

APPENDIX II

the building of the Erie Canal. De Witt Clinton to whom the credit for the construction of the Erie Canal is usually given, has acknowledged the priority of Colles so far as the plan is concerned. Colles was also the first to propose and erect a water supply system for New York City and studied out and solved the engineering difficulties connected with it. He also has the distinction of having compiled and published the first road book in the United States. In the Preface he says:

“A traveler will here find so plain and circumstantial a description of the road that whilst he has the draft with him it will be impossible for him to miss the way.”

Probably nothing illustrates better the initiative of the Irish race than the place that Irishmen have taken in the development of the application of electricity to the facilitation of life and commerce. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, was the grandson of an Irishman, as was Henry O'Reilly who built the first telegraph line in the United States. The rival system to The Western Union, The Postal Telegraph, which finds its best advertisement in calling attention to the improvement in facilities in the use of the telegraph which it has brought about, was built up mainly by John W. Mackay, an Irishman. It was he who linked telegraph and cable systems together. Theodore Vail, to whose development the Bell telephone system owes more than to any other, and Carty, chief engineer of that system,