

the best adapted to speak upon it, and the best qualified to form a judgment regarding any proposed change of laws which tends to affect it; hence the judicious and highly proper practice often resorted to of examining merchants before committees of the House of Lords or of Commons on any question touching commerce; and I need not point out the advantages, nay, I may say the necessity, a man requires for a good education before he can with propriety appear before either of these august assemblies. But in addition to their being able to answer questions when put to them in this situation, it so happens that merchants individually and collectively are often obliged to make application to government for changes and improvements in the laws which regulate commerce. I need not urge the propriety of these applications being made in proper form, which cannot be done without the individual is possessed of something more than a counting-house education. Thus, it is evident, Mr. Editor, for the protection of commerce, and for its improvement, even for its very existence, it is absolutely necessary for merchants to be well-educated men. When I mention the phrase well-educated, I would not imply any superfluous education; not that of an antiquary, nor does he require those ornamental branches, of music, drawing, &c. which are often more injurious than advantageous, and never fail to abstract a portion of time in acquiring them which might be devoted to more useful and solid studies; these, therefore, are always to be looked upon more as accomplishments or adjuncts than essentials; but by the education proper for a merchant is signified those branches which are essentially necessary for the pursuits he follows, and without which he cannot be said to be perfectly qualified for his business.

I have already noticed how far it is beneficial for commerce in general that those who follow this occupation should be properly qualified by the education they receive, to protect and improve their trade, and to secure it as far as possible under the wisest legislative enactments; but for the benefit of the individuals engaged in it, and for the advancement of the interest of each of them, a certain education is necessary, and my next object is to point out what branches of education are more essentially necessary for those who embark in mercantile pursuits to study.

This part of my subject may be premised with the general remark, that the education proper for a merchant is very extensive, perhaps more so than for any other business or occupation with which I am acquainted. A British merchant ought to be what is termed a general scholar to qualify him for his occupation—in addition to the usual routine of school learning, which is only the foundation of any kind of learning, he must be acquainted with all the modern languages which are used in the countries with which he trades. It is not by this meant that he must have a critical knowledge of these languages. This is not necessary; but he ought to be able to converse intelligibly in these languages, and to write a business letter in them. Without this he must be dependant upon translators, and be continually upon the watch lest he be made the dupe of them in the event of his extending his business to any country with the language of which he is unacquainted. It has been observed that Germans make good mer-