

tic description of its operations discloses the melancholy fact that the Midianitish merchantmen, coming "from Gilead, with their camels, bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt," also dealt in the bodies of men. In fact, the first distinct notice we have of commerce is in connection with that most detestable of all traffic, the slave trade.

The connection between commerce and manufactures is sufficiently obvious, as the merchant must necessarily require the labour of the artizan to construct his roads, make his camel furniture, or pack saddles; in a more advanced stage, build his boats, ships, and other modes of transmitting the productions of one country to supply the deficiencies of another. The great centre of ancient commerce appears to have been in Egypt. That long narrow valley traversed for nearly a thousand miles by its noble river, abounding in the production of those cereals so necessary to the sustenance of man, was yet wanting in those luxuries which a high state of civilization demands. Active and diffusive as ancient commerce may have been, it was a mere fraction of that witnessed by modern days. Its great expansion is due to the invention of the mariner's compass, to the improvement in the method of propulsion, and to the discovery of steam power, as applicable to modern purposes. It is quite possible and more than probable, that the trade of this Province exceeded considerably the traffic of all the nations of the civilized world in the days of Solomon, and that the four million of tons annually shipped from, or arriving at our ports was beyond the utmost powers of the Phœnician, Egyptian, Roman, or Carthaginian navies. As the object of commerce is to supply the deficiencies of one country, by the surplus productions of another, it is evident this consideration of the connection of the primary principles on which all social order is founded naturally brings us to the subject of the lecture this evening. It belongs to the second of those necessary conditions mentioned, and has become an important item in the social condition of this country. The Staple Trade of this Province, generally known as the Lumber Trade, is a very ancient element of commercial importance. The Sidonians, or Ancient Phœnicians, were the great Lumber Manufacturers of their day; and the Forests of Lebanon furnished the Cedars and Firs which Hiram, King of Tyre sent by sea, "in Flotes to Joppa," thirty-eight miles from Jerusalem, for the building of the Temple. Its connection therefore with the infancy of commerce is not only beyond all conjecture, but we are told that the Sidonians excelled all other people in their skill at hewing Timber.