revolutions of war and government easily dry up the sources of
that wealth which arises from commerce only. That which arises
from the more solid improvements of agriculture is much more
durable, and cannot be destroyed but by those more violent con-
vulsions occasioned by the depredations of hostile and barbarous
nations continued for a century or two together; such as those
that happened for some time before and after the fall of the Ro-
man empire in the western provinces of Europe.

**BOOK IV**

**OF SYSTEMS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**POLITICAL ECONOMY**, considered as a branch of the science
of a statesman or legislator, proposes two distinct objects;
first, to provide a plentiful revenue or subsistence for the
people, or, more properly, to enable them to provide such a rev-

venue or subsistence for themselves; and, secondly, to supply the
state or commonwealth with a revenue sufficient for the public
services. It proposes to enrich both the people and the sovereign.

The different progress of opulence in different ages and nations,
has given occasion to two different systems of political economy,
with regard to enriching the people. The one may be called the
system of commerce, the other that of agriculture. I shall endeav-
our to explain both as fully and distinctly as I can, and shall begin
with the system of commerce. It is the modern system, and is best
understood in our own country and in our own times.
Book IV begins just after Aeneas has finished the tale of his travels. Dido sits beside him, inflamed with love. She looks to her sister, Anna, for guidance, torn between the promise she made never to love another man after her husband's death on the one hand, and on the other hand the passion that she feels for Aeneas. Book IV ends when Juno, looking down on the sorry sight, sends Iris to free Dido from her tormented body. Analysis.