

1,000,000,000 upon Rivers and Canals, and of another 1,000,000 upon the Maritime Ports and Sea Coast."

Such are the effects of Commercial power; and on Mercantile knowledge Commerce must in all Countries chiefly, and in a Country solely, depend. China, with two hundred and sixty millions, has not the foreign Commerce enjoyed by Holland, who has barely three; and, but for Commerce, Holland might have remained a bog and England a forest. A Country without Manufactures (Spain, for instance) can only export the surplus of her Agricultural produce, and import of course no more than the value of that produce; for a Nation can buy just exactly to the same amount she can sell. Whereas, the skill and industry of a scientific Nation creates wealth. Thus, a pound of cotton, of the value of 3s. when imported into England, and exported in the shape of a web of flannel or muslin, worth £25, the difference of the two values is created by, and is the wages of, Mechanical skill. In Britain, we have gradations of rank from the King to the laborer; and in every rank numerous members, keenly alive to the means to be employed for the public good, and all sensible of the value of knowledge and mechanical improvement, and aware of the rank in public estimation that the advancement of these must confer—when we see among our men of Science the noble names of Worcester, Dundonald, Cavendish, Boyle, and Seymour; and as the patrons of the Arts the Duke of Devonshire, Bridgewater, Portland, Devonshire, and perhaps half the Peerage besides—when we see, in the middle ranks, a Davy, a Telford, a Rennie, a Smeaton, and a Brunell—we can easily see good reason to hope, that the Arts will flourish under such professors backed by such patrons; but our hopes become a certainty when we know that much, if not the greater part, of our Mechanical improvement has sprung from the genius and intelligence of the working mechanics of Great Britain—when we reflect, that a trade which produces more money by one-half than our whole National Revenue was called into existence little more than half a century ago by the genius of a man, who, till he attained the age of five-and-forty, filled the humble situation of a Village Barber—when we remember that those stupendous communications which at once so immensely add to the wealth of the Country through which they pass, and that of the individuals who have constructed them, the Canals of England, the lowest value set upon which is sixty millions, a sum that we feel difficult even to imagine, owe their origin to the genius