

and though it must grow with the country generally, has not before it that almost unlimited capability of expansion which the manufacturing interest has, all the way to the Mississippi. The importing interest is strong, no doubt, but the development of other Pennsylvanias in Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, and of another and greater New England on the borders of Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior, will by and by throw a weight into the scale which will render resistance hopeless. This is the natural, inevitable course and sequence of events, which may, almost for all countries and in the history of all ages, be described as follows : First, agricultural civilization, equal, or generally so, to the demands of subsistence, but without either commerce or manufactures to speak of. A moment's reflection will show that a people so circumstanced, will, when they first experience the desire and the capacity to make use of the products of a more forward state of civilization, be more apt to seek to purchase those products from such communities as have them to sell, than to make them for themselves. It is of the very nature of things that the presupposed inability to manufacture, of such a people, leads them at first straight to the method of supplying themselves by purchase, rather than by attempts to manufacture at home. If this has been the case in time past, how much more may we look for it to be the case in our own time, when the school of political economists— of those who take that title exclusively to themselves—would almost move heaven and earth to show that exchanging, rather than producing, is the source of national wealth. The natural tendency to procure by exchange at first is certainly strong enough, without being intensified by the teachings of those who would keep us always exchanging, and never manufacturing—that is—in the background of civilization. According to this view, the commercial stage of national development necessarily precedes the mechanical or manufacturing stage, with exceptions, of course, in the cases of origination of particular manufactures, which it is plain must originate somewhere. The Free Traders are unable, with the whole record of history before them, to cite instances to confute the great general principle, that the commercial stage of civilization precedes, and is inferior to, the mechanical or manufacturing stage. Nay, we may carry the idea even into the domain of the fine arts, and say that the