

the class of professional men who make or administer law, cure diseases, or care for the spiritual interests of the people.

For the first few years, a very small supply of actual money suffices an infant community in the conduct of its business. Barter in various forms is the ordinary medium of exchange. So many yards of cotton for so many bushels of wheat; so much of nets or ammunition for so many fish or skins. This and such-like modes of making exchanges serve all the practical purposes of life, and at this stage of development all wealth, roughly speaking, consists of land, houses, or goods.

But as time goes on, Money in the shape of notes or coin finds its way to the community; and one man after another who prospers in his affairs comes to have more or less of it.

When, from such simple rudiments as a blacksmith's smithy, a store, a grist and carding mill, and a tavern, at some crossroads of the olden time, or a railway station of the present, there has grown up an aggregation of such concerns, some of them in a well-developed form; and when, all round about, the forest or prairie has been converted into productive farms, sufficient money will generally have been accumulated to give rise to the question, *Who is to take care of it?* The answer to this question opens up another class of service; that, namely, rendered by a person who has for generations been known as A BANKER. This being understood, let us enquire under what conditions any man is likely to undertake that service, and how he is to be remunerated for it?

#### DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN BANKING.

Putting aside, at present, considerations as to the origin of corporations like the Bank of England and the Bank of Scotland, it will be interesting to note how the simple function of taking care of the spare money of a man's neighbors, gradually assumed, one after another, the complicated forms of modern banking.

The first "banker" (if he may be so called at this stage) is usually one of those prosperous men of business who are to be found in every community, and whose store, warehouse, or factory is known to everybody in it. All his surroundings suggest that he is a man of means. He is also a man of reputation. He has had money dealings with his neighbors, and all respect and trust him. He has money of his own, and has a strong box or chest in which to place it, as everybody knows. What more natural, then, than that he shall be asked to take care of the money of his neighbors, as well as his own?

Some of the more cautious ones will, indeed, never trust their money out of their own possession. Some do not want it to be known that they have money at all. The secretive instinct prevails everywhere, and is to be found even in these days of highly developed banking. The failure of a banking corporation or of a private banker, even now, invariably drives some people back to the rudimentary stage of taking care of their own money. In this, however, they encounter another danger, viz., that their