



DANUBELAND : ECONOMIC.

but now a canal, 10 feet deep, has been cut to avoid them. From this gorge the river emerges into the plain of its lower basin, which resembles that of Hungary in its productions. It continues in an easterly direction, receiving various tributaries from the north, including the Aluta, which cuts through the Carpathians, and others from the south, like the Isker, which cuts through the Balkans. Rustchuk, a river-port for grain, stands on the south bank of the river—in this plain everywhere higher than the north bank, and hence of greater strategical value.

Near its mouth the Danube bends sharply to the north, and then again to the east near Galatz, situated between the confluences of the Sereth and Pruth tributaries. To this point it is navigable by the Sulina or middle distributary for vessels of about 18 feet draught. The delta of the Danube, which forms part of the province of the Dobruja, consists of unhealthy marshes, and the mouths of the river are frozen in winter. Below the Iron Gates navigation is free to all nations.

QUESTION.

1. Why is the Rhine more important commercially than the Danube, and the Danube than the Volga?