

A Sixteenth Century prophecy and

"My whilome father, a man who had no hope but from experience and his owne nature, yet of unspotted judgment, hath heretofore told me, that he much desired to bring in his custome, which is, that in all cities there should be a certain appointed place to which, whosoever should have need of anything, might come and cause his business to be registered by some officer appointed for that purpose: As, for example, if one have pearls to sell, he should say, I seeke to sell some pearls; and another, I seeke to buy some pearls. Such a man would faine have companie to travell to Paris; such a one enquireth for a servant of this or that qualitie; such a one seeketh for a master, another a workman; some this, some that; every man as he needed. And it seemeth that this means of entrewarding one another would bring no small commoditie into common commerce and societie; for these are ever conditions that enter—seeke one another, and because they understand not one another, they leave men in great necessities."
 —(From the essays of Michel Eypnem de Montaigne, France, 1533-1592.)



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