

chants, and they are found extending their commercial transactions into almost every known country. It appears to me, Mr. Editor, the superiority they possess in this respect arises in a great measure from their superior facility in learning different languages. In former times this was less necessary, or a less laborious part of a merchant's education, than at present. French was then the almost universal language of commercial men, but now this is not so much the case; the exertions of commerce are extended more widely, and in their sweep embrace almost every country which is known to civilized Europe; hence a merchant cannot be too well versed in these languages, and the more of them he knows the wider may he extend his business. A merchant must be well acquainted with the general laws of trade as established among commercial men. The laws which regulate it in his own country and also the municipal rules to which it is liable in other places. He ought to be sufficiently skilled in modern history that he may know the geographical situation and the relative position of those places with which he trades, and where trade, as far as regards situation, can be pursued with the greatest advantage. The exports, whether the natural productions or manufactures, of every country ought to be known to him; and by this he can regulate what he is to send to each, and what he can bring back with the surest prospect of an efficient return. In addition to his knowledge of the commercial laws of his own country, and the local regulations of each place to which he trades, if he can acquire a knowledge of the laws by which the commerce of any country is conducted, it will be to his advantage. It is highly necessary for him to know the state of the public finances in these countries where he carries on his business; their circulating medium, and its comparative value with that of other countries; the currency of different nations; the state of their exchange, whether steady or apt to fluctuate, and what events are calculated to depress it. In the pursuits of his business he must often employ shipping, and this induces the necessity for a knowledge of the laws which regulate chartering parties and other maritime operations. He will be under the necessity of effecting insurances upon his merchandize, not only while in warehouses, but likewise when in *transitu* from place to place, and on this account he must get acquainted with the laws by which insurance companies are governed, and that branch of these laws which relates to shipping, termed the laws of *bottomry*. An acquaintance with mathematics; at all events, a complete knowledge of the lower branches of this science, will be useful for the merchant, as it will enable him to make his calculations with precision, and facilitate his doing so.

These, Mr. Editor, I consider the indispensable parts of a commercial education, and such as none who are desirous of becoming extensive merchants ought to be ignorant of. There are many other acquirements partly to be learned, and partly the gift of nature, which if possessed of, he will be the better able to sustain the character of a merchant; but it is only necessary to touch slightly upon these—if properly educated, his own good sense will show him the necessity for them. Among these may be mentioned a genteel manner and easy address, equally remote from the foppery of the courtier and the rough-