

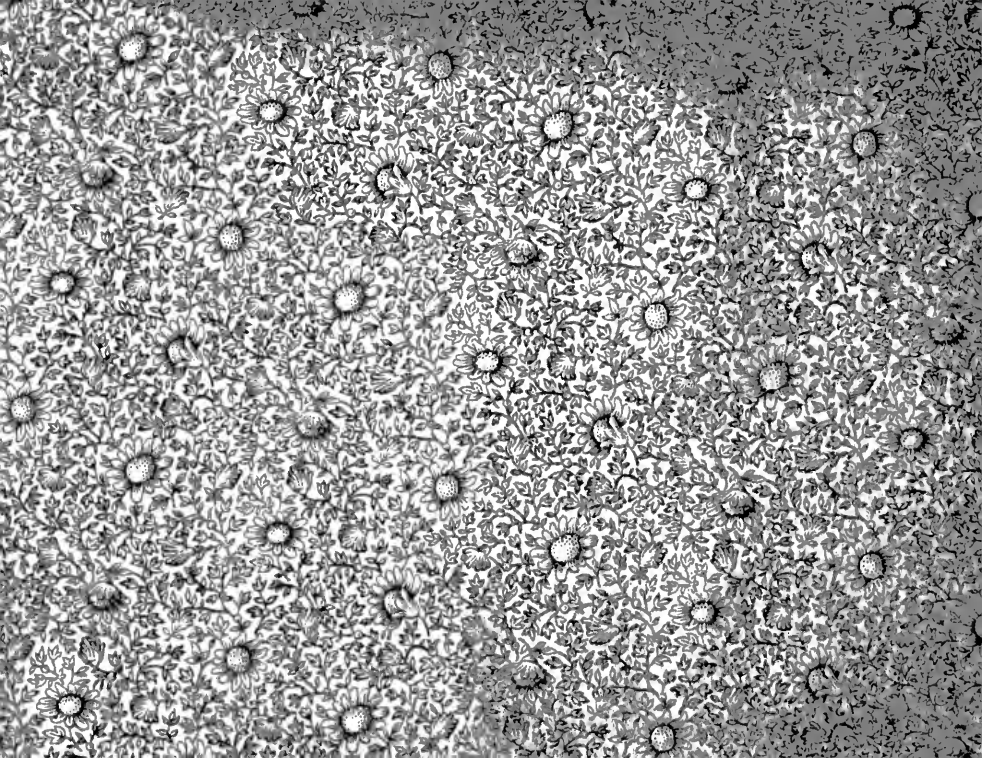
CIPHER, LETTER,

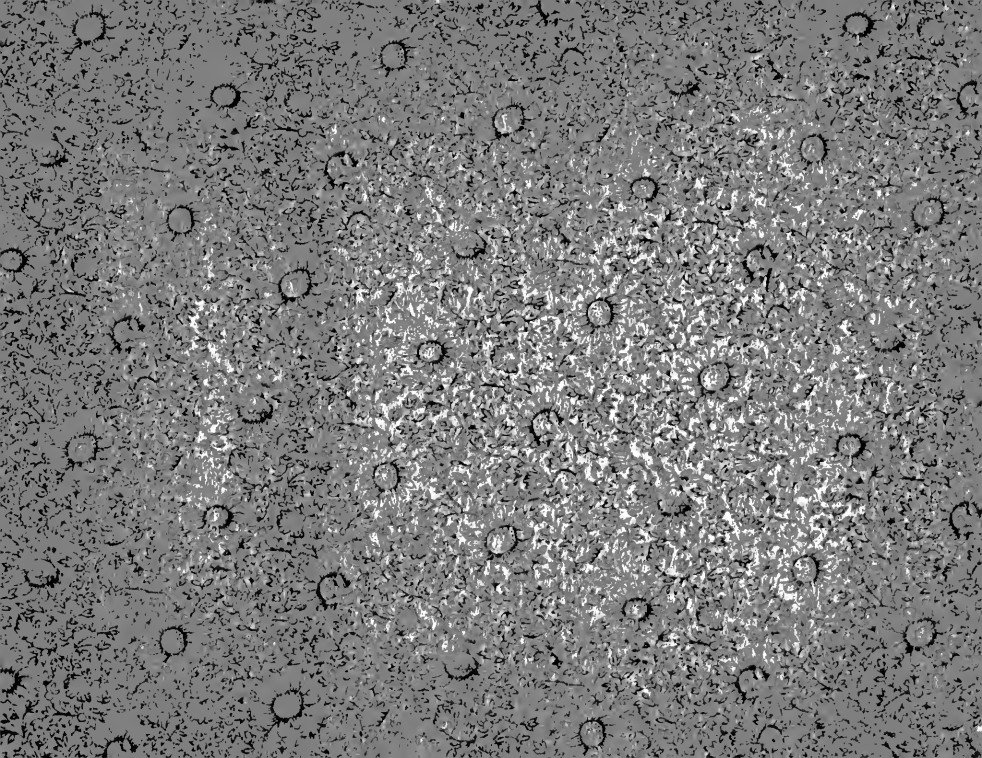
AND

TELEGRAPH CODE

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LARRABEE.









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# LARRABEE'S CIPHER

AND

## SECRET LETTER AND TELEGRAPH CODE,

WITH HOGG'S IMPROVEMENTS.

THE MOST PERFECT SECRET CODE EVER INVENTED OR DISCOVERED.  
IMPOSSIBLE TO BE READ WITHOUT THE KEY. INVALUABLE FOR SECRET. MILITARY, NAVAL, AND  
DIPLOMATIC SERVICES, AS WELL AS FOR BROKERS, BANKERS, AND MERCHANTS.

BY CHARLES S. LARRABEE,

THE ORIGINAL INVENTOR OF THE SYSTEM.

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*SECOND EDITION.*

NEW YORK:

D. VAN NOSTRAND, PUBLISHER, 23 MURRAY AND 27 WARREN STREET.

1884.

# P R E F A C E .

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My attention was first called to the importance of Secret Cipher writing while employed upon some special service for the U. S. Government in 1863.

I very soon discovered the imperfect character of the then existing systems, and set myself to work to devise a better. After a great deal of labor and many unsatisfactory experiments, I hit upon this system, the idea first striking me from the "Key-word Lock." Other occupations compelled me to temporarily defer the publication, and not until the winter of 1869-70 did I fully perfect the code which I herewith present to the American public.

Pending arrangements for its publication, I learned that Mr. G. Hogg, of London, had published a code almost identical with my own. After some correspondence on the subject, he very honorably acknowledged my right to the main features of the code, while I admitted that the part relating to figures was unquestionably his. I claim to be the original discoverer of this system, which I call the "Key-word System."

CHARLES S. LARRABEE.

NEW YORK. *January 1st*, 1871.



## INTRODUCTION.

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THIS Secret Code may be used by any one. It is so perfect that no message written by it can possibly be read without knowing the particular key-word used.

In most of the Cipher systems a mere changing of the order of the alphabet, or certain signs for certain letters, has been used, and in consequence of the same letter being always represented by the same cipher, an expert could easily read any message. In this system the constant change of cipher for every letter makes the message perfectly secret.

By its use any number of persons may write the same message, and each be unintelligible save for those intended. It is very simple, and with ordinary care there can be no mistake or misunderstanding. Your message can be written in any language.

# INSTRUCTIONS.

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Fix upon a key-word which communicate to your correspondent ; any word may be adopted, and it is judicious to select one that can be remembered by both parties ; care must be taken that it is spelled alike by both, else the message could not be read as intended.

**TO CONVERT A MESSAGE INTO CIPHER.**—A key-word having been arranged between yourself and receiver, **FIRST** write down plainly and distinctly the message to be sent ; *then write the key-word over the message*, repeating it as often as necessary to the end of the message. *Find the ciphers thus* : Take the first letter of the key-word and the first letter of the message and find the *same* letters in *exactly the same position* in Table I. The letter underneath is the first cipher. Repeat this process with all the letters, taking the second letter of key-word and the second letter of the message, the third letter of key-word and the third letter of the message, and so on to the conclusion.

**TO CONVERT CIPHERS INTO THE MESSAGE.**—First write down the ciphers as received, *then write over them the particular key-word* between yourself and correspondent, repeating it as often as necessary till *each cipher has a letter of the key-word over it* : take the first letter of the key-word and the first cipher, and find the *same* letters in *exactly the same position* in Table II. ; the letter which is under them is the first letter of the message. Repeat this process with all the others, taking second letter of key-word and second cipher, and finding second letter of message, and so on till the ciphers are all translated.

# EXAMPLES.

## I.

A MESSAGE CONVERTED INTO CIPHERS.

*Key-word, "Jove."*

Key-word .....	J O V E	J O V E	J O V	E J	O V E J O
Message to be sent.....	M O V E	F O R W A R D	I N	F O R C E	
Cipher to be sent.....	V C Q I	O C M A	J F Y	M W	T J V L S

## II.

*Key-word, "Hope."*

Key-word.....	H O P E	H O P E	H O P E	H O	
Message.....	S E L L	E V E R Y	T H I N G		
Cipher to be sent.....	Z S A P	L J T V	F H W M	U U	

## III.

CIPHERS CONVERTED INTO A MESSAGE.

*Key-word, "Decatur."*

Key-word.....	D E C A T U R	D E C A T U R	D		
Ciphers received.....	V E R L B G D	H H K A M Y C	B		
Message reads.....	S A I L I M M	E D I A T E L Y			

## IV.

Key-word, "Lodi."

Keyword .....	LOD	ILODILODI	LODILODI
Ciphers received.....	EVH	XCSVQOSQB	ZFGMCGLB
Message reads.....	THE	PRESIDENT	ORDERSIT

*Instructions for Messages containing Figures.*

Let the letters.....	ABCDEFGHIJ
Stand for the figures.....	1234567890

When writing your message down *first* on paper, substitute the above letters for figures, as A H G A for 1871. But *prefix such letters* by the letter Q, and such other letter from A to I as shall indicate the number of letters following, which are to be read as figures. Thu :

Q A F.....	6
Q B I J.....	90
Q C B C D.....	234
Q E A E E J J.....	15500

Having written down your message as directed, proceed to convert *the whole* of it into ciphers in the usual way.

(The letter Q is never found in any part of a word unless in conjunction with the letter U, and therefore it is the only letter that can be selected as a sign.)

*Examples relating to Messages containing Figures.*

I.

A MESSAGE CONVERTED INTO CIPHERS.

Original Message.....Remit 3750 dollars.  
 To be written thus.....Remit Q D C G E J dollars.

*Key-word, "Hanover"*

Key-word.....HANOVERHANOVERHANO  
 Message.....REMITQDCGEJDOLLARS  
 Ciphers.....YEZWOUUJGRXYSCSAEG

II.

TO CONVERT CIPHER INTO MESSAGE.

*Key-word, "Hero."*

Key-word.....HEROHEROHE  
 Ciphers received.....VRCMXHSSQN  
 Message reads first.....Only Q D C E J J  
 or, "Only 2,500."











## TABLE II.

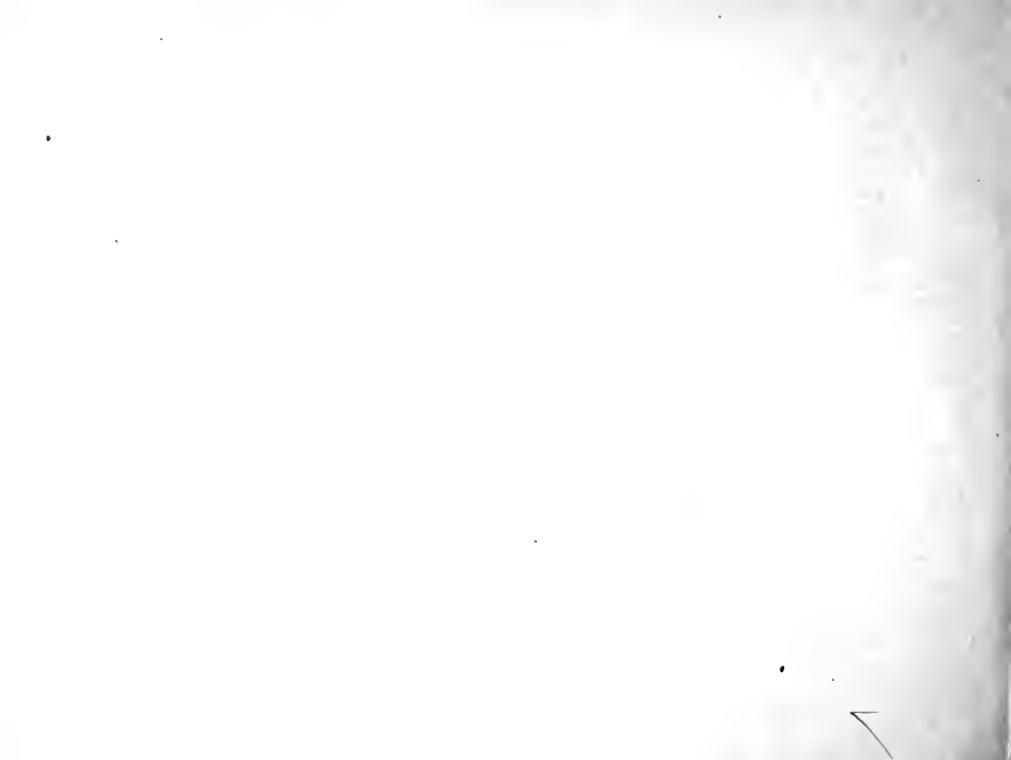
Letter of Key-word.....	A	A A
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Key-word .....	B	B B
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y
Letter of Key-word.....	C	C C
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X
Letter of Key-word .....	D	D D
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message .....		X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W
Letter of Key-word.....	E	E E
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V
Letter of Key-word .....	F	F F
Cipher .....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U



TABLE II.—Continued.

Letter of Key-word.....	N	N N
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M
Letter of Key-word.....	O	O O
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L
Letter of Key-word.....	P	P P
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K
Letter of Key-word.....	Q	Q Q
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J
Letter of Key-word.....	R	R R
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I
Letter of Key-word.....	S	S S
Cipher.....		A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Letter of Message.....		I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H





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