

the invaluable services they had rendered to the imperial government.

"These gentlemen," says he, "devised means of communicating intelligence by electricity, but as they did not press their discoveries to an early fruition, other systems were introduced and became generally accepted."

When Col. Speed died the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, of New York, wrote the following, which was published at the time, June, 1867:

"On last monday afternoon was borne to Greenwood cemetery the remains of a man so remarkable for mental powers and nobleness of character, that he well deserves a tribute in your columns. Col. John James Speed was born in Virginia, 1803, but spent his early life among the hills in Tompkins county, N. Y. During his residence in Ithaca his fertile brain invented a system of telegraphing by light signals which was adopted by the Russian government. When Professor Morse produced his magnetic telegraph, Col. Speed and his intimate friend, Hon. Ezra Cornell, founder of the University, were most efficient co-workers with the eminent Professor in introducing and perfecting the apparatus. With many scientific inventions and public enterprises Col. Speed was intimately connected. At Detroit he was the president of the Western Telegraph Company, and at Portland, Me., he established the independent line to Washington.

"He was not only ingenious in invention but powerful in persuasion as a public speaker both in the New York Legislature and at the hustings. During the late war he did good service as a loyal patriot. One of his sons, Captain Wm. J. Speed, fell at Gettysburg, and another was an officer on General Canby's staff.

"At the time of his death he was president of a company of railway iron manufacturers. He leaves a large family and a host of friends in this city and throughout the land to honor his memory and lament his loss. He was a man of intense enthusiasm, untiring energy, warm, genial affections and incorruptible integrity. The tidings of his death will carry deep sorrow to many a heart that loved him."

Col. Speed was married, September 30, 1829, to Miss Anne Sophia Morrell, of New York. She died July 9, 1881, aged seventy-three years. She was a sister of the mother of Dr. T. L. Cuyler, the distinguished minister, and a brother of these sisters was the eminent physician, Dr. Henry K. Mor-