THE

HOMOGRAPH

OR

Every Man a Signal Tower.

BY

JAMES SPRATT,
Lieut. R. N.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO THE

EARL OF MOIRA.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY BRIMMER AND CO. 21, WATER LANE,
FLEET STREET;

And sold by

A. WHELLIER, 3, PATERNOSTER ROW,

And other Booksellers.

D E D I C A T I O N.

TO THE EARL OF MOIRA, &c. &c. &c.

WHEN honoured with your Lordship's permission to dedicate to you this my humble Invention, I feel that there exists no necessity of ushering it into the world with high- sounding diction or overcharged verbosity.

As a junior seaman, untrammelled with those arts, I depend solely on the utility of my little scheme, and in the honour and countenance it must derive from the permission I have received of prefixing to this publication the name of the Earl of Moira, a name dear to every Friend and Lover of Humanity, and of the British Empire !

Thus accompanied, I fear not its making its way in the world, and gratefully beg leave to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's very devoted and respectful Humble Servant,

James Spratt,

LT. R. N.

THE HOMOGRAPH,

&c. &c.

AS TELEGRAPHS are only used in national communications, on extensive scales, and in expensive establishments, I have humbly presumed on offering to the public, an invention unfettered with such inconveniences, which however can be adopted to prove of national utility, and of general private convenience. For instance, the General commanding an army, may, with the assistance of a white pocket handkerchief only, communicate to the several columns composing it, his orders for retrograde, forward, or other marching, without the tedious, and often dubious, mode of sending aides du camp, or other staff officers to convey them.

He may inform a besieged garrison of his proximity, or of his intention of relieving it, or otherwise, or he may order it to make a sortie, at the instant that he intends making a general attack, and thereby most materially aid his general plan; he may thereby inform both wings, as well as the advanced, or rear, or detached guards of his army, nearly at the same time, of his intentions, as well as communicate to them his orders, for their movements or co-operation with the main body, and convey them such intelligence as he may possess of the operations or movements of the enemy.

In private life the communication between one house, or one person, and the other, within view, may be so easily and expeditiously made, as to save the expence and trouble of horse and messenger, and a private intercourse carried on without discovery.

The various uses to which the Homograph can be applied, without expence, will not fail to attract the notice of the discerning public. Should it meet their approbation, and tend to the good of the community at large, the inventor's wishes will be amply gratified.

This new, easy, and useful code of numeral signals, is to be performed with a white pocket handkerchief, to be held in different positions with the body. Plate the 1st, with the additional arms, exhibits the whole of the numeral Homograph signals at one view (See the position that the handkerchief is held in, and the figures thereon). The first position from the right foot to the right hand is No. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9 and 0. When making 1. 5. 9 and 0, the handkerchief should be held by the diagonal corners, as generally prepared for wearing around the neck. For making 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8 you should gather the opposite sides of the handkerchief in your hands, the near extremity of the handkerchief to be held by one hand to the point of the shoulder.

In working the Homograph, the body should be erect, the positions steady, the handkerchief to be held well in front of the arms, and parallel to the person to whom you are to impart your attentions. The best place for shewing signals from a ship is, in the chains, or on a lower deck port, as the white handkerchief exhibits a greater contrast with the black sides, and is course better discerned; when made from the shore, on the side of a green hill, or in front of some thick foliage, or hedge, or a dark wall. The positions which you intend should compose the number of your signal made in succession. The person to whom a signal is made should wave his handkerchief horizontally, to convince you that it is understood. When the positions which compose the number of your signals are finished, you are to wave your handkerchief in like manner. For example, persons who make use of the Homograph should arrange in their separate books every question and answer which may occur to them, on any subject, as there is no limitation to the numbers. If the number prefixed to your communication be 1,000 – you are first to make position No. 1 and keep it so, until your consort answers it, by waving his handkerchief, which informs you that it is understood; then you are to make the ‘0’ three times distinctly (See plate the first, for the positions); each ‘0’ to be kept up until answered as before. Now your signal being made, you wave your handkerchief, which informs your consort that he is to refer to his book for the purport of the signal No. 1,000 (See examples).

It is to be understood that the persons who use the Homograph signals are to have their conversation premeditated, and inserted into separate books and the sentences to be numbered as in the subjoined examples, when each, by reference to his book, may carry on the conversation at the distance of four miles by a common telescope.

If you wish to commence signalizing (if I may be allowed the expression), you are to display the handkerchief, which is called the signal of attention (see plate, the second); and your consort is to display his in return. The person who displays first has a right to commence signalizing, and to prevent confusion, it is to be displayed at the commencement of every signal.

If by accident your attention should be called off, and you did not comprehend the whole of a signal, by holding the handkerchief as in Plate the third, you may demand a repetition. This signal is called the Repeat.

Plate the fourth shews the following signals by twisting the handkerchief regularly round the arms:

No. 1. Affirmative.
No. 2. Negative.
No. 3. Interrogative.
No. 4. Annul.

The Homograph may be found useful by captains lodging on shore, by which they can communicate any orders, with ease and accuracy, to the commanding officers of their ships at anchor.

Passengers in the East and West India and other fleets, may keep up a constant and friendly intercourse, to console themselves for the tediousness of a long voyage.

The country gentleman may at a moments warning summon his neighbours to the sports of the field, or to the hospital board.

EXAMPLES of SIGNALS

No. 1.
We are now going into action; and hope it may end as gloriously as that of Trafalgar.

2.
We have gained a complete victory.

3.
Guard well the prisoners, as they are ten times our number.

4.
Our gallant chief has been ennobled by our gracious sovereign for his services.

5.
The officers who signalized themselves are to be presented with medals.

6.
As you are going to refit, I shall be obliged to you for your live stock.

7.
Be particular in boarding ships subject to quarantine.

8.
We are in great distress for provisions.

9.
We are in a very leaky state, relieve us or we perish.

10.
Our foraging party has been successful.

11.
We have put the enemy's outposts to flight, and made some prisoners.

12.
The enemy's cavalry are advancing from the wood on the right.

13.
We are in need of a reinforcement, with a field-piece.

14.
The enemy is disposed for battle, their wings strong, and their centre weak.

15.
The engagement is general through the line.

16.
Our left is considerable weakened, and the enemy preparing to out-flank us.

17.
The enemy are routed on their right, their centre is in great disorder.

18.
Let the cavalry follow the fugitives.

19.
The enemy has been reinforced, and taken possession of the strong post by the sea side.

20.
The co-operation of the navy will be necessary.

100.
Your ticket is drawn a twenty thousand prize.

200.
I invite you and your neighbours to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar.

1000.
I intend to shake a noble bag fox tomorrow. Meet me at day-break on the downs.

F I N I S.

Printed by BRIMMER and Co. No. 21,
Water Lane, Fleet Street.