THE SEA CABLE WAR.

CYRUS W. FIELD'S BATTLES FOR THE OCEAN WIRE.

Fifteen Years of His Fifties Expended in the Effort—But—Half the World Smiled and the Other Half Frowned, Yet He Won.

Copyright, 1891, by American Press Association. Book rights reserved.

THE thanks of the American people have been publicly tendered for great captains who on land or sea win battles that deserve the gratitude of a nation. But the heroes of the ocean—the men who fought the battle of the cable—are not so well known. Yet when the Thirty-ninth congress assembled in December, 1865, it was to hear the name of Cyrus W. Field, the indefatigable and capable representative of some of the Atlantic cable companies, and to listen to a message from the President of the United States in which he said: "Let the old World and the New, the approval of the people of Europe and of America be with us in both which will, we have been assured, follow the new. Men and women of the present time may not recall the cable celebration in the first week of August, 1858, but they will well remember the last week in August, 1892, when we had forgotten the years of doubting expectation and of hopes blasted and delayed between the inception and the accomplishment of that wonderful undertaking."

The first news dispatch by the successful cable bore the date of August 5, 1858, and between the time that it was sent and the announcement that the author of the cable was to be knighted for his share in the struggle the Atlantic telegraph was a fact. What triumphs of science or "miracles of art" in the history of the world have called forth greater display of human energy, endurance and courage than the same battles of the cable? Admiral Dyer, the commander of the repair ship Chilmark, says that they are explosive. Lieutenant Hoff, the man who spliced the cable off Newfoundland and helped repair it when it was broken, says that they are explosive. Lieutenant Pelham Aldrich, who was one of the officers of the Chilmark, says that they are explosive. Lieutenant Hoff, who was a gunner shooting from a Newfoundland and Ireland experiment, said that they were explosive when he was firing shotted guns at them. Captain Anderson, who was in that same battle of the cable, said that they were