Lecture on Morse's Electric Telegraph

The word Telegraph is derived from two Greek words τηλε at a distance and γραφω to write.

A telegraph therefore is to write at a distance and a Telegraph is any piece of mechanism by which we are enabled to make legible communication between distant points.

Telegraphs though not a new thing have of late received a very extraordinary share of attention, and that which was formerly only employed with great difficulty and at great expense in some particular cases,

has now become a medium
of common communication & bids
fairly to prove both a miracle of
science and a source of revenue
to the nation.

Though very many of us had
scarcely heard of a telegraph
& still more were ignorant of its
construction & uses until this
new wonder of the 19th Century
burst upon us, yet the idea
of telegraphic Communication has
been imposed upon by the English
& the French for more than two
Centuries & a half. The idea of
Communicating intelligence by
signals would be very naturally
suggested to the mind, and
accordingly we find that some
of the most savage nations of