

little, self-contained community in the midst of which the lot of these artificers was thrown.

IV. *The Commercial and Industrial Stage.*—As centuries passed, these communities developed, and their needs increased ; the simple food, clothing, housing, and amusements of early days no longer sufficed. With improved methods of agriculture, and improved tools for manufacturing articles required by an agricultural community, the men practising separate employments increased their output, with the result that they sought a wider market. In other words, the agricultural stage reached its highest point, and a new era opened out before the progressive man. This is known as the commercial and industrial stage. This stage has continued down to the present time, though it too has been subject to development since the comparatively simple beginnings made in the agricultural village or small town. There was a great advance when what is known as the Guild System began to be practised. This system had, in its day, a very great and widespread influence on mankind. But it tended, as a system, to become petrified and inelastic, and with growing ideas concerning liberty, man became dissatisfied, and refused to be bound by archaic Guild Law. Fortunately this Guild Law only ran within certain limits, and so the progressive man went beyond