

us. As an instance of this fact, we may notice the *granite* brought to our city on the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road. It is not only an article very useful for home consumption, but much of it is exported, and found to be of a better quality than the majority of that which has heretofore been in use.

Another benefit to our commerce is the employment of a steam boat, fitted up as an *ice-breaker*, which keeps our harbor open during the winter. The advantage of this is easily to be conceived. Measures have been taken to prepare another ice-breaker probably against the ensuing winter.

The establishment of a great number of *brick-kilns* near the city, affords us another article of trade which yields an abundant profit. See article *brick making* in the preceding chapter.

The recent mineral discoveries in many parts of the State offer a fair expectation of future emolument. Nor must we forget to mention the epicurean production of Chesapeake bay, those delicious shell fish which are not less palatable to the gourmand than they are profitable to the speculator. The transportation of oysters westward by means of the turnpikes has lately become a considerable business, and several individuals have turned this ingenious device to a very good account.

In short, there seems to be a determination on the part of our fellow-citizens to employ every honest means which God has placed in their power to extend our commercial advantages, until Baltimore shall be second in this respect to no other city in the Union. This idea may not be quite so utopian as some persons might be led to suspect it.

As for the *trade* of the *west* which the city of New Orleans seems now inclined to dispute with us, and which the steam navigation on the western waters has a tendency to carry to that port, there is little doubt that the completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road will restore it to its original channel. The superiority of rail-road conveyance over all river navigation is not to be disputed; for, (not to speak of its greater safety,) its freedom from the uncertainty and delays of winds and tides, and from the suspension caused by the ice in the winter season, will always gain it the preference. These circumstances, and the advantages we possess with respect to *distance* will certainly obtain for Baltimore the trade of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana; for this will be the shortest and most expeditious route from those States to the tide waters of the Atlantic.

Chapter X.—Literature. Benevolent Societies, Miscellaneous.

But while such strenuous efforts are made by our citizens in those laudable pursuits which have just passed under consideration, is the *cultivation of the mind* neglected; or is there no pro-

