

and the cost of operating them has been reduced in a corresponding degree, comparing very favorably with the reduction of cost upon land, which is about one-third of what it was ten years ago. The characteristic of modern commerce is the rapidity with which exchanges are made, and in the fact that all portions of the habitable globe are quickly reached. The commercial world has been converted into a vast clearing-house for the exchange of products. One country may sell more than it buys, or buy more than it sells, to a particular country, but the difference is counterbalanced by a corresponding sale and purchase from some other country. The balances are not paid in money, but are passed to the credit of each country in the general settlement which takes place in the banking centres of the commercial world. Thus the function of the precious metals is reduced simply to the payment of final balances, which in the course of any one year are small in amount. The economy in exchange thus effected is largely due to the improvement in transportation, made possible by the general use of steel, aided by the telegraph, and particularly by the submarine cables which now reach every part of the civilized world. The interdependence of the human race has thus been increased, and the possibilities of hostile action by war diminished in a corresponding degree. The name of Bessemer will, therefore, be added to the honorable roll of men who have succeeded in spreading the gospel of "Peace on earth and good-will toward men," which our divine master came on earth to teach and to encourage.

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[Mr. Hewitt's remarks lead us to one very clear conclusion—that as an "apostle of democracy," (whether consciously so or not), Sir Henry Bessemer has by his mechanical improvements done more to benefit his fellow men in one generation than had been accomplished by the moral and religious teachers of the fifty preceding generations. And if to-day the masses have only very partially reaped the benefits arising from those improvements, this is to a large extent due to the false teachings of those so-called moral and religious agents of a "divine master." With the "Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God" upon their lips, their sectarian disputes and bigoted intolerance have divided men—families and nations alike—into hostile camps full of false and conflicting notions of each other, and ready at the beck of a few politicians and priests to fly at each other's throats like wild beasts. The real work of teaching men the true significance of the doctrine of human brotherhood, and of exhibiting its actual and present-day benefits, has devolved upon the mechanical inventor. And the masses will learn the lesson, not from a heavily-salaried priest, clothed in "vestments" and standing in a presumptuous pulpit, preaching doctrines the very reverse of those he lives up to, but from their own co-operative efforts, which alone will enable them to gather the fruits which men like Bessemer discover and place within their reach.—Ed.]

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