

lows far away in flowery field and greener woodland, on sunny banks and breezy hills, man reaches his highest condition amid the social influences of the crowded city." Similar in effect and tendency are the entire operations and influence of modern arts and industry. They intensify our application, but they enhance our capacities. They curtail our hours of recreation and enjoyment, but they consummate grand and beneficial results. The pent-up man of labour, whether of thought or action, when he wishes to refit his exhausted energies or rekindle his flagging zeal, may not always be at liberty to disport his fancy mid the freshness of rural scenes, but he can enjoy a vast expanse of contemplation which his own labours have helped to unfold:—

"The towns he quickened by mechanic arts,
And bade the fervent city glow with toil,
Bade social commerce raise renowned marts,
Join land to land and, marry soil to soil;
Unite the poles, and without bloody spoil
Bring home of either Ind the gorgeous stores;
Or should despotic rage the world embroil
Bade tyrants tremble on remotest shores,
While o'er the encircling deep Britannia's thunder roars."

If ever man required comfort "concerning the work and toil of his hands," it is needed by the merchants of the present day. The ground may, indeed, be no longer cursed for man's sake, but the ground of the merchants operations, the basis of his medium of exchange, has of late brought forth thorns and thistles to him in abundance.

"But a truce to complaints tho' the bubble has burst,
We will say, with Tom Moore, "let fate do her worst,"
Let cheating and tricking thrive while they may,
The honest and upright will yet hold their sway,
And a happier mode to gain wealth will be shown,
'Than in spending the money that is not your own."

The amenities of commerce must be sought in reflections distinct from those associated with the present state of trade. The merchant who broods with morbid despondency over the present embarrassments and prevailing ruin, is not the most likely to gain, from the severe tuition of the past, a sound lesson of experience, on which to base his hopes of better success for the future. The partial suspension of mercantile operations has left more leisure for the business man to ruminate than he may find quite pleasant. The current events which commonly afford the most suitable subjects for his contemplation, can now yield little but what induces ennui and disgust. He will therefore do well to direct his thoughts to topics more cheering, more grateful than the progress of the panic or the latest list of failures. He cannot do better than spend half an hour in scanning the more pleasing features of the calling in which he is associated.

The occupation of commerce needs not, in the present day, to be magnified by any apology or defence. We can go back to a very early date in the world's history, and read of merchants that were princes. In later times, it