

ital or minerals, has great facilities for producing particular kinds of manufactures. Were the corn growing country to waste capital in forcing vines, or engage in manufactures for which it might have to import the most costly material; were the manufacturing, mineral country to squander its means upon an ungenerous soil, the sacrifices made by each would be great, and the supply obtained only precarious and meagre after all. But commerce waits upon each in turn. To the farming country she says, abide by your fields; give to the soil your undivided attention; improve and ameliorate its condition, that it may yield you abundance for your pains, and I will give you in exchange for your surplus crops whatever you may desire from all quarters of the globe, in much greater variety and abundance than you can possibly obtain by any exertions or expedients to provide for your own entire wants yourself at home. To each country she speaks in similar terms; and all, in spite of old prejudices, political crotchets, and false theories, have listened to her overtures, and richly shared the bounties of her copious stores. "The labour of the human race thus becomes much more productive and every species of accommodation is afforded in much greater abundance. The same number of labourers whose efforts might have been expended in producing a very insignificant quantity of home-made luxuries, may thus in Great Britain produce a quantity of articles for exportation, accommodated to the wants of other places, and peculiarly suited to the genius of Britain to furnish which will purchase for her an accumulation of the luxuries of every quarter of the globe."

These are some of the direct material results of commercial agency, and it would be difficult to over-estimate their importance in a physical point of view. There is, however, an indirect influence which commerce has exerted upon society, by inspiring new tastes and stimulating enterprise and invention; bringing each nation into competition with foreigners and making them acquainted with their arts and institutions.

Mr Hume has beautifully illustrated the powerful and salutary influence of that spirit of industry and enterprise resulting from the eager prosecution of commerce and the arts. "Men," says he "are then kept in perpetual occupation, and enjoy as their reward the occupation itself, as well as those pleasures which are the fruits of their labour. The mind acquires new vigour, enlarges its powers and faculties, and, by an assiduity in honest industry, both satisfies its natural appetites, and prevents the growth of unnatural ones, which commonly spring up when nourished with leisure and idleness. Another advantage of industry, and refinement in the mechanical arts is, that they commonly produce some refinements in the liberal. The more these refined arts advance, the more sociable do men become; nor is it possible that when enriched with science, and possessed of a fund of conversation, they should be contented to remain in solitude or live with their fellow citizens in that distant manner which is peculiar to ignorant and barbarous nations."

This humanizing, harmonizing influence of commerce is not confined in its operation to individuals associated in distinct localities and countries. It has formed a community of nations as well. It begins with nations as with individuals, by bringing them into contact for the reciprocal advantages of traffic. They soon discover, that this primary object is being effectually promoted. They naturally proceed in their advances to seek for reciprocity in higher nobler acquisitions. Old prejudices, national antipathies, and exclusive