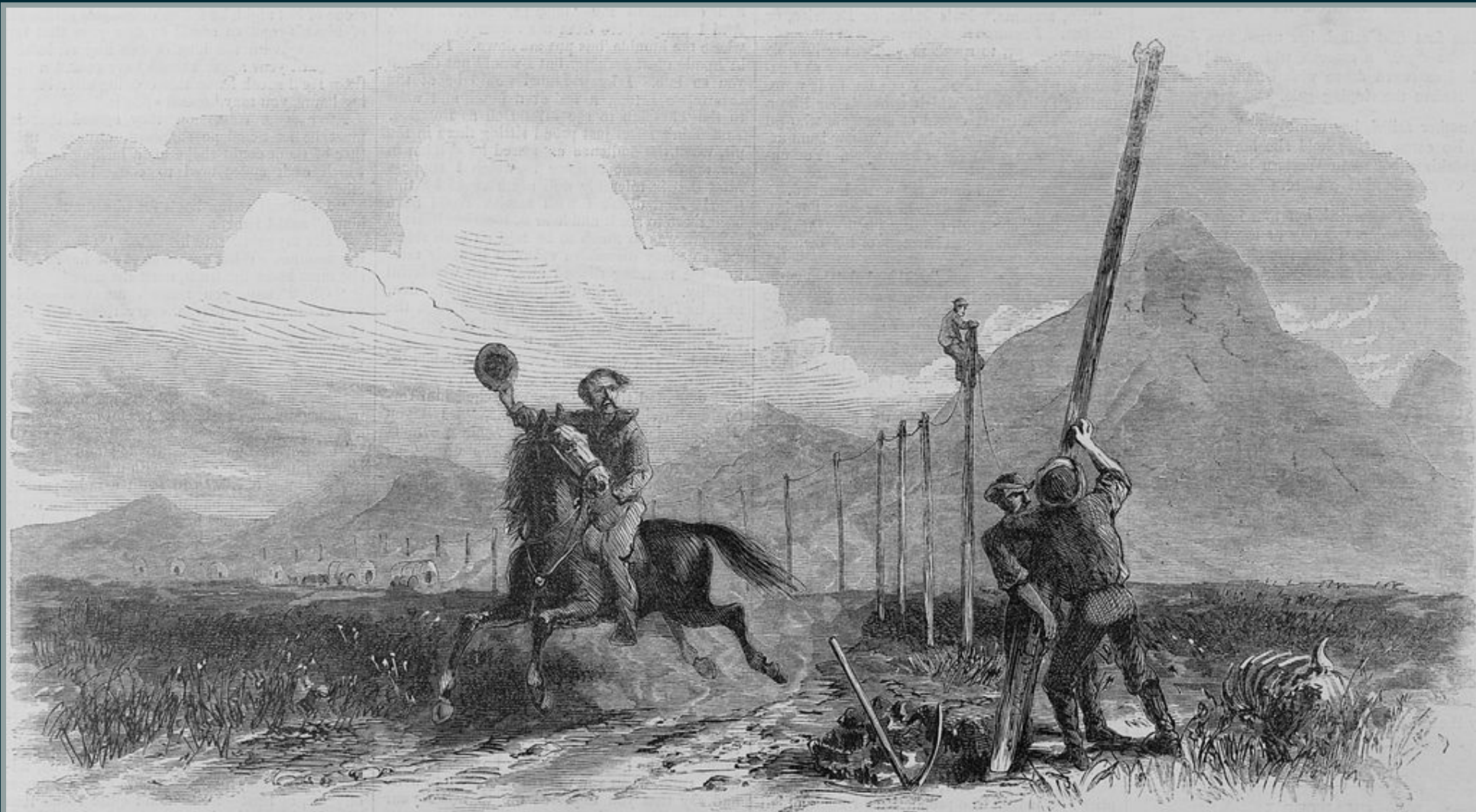
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



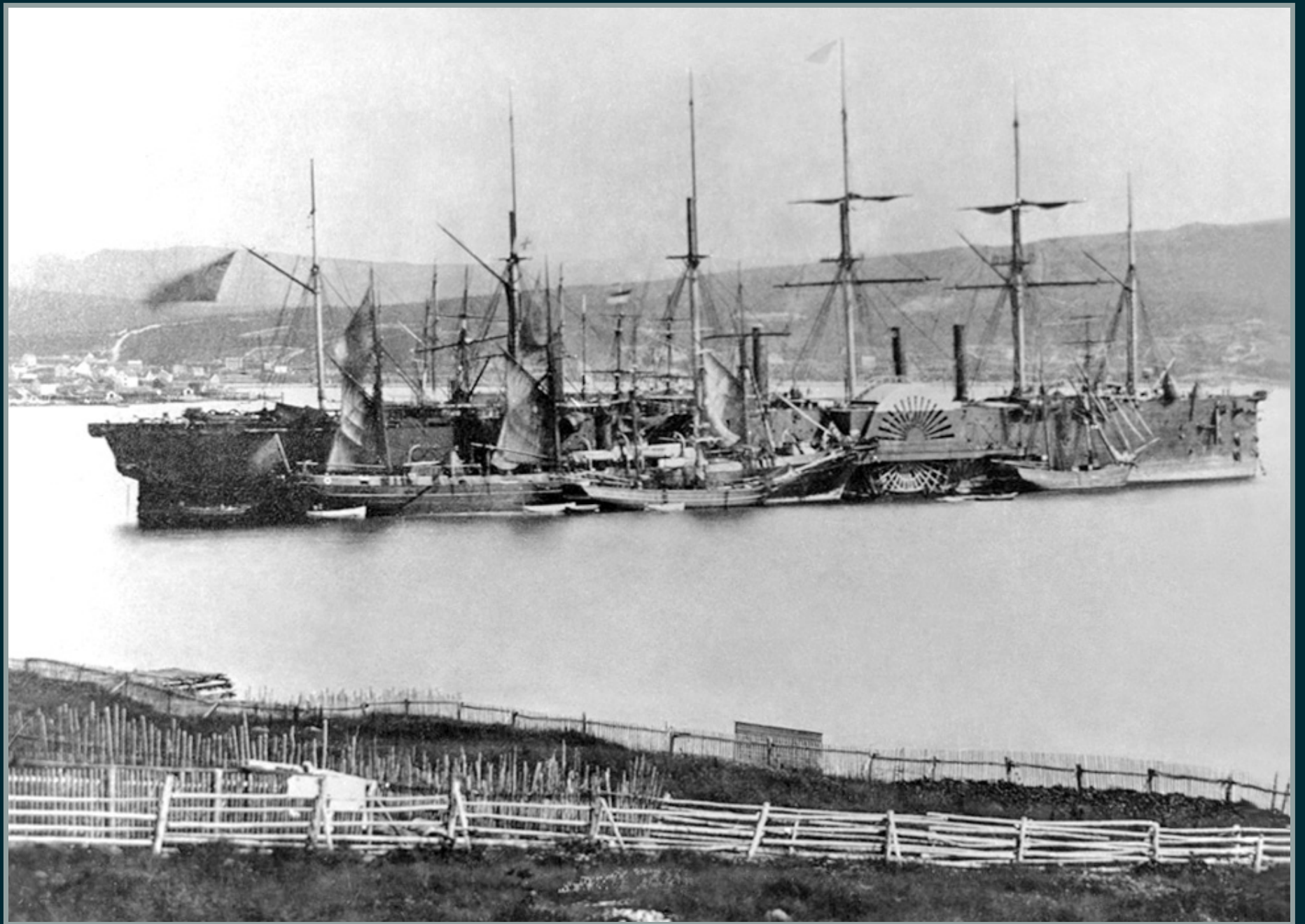








THE OVERLAND PONY EXPRESS.—[PHOTOGRAPHED BY SAVAGE, SALT LAKE CITY, FROM A PAINTING BY GEORGE M. OTTINGER.]







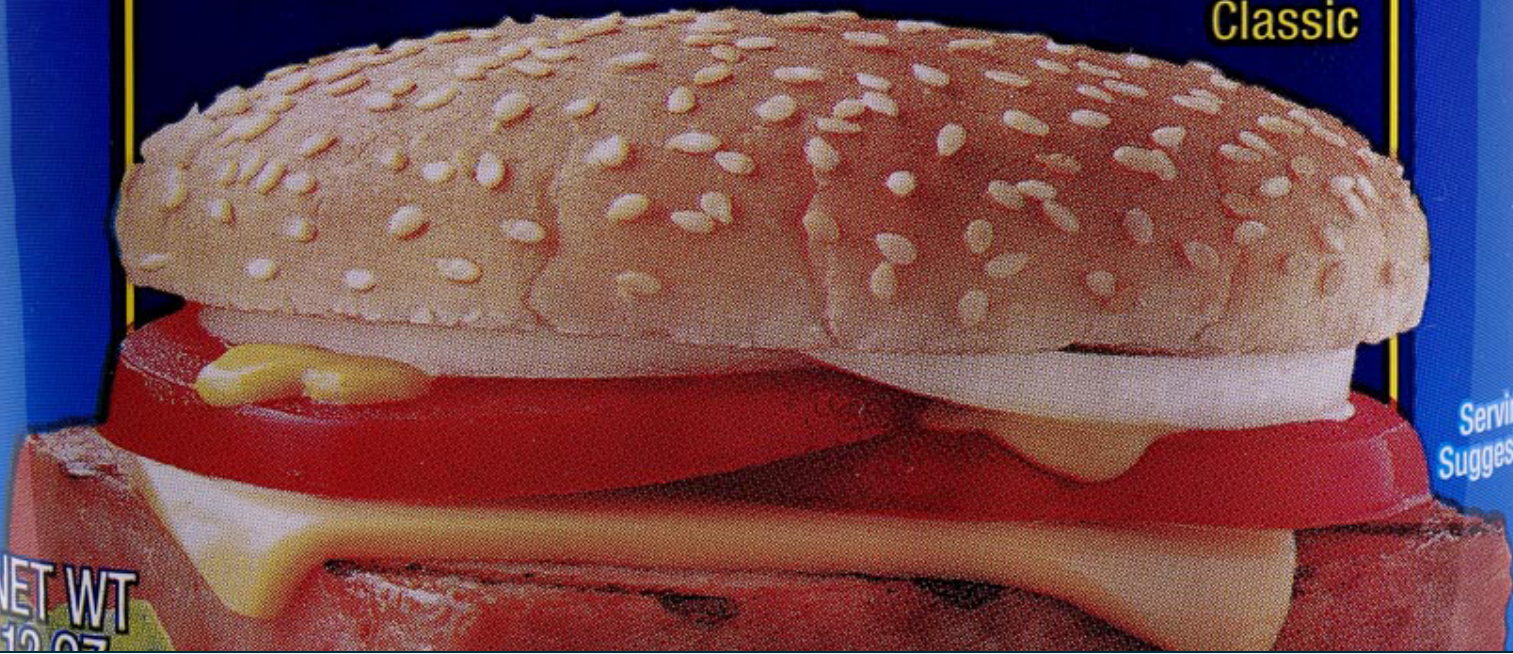


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Salt, Water,  
Modified Potato  
Starch, Sugar,  
Sodium Nitrite

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*TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.*

---

Sir,—On my arrival home late yesterday evening a “telegram,” by “London District Telegraph,” addressed in full to me, was put into my hands. It was as follows:—

“Messrs. Gabriel, dentists, 27, Harley-street, Cavendish-square. Until October Messrs. Gabriel’s professional attendance at 27, Harley-street, will be 10 till 5.”

I have never had any dealings with Messrs. Gabriel, and beg to ask by what right do they disturb me by a telegram which is evidently simply the medium of advertisement? A word from you would, I feel sure, put a stop to this intolerable nuisance. I enclose the telegram, and am,

Your faithful servant,

Upper Grosvenor-street, May 30.

M. P.

---

Military fortress of Barcelona 11/11/05  
Mr. Paul Webb

Dear Sir,

Although I only have the honour of being acquainted with you by the references that my dear wife a relative of yours gave me and that remembering the personalities of our family, always venerated the honesty and good qualities that distinguished you, I address myself to you perhaps for the first and last time, because the gravness of my health compels me to make you know my sad position and beg your assistance and protection for my only daughter Mary, a young girl fourteen years old who is now in a Pension House, owing inform you that my deceased wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Webb.

As I am here very watched by my enemies I must pray you to keep a whole discretion and to trust not anybody with the slightest particular of this letter.

Being the private Secretary and treasurer of General Martinez Campes on the last Cuban war and enjoying his whole confidence, I managed to make a good position to my daughter and by transacting with public funds I saw my fortune increase every day, although with the sorrow of losing her mother, my very dear wife, I could have succeeded in all my wishes, should my protector have followed in his place till the end of war; but General Taylor came to take the commandment of all the army and as I could not accompany my protector to Spain we could suffer to be under the orders of a political adversary I deserted and joined the army of rebellion in behalf of Republic. But there we were victims of the greatest treason and I was compelled to emigrate to English ground with all my property valuable £37,000.

When I was living some time in London I received the sad news that my wife had suddenly deceased leaving my dear daughter in despair and without any help. Under this misfortune I was compelled to come back to Spain, intending to take my daughter and bring her to America, but before starting and considering how imprudent it was to take along with me so important an amount, I decided to place it in a sure English Bank against a private contract and only as a deposit, as it appears from the receipt payable to bearer that the Bank gave me, as a guarantee, whose receipt I kept into a secret drawer of a portmanteau, so cleverly made that the keenest eye cannot find it out.

Then, wholly satisfied that the money was assured I embarked for Spain, but on my arrival I was recognised, arrested and brought before the military authorities, that by my desertion to the

enemy and without considering my political antecedents, condemned me to several years of penal servitude that I must extinguish in this fortress, when I am suffering so bitterly that I am deprived of all communication outside, even with my daughter.

When I was sentenced, all my luggage, as well as my portmanteau remained seized at the disposal of that military Tribunal in order to respond to the payment of all the charges of my process.

I am only visited here by the kind Chaplain of this castle, who is become my best friend and protector and it is thanks to him that I can write this letter, but I am aware of the gravness of my health and I foresee a very short and fatal end for me, by his reason and trusting on your discretion I dare beg you your protection, praying to be good enough to be my daughter's support and make her happy, as I fear that I shall never see her again.

My seized luggage is kept by the military authorities, but only you are acknowledged with the existence of the secret drawer. If you are so good as to become my dear daughter's protector and advance the necessary amount to rescue my luggage, I hope you will inform me by cable. I then will send the kind Chaplain and my daughter to your house with all my luggage and I will also send you my last will, in which I will bequeath the fourth part of all my property to your profit as a reward for your bounty and assistance.

Be cautious and trusting always on your discretion all my daughter's future, I remain

Faithfully yours  
Luis Belmont

P. S. As you can perfectly understand I cannot receive your reply directly, but in order to win time I beg you, if you accept my proposals to send me a cablegram telling it to me, addressed as follows: "Richard - Lesta de Correat - Vich - Barcelona - Spain"

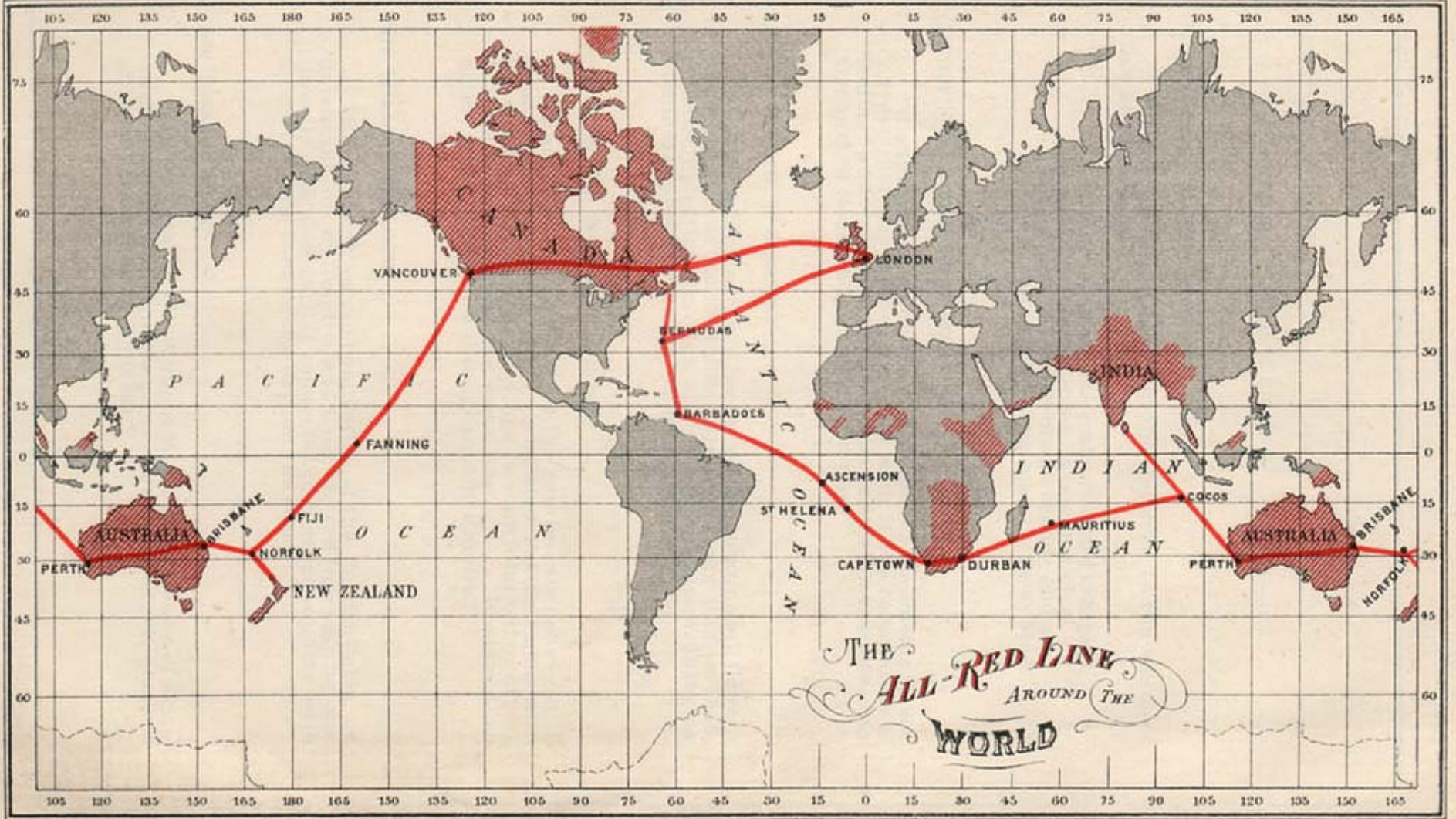
Sent samples  
Webb



BAD CAME AFT KEEN DARK ACHE LAIN FAULT  
ADOPT

FLOUR MARKET FOR COMMON AND FAIR BRANDS OF WESTERN IS LOWER, WITH MODERATE DEMAND FOR HOME TRADE AND EXPORT; SALES, 8000 BUSHELS. GENESSEE AT \$5.12. WHEAT, PRIME IN FAIR DEMAND, MARKET FIRM, COMMON DESCRIPTION DULL, WITH A DOWNWARD TENDENCY; SALES, 4000 BUSHELS AT \$1.10. CORN, FOREIGN NEWS UNSETTLED THE MARKET; NO SALES OF IMPORTANCE MADE. THE ONLY SALE MADE WAS 2500 BUSHELS AT 67C.







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# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 1001.—VOL. XXXV.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1859.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FR

Yet, whatever may be thought of its present ]

# STAGECOACHES LEAVING LONDON IN 1836

- The *Express* to Hertford
- The *Courier* to Birmingham
- The *Telegraph* to Bishops Stortford
- The *Economist* to Birmingham
- The *Times* to Brighton
- The *Star* to Cambridge
- The *Independent* to Chichester
- The *Morning Star* to Tunbridge Wells



WIRED LOVE:  
A ROMANCE  
OF  
DOTS AND DASHES.

BY  
ELLA CHEEVER THAYER.

"The old, old story,"—in a new, new way.

---

NEW YORK:  
*W. F. Johnston, Publisher,*  
No. 9 MURRAY STREET.  
MDCCLXXX.

*"The children of the future...are not going to know what nationalism is." - Nicholas Negroponte, Director, MIT Media Lab (1997)*

*The telegraph... "... brings the world together. It joins the sundered hemispheres. It unites distant nations, making them feel that they are members of one great family." - Henry Field (1892)*

*"Via Eastern"* THE EASTERN ASSOCIATED TELEGRAPH COMPANIES' CABLE SYSTEM  
(INDICATED IN RED.)

