

inexhaustible resources of this great and rapidly growing portion of our country.

I now propose to continue this subject by an exhibit of the business of 1846. The great increase this year, in all the more valuable agricultural productions over former years, cannot fail to attract public attention to the importance of this growing trade, and shadow forth the value of the great West to the mercantile, manufacturing and commercial interests of the sea-board.

The West!—a name given only a few years since to a remote, boundless and unsettled wilderness, inhabited only by roving bands of wild Indians and savage animals,—visited only by the Indian trader, or some romantic spirit pleased with the novelty of an adventure into unknown regions,—a country which it appeared centuries must pass away before settlement and civilization would occupy it—has suddenly, as if by magic, with the powerful aid of steam, and the indomitable enterprise, industry and perseverance of a free people, with the blessings of free institutions, securing to all the fruits of their own labor, been reclaimed from the wilderness. All physical difficulties have been overcome, this vast region of country has been penetrated in all quarters, and in the place where once stood the wigwam of the savage, is now found the school-house, the mechanic shop, the temples of religion and science, and cities and towns, containing from 500 to 15,000 souls, dot the land in large numbers. Roads have been constructed, rivers improved, mills erected, and in every direction is heard the whistling of the free, the intelligent and industrious farmer, as he pursues his laborious but independent occupation. Literally have they caused the “wilderness