

49.—Advantages of Commerce.

I. *Wealth.*—1st To the producer.—*a.* The farmer.—*b.* The manufacturer.—2nd To the merchant.—*a.* The wholesale shipper.—*b.* The retail dealer.—3rd To those who transport merchandise.—*a.* Mariners, and owners of vessels.—*b.* Railroad companies.—*c.* Carters, etc.

II. *Industry.*—*a.* Disposes of merchandise.—*b.* Encourages, therefore, the fabrication of new goods.—*c.* Excites competition, thus calling forth the energies of man.

III. *Intellectual advantages.*—*a.* Brings men together from different countries, thus causing an interchange of ideas, and an acquaintance with one another's customs.—*b.* Promotes the study of languages.—*c.* Leads to discoveries in,—1. Geography. 2. Astronomy. 3. Natural Philosophy. 4. Statistics.

50.—Railroads and Steamboats.

I. *One of the most successful of inventions,* which keeps pace in importance with the art of printing, is the steam-engine. It is applied to the uses of travel and traffic on railroads and steamboats, and has called forth a powerful revolution, which has found its opponents as well as its defenders. We shall therefore speak of the advantages and the disadvantages of these rapid modes of locomotion.

1st Disadvantages.—*a.* Many persons, as drivers, inn-keepers, etc., have lost their occupation.—*b.* Smaller towns have either become desolate, or have advanced very slowly; while larger ones grow with amazing rapidity. In these latter is rushing to and fro a population not having the least interest at heart in the welfare of the city, speculating for money, and desecrating the place with immoral and irreligious principles; whence the sad state of a large portion of the population of our great cities.—*c.* The growing wealth of many of the citizens, may, in the course of time, be the means of making them hostile to our free institutions, and imbuing them with a spirit foreign to our Constitution and State organizations. With increasing riches, luxury enters, which may in the end destroy all simplicity of manners among the people.—*d.* The quickness of travel lessens the enjoyment and information which should be derived from that source.