

Prof. Morse.

Professor Morse was above the medium height, well made, dark hair and eyes, large square forehead, prominent nose, wide mouth; projecting chin, hair thrown up on one side of his head. He dressed plain. His face was smooth-shaven. He had the appearance of a man always engrossed in deep thought & intense study. & seemed to be entirely absorbed with - the one great subject of the telegraph which has made his name immortal. He was a frequent visitor at the Capitol, exhibited his first instrument in the room of the Committee on (Patents?) I will remember with what earnestness & enthusiasm he would ~~set forth~~ ^{explain} the workings of his invention. & try to induce Senator to see the merits & value of it as he did, and how at first he was looked upon by many of the Senators as (what we would in these days call) a crank. It was not an uncommon thing for inventors of all kinds of outlandish & more outlandish & impractical machines &c to hang around the Capital trifling & trying every Senator & member

(Prof More)

They could meet & pouring into their ears a tiresome and
many times unintelligible but always enthusiastic
exploring account of their inventions & the revolution
it would cause in this, that & the other branch of
trade or manufacture &c., if it could only be properly
introduced. I remember one man (no doubt
deranged) who claimed to be the invento^r of a
flying fish & he thought every body either crazy or a
fool who did not at once manifest interest in
it & see its merits.

The first telegraph wire erected in this country was
extended from Capitol Hill to Bladensburg an historic
little village lying ^{about} five miles north of Washington on
the eastern branch of the Potomac river, this was
soon extended as far as Baltimore 39 miles distant
in the year 1844? The first public message

transmitted by telegraph was the announce-

ment of the nomination of James K.
Polk, as the Democratic candidate
for the Presidency of the United States

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A. Reminiscence. -

Great excitement in the Senate and
Capitol. over the discovery of Proffessor
Morse, of the Telegraph in 1843.
after standing back for years from an
experiment. then regarded silly. and
the Professor being reduced to great
poverty. by the time and means. which
he had expended on experiments.

Senators agreed to vote for an Appropriation
of \$ 40,000,- to aid Professor Morse.
the bill having passed the House at
a late hour on the 1st night of the
Session of the 27th Congress. - as sum

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as it reached the Senate. Mr Wright
of New York, called the bile up in the Senate
and it was passed. I think it was about
10. O'clock. that night Proper Morse left
the Senate despairing of aid from Congress.
I remember well a special friend of his
a young lady, waited at the Senate
Chamber all night to witness the
fate of the bile. - When it pass. She
went and informed him that it had
passed - he said not believe it, - - -

he said by the appropriation experimen-
ted, successfully, between Baltimore
and Washington and as tardy as were
Senators in giving him aid - the

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moment the triumpt was
announced. they all gathered
around him. swooning that they
were his friends.

I well remember of going into the Committee
Room, and witness him putting up the
Biost, and regularly the Mesheain, and
looking at it operator. With wonder
crowds of Senat and Members of
the Hous. Come to see the operator.