

anchor, called the sheet-cable : and the two bowers, best and small. The ordinary length of the great cable is 120 fathoms or braces.

To make a cable ; after forming the strands, they use staves : which they first pass between the strands that they may turn the better, and be intertwined the more regularly together. And to prevent any entangling, a weight is hung at the end of each strand. The cable, being properly twisted, neither too much, so as to become stiff, nor too little, so as to be weakened, is untwisted again three or four turns, that the rest may the better retain its state. The usual allowance for the diminution of length by twisting, is one-third of the whole ; so that for a cable of 120 fathoms, the rope-yarn must be 180 fathoms long.

The number of threads which each kind of cable is to be composed of, is always proportioned to its length and thickness ; and it is by this number of threads that its weight and value are ascertained. Supposing, then, the lengths to be equal the number of threads and the weights will be as the areas of their bases, or, which comes to the same, as the squares of their circumferences. Having then the weight and number of threads of any one cable, we may easily calculate the following table. See Aubin's Marine Dictionary.)

Circumference.	Threads.	Weight.
3 Inches	48	1,2 Pounds
4	77	308
5	121	484
6	174	696
7	238	952
8	311	1244
9	393	1572
10	485	1940
11	598	2392
12	699	2796
13	821	3284
14	952	3808
15	1093	4372
16	1244	4976
17	1404	5616
18	1575	6296
19	1754	7016
20	1943	7772

Several salutary laws respecting the manufacture of cables have been made in the reign of his present majesty, Geo. III. See 25 Geo. III. c. 56. It has also been enacted, that commanders of vessels belonging to British subjects, having on board foreign made cordage, shall make entry thereof at their arrival into any British port ; and the master making default herein, all such foreign cordage as shall be on board shall be forfeited to his majesty ; and shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of 20s. for every hundred weight thereof.

In the French marine, the circumference of the largest cable is one twenty-fourth part of the extreme breadth of the ship ; or half the breadth in feet will be the circumference in inches. Thus, the circumference of the largest cable of a ship, whose extreme breadth is 32 feet, will be 16 inches. The length of a cable is 120 fathoms, each 5 French feet. The weight of one fathom of cable in French pounds is nearly equal to one-tenth of twice the square of the circumference ; and, consequently, the weight of a whole cable will be nearly equal to twenty-four times the square of the circumference. The weight of an anchor is half the weight of the cable to which it belongs.

CABLE, *bit the.* See BITS.

CABLE, in *Navigation*, a thick, long, three-strand rope, ordinarily of hemp, serving to hold ships firm at anchor, and to tow vessels in large rivers. In Europe, the cables are commonly made of hemp ; in Africa, of long straw, or rushes called *bafs* ; and in Asia, of a peculiar kind of Indian grass.

The word cable comes from the Hebrew word *chebel*, cord. Du-Cange derives it from the Arabic, *habl*, cord, or *babala*, vincire : Menage, from *capulum*, or *cabulum* ; and that from the Greek *καμηλος*, or the Latin *camelus*.

The term cable is sometimes also applied to the cordage used to raise maffy loads, by means of cranes, wheels, and other like engines ; though in strictness, cable is not to be applied to ropes of less than three inches in circumference. Every cable, of whatever thickness it be, is composed of three strands ; each strand of three twists ; and each twist of a certain number of caburus, or threads of rope yarn, more or less, as the cable is to be thicker or smaller.

Every merchant-vessel, how small soever, has three cables ; viz. the main or master-cable, which is that of the chief anchor,