

world, which can only be described in the sublimely simple words with which the Scriptures depict the primeval chaos of the physical world, "it was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep."

What Rome wanted was Commerce and Manufactures. The State must necessarily, in all communities, establish a middle order of society, which forms a communicating link between the highest and the lowest; and one rank, shading imperceptibly into another, permits a common sympathy to pervade the whole: and in this state of things every man must have an interest in the common good, for, though only a part of the community can possess property and be men of rank and of influence, yet, every man sees that the door is open to him to possess these distinctions, and every man feels anxious to promote the good of a community, which, at the same time, may, or must, promote his own individual good: whereas when there are but two classes in the community, the Lord and the Slave, the one is at such an incalculable distance above the other that hope in the lower class to reach the rank of the higher would be madness.

The ashes of the fire of knowledge had smouldered where the fire had burned longest and brightest—in Italy. And there, accordingly, we find it burst forth anew, connected, as it always is, with Mechanical and Commercial power.

The small Italian Republics, having gradually shaken off, or amalgamated with, their barbarous conquerors, set out in pursuit of the Arts and Commerce. Their country produced silk, and they learned the arts of weaving and dyeing it. Glass, then a matter of luxury, was almost exclusively manufactured at Venice: and Navigation, being in its infancy, and the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope not discovered, their local situation gave them the monopoly of the trade of the East, and their Cities became the Enterpot and the Mart of the Commodities of the two ends of the then known world; and, stimulated by wealth, their Merchant Princes acquired imperishable fame by resuscitating learning that had been dead for centuries, and reviving those Arts which were all but forgotten.

Up to this period, we have been contemplating the decay of national power and greatness—here we have its rise: The Mechanical Arts produce Commerce—Commerce wealth, and wealth knowledge and again, all these principles re-act on each other, and each tend