

Prof. Morse, which commenced its operations in May, 1844, and affords instant communication between Baltimore and Washington. This ingenious application of the magnetic force to the immediate transmission of intelligence, is destined to work astonishing changes in the intercourse and communications between cities and countries. The population of the city is rapidly increasing; trade is steadily improving; manufactures are spreading on the adjacent streams; and in the various branches of the mechanic arts, her workmen yield to none in the land for faithfulness, taste, and skill. Of the education of her children she is not unmindful; since she sustains twenty public schools, including one Male High School, and two Female High Schools, besides fostering a large number of private institutions and two Colleges; and that her people are alive to their religious interests, may be inferred from the fact that there are in the city nearly one hundred churches, generally well supported, and many of them new and of great architectural beauty. Of the healthfulness of the city, some conclusions may be drawn from the statement that the deaths during the past year were 2879. Among these were *nine* persons over one hundred years old—one 104; one 105; one 114, and one 115.

Having thus sketched, though far more at length than we at first intended, events connected with the settlement and progress of Baltimore up to the present time, we proceed to remark, very briefly, upon the position and prospects of the city.

It needs but a glance at the map of the United States, to see the great and manifold advantages of her position. In the centre of the Union, on the great line of intercourse between the North and South, eligibly situated on navigable waters, easily accessible by sea, in the vicinity of an immense resource of water power, within striking distance of regions of abundant fertility, and already, by her greater proximity, a favored competitor with other cities for the trade of the adjacent States, and of the great west, who can wonder that her progress has been rapid in population and prosperity, and who can doubt that she will yet rival the proudest cities of the continent, in all that constitutes the true greatness of a commercial emporium?

If, with the simple advantages of position, and in the face of difficulties of intercourse with the country and of other impediments, Baltimore has flourished, there can be no doubt that, when she is enabled fully to avail herself of the additional advantages afforded by the improvements of the age in ease and rapidity of intercourse and cheapness of transportation, her future will be even more prosperous than her former career. These are rapidly coming into action; and the time is not far distant when the branches of her Railroads and Canals shall, like those of the tree mentioned by the psalmist, "go to the rivers and the sea." These avenues of communication, branching off in all directions,—to the East, to the North, to the West, and to the South,—may be regarded as lines of radiation; by which the rays of an invigorating trade shall here meet and combine, as in a common focus; not merely imparting the glow of commercial prosperity to the centre, but also transmitting a reciprocal advantage to every region within the reach of its extended influence.

With the Baltimore and Philadelphia Railroad, the Tide Water Canal, the Susquehanna Railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, with their branches, and the many other modes of communication, by roads, rivers, and bay, our city seems to stand ready, Briareus-like, to extend its hundred iron arms, and to grasp all the elements of wealth and prosperity, held in untold abundance in regions within its reach. That it can be done is evident, both from what has been done and from a consideration of existing circumstances;—that it must be done is certain; unless the people of Baltimore are willing to yield the palm to other cities, less favorably situated, but more far-sighted and en-