

and as innumerable as the sand upon the sea shore, and that in him and his posterity all the nations of the earth should be blessed. It seemed to be the greatest gift that God could pronounce upon him; at any rate, I do not read of anything that He puts ahead of this. David also, though a transgressor in the matter of Uriah the Hittite, and though deprived of many of his blessings because of this great sin, yet the Lord had promised him that He would build him a sure house; and if you will read the history of the dynasty you will see how remarkably God fulfilled His word in that regard, and how He preserved his seed. Notwithstanding they were wicked men, He preserved them. He said that He had made promises to His servant David, which He would fulfill; and I have no doubt that in these days, when the time shall come, the seed of David will be found upon the earth just as the Lord said it should be. You remember another instance in the case of the family of Jonadab the son of Rechab. They had been commanded of their father that they should not drink wine nor strong drink, and because of their faithfulness to this command the Lord declared that Jonadab the son of Rechab should never be without a man to stand before him as long as the earth should stand. I believe the Lord gave this as a great promise, because of the faithfulness of the children in obeying their father and the zeal of the father in giving the command to the children. It is a great promise; and I have no doubt myself, although that family is not distinguished now among the families of men, that the time will come when descendants of that family will be known upon the earth; for the Lord's word has gone forth concerning it, and that word cannot fail.

I bring these illustrations forward to show you how important it was in the estimation of the ancients that they should have posterity upon the earth who would be faithful to God. We are on the eve of the great millennium. I have alluded to these great discoveries, these supernatural powers, they may be called, that are brought to light. I believe they are to prepare the earth for the coming of the Lord and for the millennial glory that God has foretold through His servants the prophets. For miracles are being wrought now. Men do not give the glory to God; but the powers that they are developing are Godlike and miraculous. A few generations ago it would have been thought nothing short of Godlike power to do what scientific men are doing now everyday. And it will be more so. The powers that have been hidden, and that are in the keeping of the Almighty, will be brought to light, to prepare the earth and its inhabitants for the great events of the last days and for the ushering in of that millennium of which the prophets and apostles have spoken. God help us to prepare for this glorious event, that we may share in the triumph of truth and righteousness in the earth, and our children with us, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CAPE MAY, N. J., June 28.—Vice-President Stevenson, accompanied by Mrs. Stevenson, Miss Leonilia Stevenson and Mr. Lewis Stevenson, arrived at the Stockton hotel this morning. Mr. Stevenson will leave his family at the seashore and attend the Chicago convention, returning for a protracted stay.

ABE LINCOLN'S TELEGRAPH OPERATORS.

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OMAHA, June 24th, 1896.



ONE OF THE greatest nerve centers of the late civil war was the telegraph office at the War department at Washington. Through it passed all the dispatches which came from the field,

and by it were sent out the orders from President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton to the generals commanding. The most expert operators in the military telegraph corps were detailed for the war office. General Anson Stager, who had been superintendent of the Western Union telegraph, was the head, and next to him was General Thomas T. Eckert, who is now the manager of the Western Union telegraph lines. General Eckert sustained the closest of relations to President Lincoln, and Lincoln used to chat by the hour with him in the telegraph office. Eckert was also a good story teller, and some of the best of Lincoln's stories were uttered while the operators were clicking out messages of war. Under these chiefs there were a number of very fast telegraphers among the brightest of whom was Edward Rosewater, now proprietor of the Omaha Bee. During the war Mr. Rosewater was for a time a telegrapher in the field. After the second battle of Bull Run he was brought to Washington to act as one of the confidential operators of the war department. During his stay in Washington he kept a diary, and he has a number of most interesting stories of his experiences of the incidents of that time which have never been given to the public. I chatted with him the other night about the telegraph office of the war department. said he.

"The war department during the time of President Lincoln was in the old war department building. This was a three-story structure just above the White House. The telegraph office adjoined the office of Secretary Stanton. It consisted of two rooms, one of which was devoted to the preparation and deciphering of cipher messages, and another the operating room proper, which also contained the war department library. In the cipher room sat General Stager, General Eckert and two cipher operators. The operating room contained ten marble tables, upon each of which was a telegraphic instrument of the latest pattern. We had, you know, the finest machinery known at that time, and the operators had to be fine penmen, and one of the requirements of the position was to be able to write out in legible hand with ink the dispatches as rapidly as they came from the wires. This is done by many operators today. It was not so common then."

"Who organized our war telegraph, Mr. Rosewater?" I asked.

"General Anson Stager and General Eckert," was the reply. "General Stager was, you know, superintendent of the Western Union telegraph before the war began. He was called to Washington to take charge of the telegraph system and organize a military telegraph. The first wire built was that which ran from the war department to the navy yard.

Then a system of communication was made with the camps lying within ten or twelve miles of the White house, and the capitol building was connected with the navy department by a loop. The lines were soon extended to the Chain bridge, then over into Virginia and finally they had direct communication with all parts of the country. General Stager originated the cipher code used in the department. He was an expert operator himself and one time when riding on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago road the train broke down within nine miles of any telegraph office. General Stager cut the wires and by holding one above and one below his tongue was able to receive the messages by watching its movements caused by the electric shocks passing through it. By this means he received a reply that another engine would be sent to him at once. General Eckert was also an expert telegrapher. His relations with President Lincoln were very close, and he can, I venture, tell more good stories of Lincoln than any other man now living. President Lincoln often came into the telegraph office. He generally came in early in the morning and he often remained in the office at night when serious operations were going on in the field."

"What were your arrangements for delivering messages at night, Mr. Rosewater?"

"There was, as a rule, not a great deal of work to be done at night," replied Mr. Rosewater, "though at times the wires were kept hot. During a great part of 1893 I was the night chief of the office. I had in the corridor outside the operating rooms a half dozen cavalrymen, who were on hand to carry such dispatches as were important. I remember once during the winter of 1863 that a telegram came urging that reinforcements be sent at once to Columbus, Kentucky. This was then a very important military point, and the rebels were moving upon it in large force, and the union general commanding had in this dispatch asked for reinforcements. The message came to me between midnight and 1 a. m. I handed it over to one of the orderlies, and told him to take it at once to General Halleck. I expected very naturally a prompt order from Halleck as to the reinforcements. An hour passed by, nothing came. A second hour went by, and still no order. I was anxious, for I feared that the wires might be cut or broken before morning, and in this case no relief could be gotten to our forces at Columbus. I remained on duty all night, but no message came from Halleck. Between seven and eight o'clock in the morning I went out for my breakfast, and upon returning found that General Halleck had not yet ordered reinforcements. I asked the orderly if he had delivered the message, and, if so, why he had not brought an answer. He replied that General Halleck had given directions that he was never to be disturbed after midnight. This state-