

would branch off a series to all ports, ameliorating the condition of "the people," and thus to ultimately to remodel the face of the country.

While these several internal changes would be in progress, steam navigation to the east coast of Africa, Madagascar, and the Cape of Good Hope, on the one hand, and to the Indian Archipelago, Australia, and New Zealand, on the other, would reward the enterprising speculator, and bring prosperity and wealth to the country.

Having, as I hope, succeeded in pointing out some of the advantages which Ceylon must derive from its central geographical position, I shall pass on to deal similarly with Malta, observing that the transit through Egypt is about to be permanently improved by means of a highway across the desert, in connection with the steam boats already plying upon the river Nile.

Malta then (owing to her being the depot for all steamers direct, between the United Kingdoms and the colonies in the East, and at the same time, the point whence all steam navigation to the other ports of the Mediterranean, is made to radiate at once upon the arrival of mails from either of these quarters,) manifestly occupies as important a place in "the commercial," as she has always done in "the political world;" and it consequently rests with her people, native, as well as resident foreigners, whether she improve in this respect or not. It is in fact, their interest, whether as a community or merely as individuals severally pursuing their various occupations, each with his own pecuniary profit immediately in view, to combine more, with the understanding in common—that their united exertions tend to benefit the whole body, and not merely further to increase the wealth of a few who may already be possessed of more than sufficient to keep them in affluence, while others are in little better than a mendicant condition, though surrounded by almost every variety of the necessaries, and even by the luxuries of life, obtained at a ridiculously cheap rate. Indeed the condition of the lower orders of the Maltese, to whatever cause it is to be traced, appears to be at about as low an ebb, physically and morally, as it is possible for them almost to be reduced to. Affairs cannot always continue in this state; and it would therefore seem to behove those who, by virtue of a superior rank and station in life, exercise lordship over them, to see to it in time, as in such cases, very little trouble and expense in the beginning is found to save a great deal in the end, without taking into account the present evils that are either partially prevented, or wholly neutralized. As in all other places, a great deal, in this sense, lies