

2nd Advantages.—*a.* Commerce and trade gain exceedingly by the ease and quickness of intercourse. "Time is money." The peculiar products of different places find new markets.—*b.* Agriculture is benefited; the farmer is not compelled to sell his products in the nearest market; hence higher prices, and consequently increase of wealth with improved modes of cultivating the land, new machinery, fine stock. Famine, formerly so common, may now in most cases be avoided by sending the surplus of one country to feed the suffering population of another.—*c.* General culture is diffused by the facility of communication: every one may see more in a day than formerly in a week. Not only is commerce promoted but also art and science.—*d.* By the growing wealth, enterprise receives constant stimulus, and opens new fields of industry; the rich, instead of becoming dangerous to our institutions, rather feel that, for the most, they owe their prosperity to those free institutions. Besides, public opinion has become such a power in our day, that even wealth is obliged to submit to it.—*e.* Even family ties are drawn more closely, and new ones are formed by means of easier intercourse.—*f.* In times of war, a more speedy concentration of troops takes place: hence, a quicker decision, and shortening of the suffering produced by war. The Italian campaign of 1859, the civil war of the United-States of 1861-63, the Prussian of 1870, would have had quite different results if these modern improvements had not been brought into requisition.

II. Conclusion.—Which are greater, the advantages or the disadvantages? What would be the condition of the United States and Canada, with their great lakes and rivers, their broad expanse of territory, if the steam-engine had not been invented? God brings about great revolutions in the affairs of men when they are most needed: look at the map of Europe and at that of America, and it will be apparent that there was design in reserving the great inventions of the steam-engine and the telegraph until the discovery of the western continent, with its broad inland territories, should render them necessary.