

“But suppose we go a step further, and estimate what the effects will be of extending this system of communication over the whole kingdom; what mind is there so comprehensive as to embrace all the important consequences to which it will lead? We think we shall not go far in saying, *that it will produce an entire change in the face of British Society.* The effect will be much the same as if the workshop of the manufacturer were brought along side the quarry, where he obtains his raw material, and whence he sends it forth again in a manufactured shape, to the most distant parts of the world: or as if the collieries, iron mines, and potters of the heart of England were scattered along its shores. Peculiar local advantages will figure less than they have done in our manufacturing and commercial history, since whatever one place produces, can be as quickly and cheaply transported to another; and instead of our manufactures continuing concentrated in two or three large towns—to the great injury of the moral and physical condition of those employed in them,—we may expect to see them spreading gradually over the kingdom.

Living in the country, will no longer be a term synonymous with every sort of inconvenience; and it will come to be a mere matter of choice, whether a man of business lives close by his counting house, or thirty miles from it. The rents of lands and houses will not be raised by the change, but they will be equalized; they will be reduced in town and raised in the country. In proportion, too, as the intercourse of men with each other, and the interchange of commodities between them is thus facilitated, the greater will be the cheapness of every thing; the more our manufacturers will have it in their power to bear up against that foreign competition by which they are so much endangered. The oftener (to use the common phrase) the penny is turned, the greater the profit; and the quicker the trader's return, the smaller capital he requires in business. In fine, we may say of railways in general, as a worthy gentleman is said to have observed of the Stockton and Darlington line, and with ten times greater probability of seeing our prophecy realized. **“LET THE COUNTRY BUT MAKE THE RAILROADS, AND THE RAILROADS WILL MAKE THE COUNTRY.”**