

from 65,756,000*l.*, in 1851, to 122,155,000*l.* in 1857. Add to the above the fact, that within ten years the resources of our Colonies have been largely developed, and the commercial world has acquired three additional emporia: two on the shores of the Pacific, and one on the great American Lakes, viz., San Francisco, Melbourne, and Chicago, none of which are even named in the edition of Mr. M'Cullough's Dictionary of Geography, published in 1849; also that China and Japan have now been opened to trade with England; and we cannot but come to the conclusion that ten years is a period fully sufficient to justify the Society of Arts in proposing to hold an Exhibition in 1861.

It must never be forgotten in the present age, that the great secret of success in commerce is rapidity of action and correspondence. This is greatly aided by a penny post and the electric telegraph, and the merchant or manufacturer who fails to make free use of either or both of these means, inevitably falls into the rear of his competitors. What the telegraph and post are to the merchant and manufacturer, Exhibitions must be to the general public—they are the telegraphs by which the public may be made rapidly acquainted with the new products of our Colonies and the application of those products to our wants.

In 1624 the celebrated Act for the abolition of monopolies was passed, and England's trade has been left free to develop itself in the majority of cases ever since. The extended publication to the world of our capability and power as producers must ever tend to the increase of trade. It is not sufficient to produce, or possess the power of producing, we must make our products known to the greatest possible extent. The recognition of this principle led to the establishment of Exhibitions in France at a time when its factories were full of their finest productions, but no demand existed for them; the demand was created by means of Exhibitions. England did not put forth its full power in 1851; Exhibitions were then a new and unexplored field to our manufacturers. Many were in ignorance of their nature, or prejudiced against them, and therefore withheld their contributions; where prejudice then existed it has since been removed. New firms, and those manufacturers who had scarcely begun life ten years ago, will, by means of an Exhibition in 1861, be enabled to put forth their energy and display their skill as manufacturers, and thus attain to that position which competition in private tends much to retard. The eleven Exhibitions of France prove that, however adverse the times, or unsettled commerce may be, the number of producers has ever been on the increase, and they are ever ready to contribute their productions at such displays. The seaboard of England and its insular position do not afford our merchants and manufacturers the same advantages over the other producing countries of Europe which England had previous to the construction of railways and telegraphs; the latter enabling prices to be learned and purchases effected at great distances, whilst by the former the goods are conveyed from the seat of production in the interior of a country to the coast without delay, and at a little cost. England having attained to pre-eminence as a manufacturing country, such pre-eminence can only be maintained by a full and constant development, and such development will take place only in proportion to the demand for improved machinery or manufactures. It is a fallacy to suppose that Exhibitions will deprive our manufacturers of the advantages they possess, by laying open their