

136-24



0105

N.

CONSIDERATIONS
ON THE
WOOLLEN and other MANUFACTURES
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN.

Intended as a SUPPLEMENT to Mr. Gee's Discourse on the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

And divided into Three Parts.

PART I.

Containing general Remarks on the Danger with which the woollen Manufactures of *Great-Britain* are threatened by the late Erection of Manufactures of the same kind in *Spain*. As also, on the Running of *English* and *Irish* Wool, the true Cause of it, the Progress it is likely to make, and the Method to prevent it.

By Mr. D-----,

Who has resided above twenty Years in *Holland* and *France*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, 1751.

THE
EDITOR'S
PREFACE.

THE author of the following treatise, Mr. D——, is a gentleman who, from his earliest education, had conceived a strong inclination to the woollen manufacture. As soon as he was able to set up in business, he settled a correspondence at Cadiz, with an intent of trading in that commodity to Spain and the West-Indies.

Having acquired a thorough knowledge of the woollens with which Spain is supplied from England, he formed a design of making himself also master of the several articles with which that country is furnished by our neighbours. With this view he went abroad, and

iv The PREFACE.

resided several years at Amsterdam, Paris, and Marseilles.

During his stay in Holland, he bought up large assortments of the different cloths made at Amsterdam, Leyden, and Vervies; as likewise of the several camlets manufactured at Leyden; by which means he had an opportunity of examining thoroughly into those different branches of the Dutch manufactures.

At Paris he procured recommendations from his correspondent at Cadiz, to the principal merchants of the cities of Roan, Amiens, L'Isle, Mans, Rheims, Abbeville, Louviers, Elbeuf, Sedan, &c. with whom he dealt very largely at sundry times, and thereby acquired also a knowledge of their respective manufactures. The long stay he made in that capital afforded him an opportunity of making a general acquaintance, especially with persons well versed in the commerce of that kingdom.

From Paris he went to Marseilles, strongly recommended by his different correspondents.

There

The PREFACE. v

There he took house, and was concerned in exporting cloths of different sorts to Turkey: which, succeeding to his wishes, he left off his Spanish trade in 1735, in order to apply himself intirely to that of his last place of residence. It was not long before he became acquainted with the manufacturers of Languedoc, by visiting the different fabrics of that province, in order to buy up woollen goods for the sea-port towns of the Levant. There he was witness to several most interesting events. He saw a new system established for demolishing what little trade was still carried on from England to Turkey, by erecting a manufacture of cloths, exactly resembling those which are made in England for the Levant trade: he saw likewise the surprising success it met with for many years; and the still more surprising revolutions by which it was at length intirely subverted. Nothing escaped his vigilance and attention; he discovered even the several interests that clashed in this undertaking.

A 3

This

vi The PREFACE.

This system, so admirably well calculated for the advancement of the woollen manufactures and trade of that province, by obstructing the consumption of English and Dutch cloths in Turkey, was soon succeeded by another of a quite opposite nature. Preposterous alterations were made in the establishment above mentioned, and these alterations ruined the reputation of the manufacture, together with the trade itself. Besides, they wanted to follow the example of our Turkey company, in sending only a small quantity of cloth to the Levant, in order to raise the price of it. This project was agreed to, and by the single stroke of a pen, the number of pieces of cloth manufactured yearly in Languedoc, was diminished by thirty thousand.

*As Mr. D—— had always an intent to return to his native country, he took particular care to collect the best memoirs and papers that he possibly could, relating to the Levant trade, and in the year 1742 he retired from business. Having but a few
affairs*

The PREFACE. vii

affairs to settle, towards the end of the year 1743, he committed the management of them to a friend, and returned to Paris.

France having declared war against England in the month of March, 1744, he determined to wait the issue in that metropolis. Here he made a diligent inquiry into the method by which the commerce of that great kingdom is administered, and put himself to a considerable expence in procuring many curious particulars, and important manuscripts upon this subject. Furnished with these discoveries, as soon as the peace was concluded, he returned to his native country, where he now lives in a philosophical retirement, and has been at some pains to arrange and digest the result of his observations in foreign countries.

As there is no one subject more interesting to Great Britain than the preservation and increase of her woollen manufactures, he has therefore thought proper to examine this first,

A 4

by

viii The P R E F A C E.

by means of the present discourse, which is divided into three parts.

In the first part, now offer'd to the public, the author exhibits a short view of the great decrease of the woollen manufacture in England in Mr. Gee's time, viz. in 1723; and extracts are given in the notes, of what that able writer has said upon this subject. From thence he enters into a necessary detail of the far greater losses which this trade has reason to apprehend, from the woollen manufactures lately erected in Spain in imitation of those of England; manufactures that have been carried on with an amazing rapidity. The particulars thereof the reader will find in the historical notes.

To this important subject succeeds a dissertation on the running of our wool, the real cause of it, and how greatly it may increase by the large quantity of surplus wool in England, which must inevitably be the consequence of the approaching ruin of our trade with Spain.

From

The P R E F A C E. ix

From thence he proceeds to the general means of preventing those different dangers which consist in erecting several new manufactures in this kingdom, as well for Turkey as Italy, and other places, in order to compensate hereby the loss which our merchants are like to sustain from the imminent ruin of our woollen trade in Spain and the West-Indies.

After giving a detail of these new establishments, he takes notice of the obstacles which the execution of them may possibly meet with from the frugal management of foreign manufactures; and he shews, that these obstacles cannot be removed but by the legislative authority.

In the second part he gives a general idea of the nature of these obstacles, which consist partly in the manner in which our Turkey trade is directed, and partly in the internal defects of our own manufactures, which unhappily deprive us of the immense advantages

x The PREFACE.

tages that ought naturally to arise from the great consumption of our wool.

After this general account, he enters into a detail concerning the respective advantages of England and France in the Turkey trade; the history of the establishment of the woollen manufactures for that empire in the province of Languedoc, the immense fortunes that have been made there, as well as at Marseilles, in consequence of the dearness of English cloth, which has so greatly contributed to the progress of the French manufactures; the strange alterations that were made afterwards in Languedoc, which must have unavoidably revived the consumption of our woollens in the Levant, if our Turkey company had known how to avail themselves of so favourable an opportunity, by sacrificing a very inconsiderable part of their profits, to recover the full extent of their former commerce.

To this succeeds a concise account of the trade which the city of Marseilles carries on with the sea-port towns of the Levant, and the

The PREFACE. xi

the coast of Barbary; and there he shews of how little benefit this great and extensive commerce is at present to our Turkey company.

In the third part he enters previously into a necessary discussion of the different prejudices that obtain at London, in regard to the properties attributed to the English and Irish wool, as likewise to the dearness of the workmen employed in the manufactures, which is looked upon as the cause of the dearness of the English cloth, and of the vast progress which the foreign manufactures employed in the Turkey trade have made, to the ruin of the commerce of this kingdom. And here he proves by indubitable facts, that this dearness is not so general as people imagine, compared to the price of foreign manufactures; and in fine, that this opinion or prejudice admits of a great number of limitations and restrictions; which, in conjunction with other facts, is a demonstrative argument, that it is not impossible to settle the price of the English manufactures on a moderate footing.

He

xii The PREFACE.

He proceeds afterwards to prove, that this same dearth of the several workmen is not the only cause of the real dearth of the cloth, especially of that which is made for the Turkey trade; but that there are others, as yet unknown to the public, such as some secret defects that must certainly prevail in the internal direction of the manufactures, and a want of proper order and frugality in their different operations; things in which the Dutch and their imitators the French excel.

Hence it may appear necessary to encourage foreigners to come and bring over with them their several arts and industry into this kingdom, after the example of so many other European powers, who are all directed by these principles, in order to introduce the very same frugality and management, pursuant to some secret resolutions formerly taken in this kingdom.

*In fine, he points out at the end of this third part the advantageous consequences that must accrue to Great Britain, especially in
favour*

The PREFACE. xiii

favour of the proprietors of pasture grounds, and of the vast number of unemployed people, from the execution of whatever has been proposed in the whole work.

These three parts may, perhaps, oblige the author hereafter to publish some larger discourses on this subject: one, however, he promises, if he finds it is likely to be of service to the public; this is a particular treatise concerning the trade of the city of Marseilles to Turkey and the coasts of Barbary, (a general idea of which will be exhibited in the second part) the several merchandizes exported and imported, the duties of exportation and importation, commission, and others; their weights and measures; their different usages of buying, selling, and bartering, the several accompts that are used in the merchandizes of the Levant; and other circumstances of the like nature.

*To this will be annexed a plan of the commerce of the English, Dutch, and Venetians;
with*

xiv The PREFACE.

with some secret papers upon this subject, which may be of particular utility: the whole compared with that of France, in order to form as it were a complete treatise of the Turkey trade. By this parallel it will appear, of what great consequence this trade could be made to Great Britain, and yet how little she has hitherto benefited by it, notwithstanding the immense advantages that might naturally be expected from her manufactures of different kinds, from her commerce, her navigation, and the credit of her public funds, if this trade was but well conducted.

To this, a treatise will be added, on the trade which England might be enabled to carry on from Port Mahone to Turkey, to the different countries in the Mediterranean, to Portugal, and the coasts of Africa, like that carried on in East-India, and called the coasting trade, independently of that which subsists directly between England and Turkey;
if

The PREFACE. xv

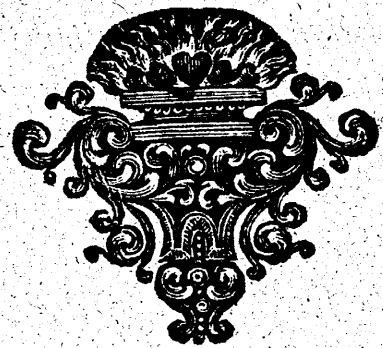
if Port Mahone was made a free port, with necessary restrictions however, in order to avoid any prejudice which might arise to the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain. And it will be made to appear, that this free port, which would quickly become the center of the commerce of the Mediterranean, might render the trade from our American colonies to the French islands of infinite service to the nation.

In fine, several other important tracts will be subjoined, all on the same subject, of which account will be given in proper time. For this larger work, which will make a volume in quarto, is not to be sent abroad, till the author is satisfied that it can be of service to the free traders of this nation: for under the present circumstances, it is presumed that instructions of this kind, which they cannot put in practice, would be equally foreign and useless to them.

To

xvi The PREFACE.

Such is the intire plan of the work which Mr. D---- intends to publish concerning the woollen and other manufactures, as well as the foreign trade of Great Britain; if he should have reason hereafter to think that his proposal will be acceptable to the nation.



GENE-

GENERAL
CONSIDERATIONS

In regard to the
MANUFACTURES
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN.

PART I.



MR. Gee has given so clear and distinct an account of the measures taken by the different powers of Europe, for the establishing of woollen manufactures in their respective dominions, and of the damage which those of Great-Britain have thereby sustained, that I shall wave entering into a detail of facts so well known, and confine myself intirely to the dan-

B ger

(2)

ger with which the English manufactures are menaced by the establishment of those lately erected in Spain, an establishment, which unless timely opposed, must inevitably produce a considerable increase in the running of English and Irish wool into foreign parts: And this is what I shall consider in the first section of this work.

In the second section, under the title of general means, I shall propose a method to prevent those very dangers, and to support the credit of the woollen manufacture in England. At the same time I shall lay down the several impediments that may obstruct the success of their execution; and at length I shall prove the impossibility of surmounting them, unless the legislature will think proper to interpose, by taking the actual state of the woollen manufacture of Great-Britain under their consideration.

SECTION

(3)



SECTION I.

MR. Gee shews extremely well the great encouragement given by France to the woollen manufacture, as also by the Czar Peter, the two northern powers, and by several princes of Germany. * The house of Austria now pursues

* After king Henry the fourth of France had ended the civil wars, he, the better to increase his revenue, re-established all sorts of manufactures, which, according to Puffendorf and others, drew great riches into that kingdom. *Gee on trade, p. 93. 4th ed.*

The charge that France was at to get Joes van Roobee out of Holland, the giving him what encouragement he desired, and free exercise of the protestant religion for himself, and all he should bring with him, shew, that Lewis XIV knew such jewels, as establishing manufactures in his kingdom, could not be too dear bought. And as I have mentioned the Czar of Muscovy, and his great undertakings and penetration in trade, I think it necessary here to mention them again. He hath taken steps beyond any monarch mentioned in history; others have given great prizes to get skillful workmen into their country, in which he has

(4)

purfues the fame method; the houfe of Savoy, without any wool of her own growth, has erected manufactures fufficient for the ufe of her fubjects; and

been as forward as any of them: But, beyond all this, he has not only travelled over Europe himfelf, and wrought like a mechanic to gain experience, but fent young men, his natural-born fubjects, into feveral parts of Europe, and bound them apprentices, and gave large fums of money to have them instructed in the knowledge of manufactures; fome of which were placed in London, to learn the arts of fhip-building, watch-making, &c. fome in our inland towns, as Birmingham, Sheffield, &c. to learn the art of working in iron; and other parts, to learn the woollen manufacture. *id. ibid.*

The French endeavouring to enlarge the trade and manufactories of that kingdom, found out feveral ways to prevent the importation of our woollens into France, and to tire out the Englifh merchants: thofe proceedings gave fpirit to Sweden, and feveral German princes, to follow the example of France; they were alfo willing to try whether they could not lay the Englifh woollen manufactures under fuch prohibitions and difficulties, as to exclude the wearing them in their refpective dominions. How far they have fucceeded is too well known. *id. ibid.*

We

(5)

and the King of the two Sicilies has likewise adopted the fame plan.

What more then remained, to render this confpiracy againft the woollen manufactures of England, general to all Europe, than to fee it ftrengthened by the acceffion of Spain and Portugal? The former has already made an attempt towards it, and the latter in all probability will foon follow the example. This is indeed a point that merits the moft ferious confideration of the Britifh

We may judge what part France has gained from us by examining into the mighty demand there was for our woollen goods, when France was vifited with the plague, and were ftop'd from fupplying foreign markets: the demand for our woollen goods increafed to fo great a degree, that the like has not happened for many years; but as foon as that country was freed from the plague, they again fupplied thofe markets as formerly, and the demand for ours gradually funk. *Id. ibid.*

Now as we have fo many competitors in the woollen manufactory, and France, &c. has gained fo great a part from us, and fo many places endeavour to keep out our woollen manufactures, &c. *id. ibid.*

B 3

nation;

(6)

nation; for the losses which our manufactures have hitherto sustained, are nothing to compare to those which must one day or other arise from the establishment of woollen manufactures in Spain. Here it is that the storm seems to gather, and to threaten the utter ruin and destruction of our English manufactures, especially by means of the English artificers lately gone over to that country.

The manufacture of fine broad cloth of Guadalaxara, was the first essay made by Spain towards an establishment of this nature. The next step was to erect manufactures for common cloths in Catalonia, and in the kingdom of Valentia; afterwards to make cloth for the troops; and at length to work up bays and other woollen stuffs at Sevil. And now she intends to make the woollen trade the great staple of that kingdom, by means of the manufactures

(7)

factures lately erected, and to imitate the several sorts of English cloth, which have been so long consumed in that country.

The Spaniards have begun lately to shake off the yoke of their natural laziness, and to relish the sweets that necessarily flow from industry and labour. And in this they have been greatly encouraged by a very powerful protector, who has given new vigour to those favourable dispositions. Hence, that eager desire of getting information, of receiving different proposals for the promoting of trade, and likewise of rewarding the respective authors of them with that generosity which is inseparable from a great statesman in so potent a monarchy. Hence the silk manufactures have been carried on with such rapidity. Hence measures have been so wisely concerted, and so secretly executed, by the secret and artful emissaries

emissaries of that monarchy residing in London; to deprive England of the very source of her treasure, namely her woollen manufacture. *

Hence

* Extracts from the historical Mercury. Hague, April 1750, p. 415, 416. The principal merchants of the kingdom have presented different proposals to render their trade the most flourishing in Europe. The king has graciously received them, and ordered his ministers to examine them, and then to make a proper report of them. In the mean time his majesty has given directions, that the manufactures erected at Guadalaxara and at Fernand shall be improved, and supported on such a footing as may increase their reputation. With this view he has assigned a fund of 32,000 livres, to be paid monthly to the projectors, in order to enable them to extend and improve their manufactures.

This regulation has produced its effect sooner than was imagined; for we have been informed, that the manufacture of Fernand has increased considerably, by means of the great number of artificers, who have been invited thither from various parts, and by the great sale of cloths and other stuffs which are manufactured in that place.

Extracts of the historical Mercury. Hague, 1750. 2 tom. p. 68. Article from Madrid. The manufactures lately erected grow more flourishing every day. The number of foreign artificers employed there, are above 600; they are all English, and most of them Roman Catholics. It was

Hence in fine we may date the beginning of a system of industry, which will enable Spain one day or other to provide for herself and her vast colonies, and by that means keep most of her treasure at home; which system, notwithstanding the great secrecy observed

was debated in council, whether those few who are Protestants should be sent back; but political reasons prevailed with the government to keep them, and even to allow them the liberty of worshipping God after their own way in private, with a promise that they should not be molested by the inquisition.

Idem. Nov. 1750. p. 531 and 532. They have laid before the king the state of the woollen manufactures erected in his kingdom since his majesty's accession to the throne; and this has met with the desired success. There are actually about 5000 artificers employed, among whom are reckoned above 1000 foreigners. Here they make cloth for the troops, &c.

Dec. 1750. p. 638. The king being desirous to contribute as much as possible to the success of the new manufactures erected in his dominions, his majesty has established a fund, which is to be appropriated intirely to the payment of the artificers, and other persons employed in those manufactures.

by

(10)

by the court, appears plain enough, to convince us beforehand of the consequences it may have on subjects of a different nature.

The proofs we are going to produce of this very system, will demonstrate, that if in Mr. Gee's time (1723) the balance between England and this monarchy was very near equal †; the period is drawing near, in which several European nations will continue to enrich themselves with the treasures of the new world, while Great-Britain will see herself

† Spain takes from us broad-cloths, druggets, calimancoes, bays, stuffs of divers kinds, leather, fish, tin, lead, corn, &c. The commodities England takes from them, are, wine, oil, fruit of divers kinds, wool, indigo, cochineal, and dying stuffs. *Gee on trade. c. 4. p. 15.*

Formerly we received a great ballance from them in bullion, but since the house of Bourbon has filled the Spanish throne, and introduced French stuffs and French fashions, it is presumed the ballance is but very small in our favour. *id. p. 16.*

England,

(11)

self exposed to the danger of making up the loss to Spain, with bullion drawn from other countries.

The new manufactures of Spain cannot fail making a very rapid progress for two principal reasons; the first is the great quantity of wool of all sorts with which that country abounds; the second is the facility the Spaniards will find in increasing the number of their artificers, as well natives as foreigners, two propositions the truth of which I intend here to demonstrate.

FIRST PROPOSITION.

This kingdom produces a vast quantity of different sorts of wool. The two

England, above all other places, ought to be used well by Spain, because we take more of their products than all the rest of Europe does besides; and even upon the account of trade, if a strict search was to be made in the ballance, it would be found Spain is as much obliged to us, as we are to them, for taking off those extraordinary quantities of their oil, wine, fruit, and other productions. *Id. c. 33. p. 169.*

Castiles,

Castiles, and the neighbouring part of Arragon, together with the kingdom of Estremadura, abound with those sheep, whose wool is esteemed over all Europe for its superior beauty and fineness.

The provinces situated on the Mediterranean, afford only common wool, of the same quality as that of England, Ireland, and Languedoc. The exportation of that of Catalonia is prohibited because of the manufactures of that province: The wool of the kingdom of Valentia, and of the neighbouring part of Arragon, is of the same quality as the finest English wool, and is permitted to be exported: The wool of Andalusia is not quite so fine; and that of the kingdom of Granada and Navarre is very coarse. Thus all these sorts of wool of midling fineness are very proper for manufacturing such cloth as England generally exports to Spain.

This

This very wool is at present one of the principal supports of the manufactures of Italy, Provence, Languedoc, and Holland.

In the last mentioned place it is used in the manufacturing of those cloths that are called two ells* (which is their breadth) for the Turkey trade; and of other strong cloths for the same place, Muscovy, and Persia, and several other parts. At Marseilles it is used in the making of cloths, and caps of several sorts, for the sea-port towns of the Levant; it is used for the same purpose in Languedoc, as also for clothing the troops; a very considerable quantity of it is carried over to Tunis in Barbary, by the way of Marseilles, for the manufacturing of those strong caps, of which the Turks make their turbants; at Venice it is manufactured into a strong thick cloth for the Turkey trade, which they call, Says and Parangons; the

* Dutch measure.

greatest

(14.)

greatest part of this cloth is died in crimson, in order to hide the dirt or spots, for which reason it is used for housings, or horse cloths, the covering of camels, for the accoutrements of officers, and other purposes; and the rest of it is died in different colours; in fine the same wool is used also in the manufactures of Piedmont, and of the two Sicilies.

There is therefore no manner of doubt, but that if Spain can have a sufficient number of artificers to work up the prodigious quantity of common wool with which it abounds, into different cloths and stuffs like those of England, she will not only be able to do without the manufactures of the latter, both for herself and for her American colonies, but will moreover be capable to export woollen goods of her own manufacturing to Portugal and Italy.

Now

(15)

Now it will be a very easy matter for her to increase the number of her artificers to that degree in a short time.

SECOND PROPOSITION.

If any person is unwilling to believe, that the English artificers who lately went over to Spain, to the number of some hundreds, will be ever capable to increase the manufactures of that country to such a degree, as to enable the Spaniards to do without the woollen commodities of England, perhaps he will think differently after having attended to the following observations.

Spain has already a great number of artificers; her business now is, to improve the old ones in their art, and to train up the new ones in right principles. This is what the English artificers, who are gone over to Spain with the several implements of their respective professions, will be able to effect; and nothing will

(16)

will be afterwrads wanting, but to increase those artificers to a sufficient number.

In the first place the ease and conveniency, which the poor derive from industry and labour, will induce the natives of the country to apply themselves to it; and Catalonia especially will furnish them with a great number of most industrious people. In the year 1700, there were not above 3000 pieces of cloth manufactured in Languedoc for the Turkey trade, and in 1740 they manufactured 80000 pieces. So easy a matter it is to multiply the artificers of a country, especially when the government interest themselves therein, and pursue just measures to compass their ends.

Secondly, Spain will never want means, to tempt a great number of foreign artificers to settle in that country. The measures which she has already

(17)

ready used to promote the silk manufactures, and which have been attended with such great success, cannot fail being equally successful, when employed in the woollen manufacture.

The exportation of raw silk from the kingdoms of Valentia and Granada, was prohibited a long time before the silk fabrics then established, were capable of consuming the fourth part of the raw silk of that country's growth. This prohibition reduced the price of that commodity, and gave the manufacturers an opportunity to buy it up cheap. And yet permission was given from time to time to private people to export it, but under proper restrictions; to the end that while they promoted the consumption of their surplus wool, they should take care it did not become too dear, to the prejudice of their own manufactures.

G

This

(18)

This same measure constantly pursued for a long series of years, has at length had its desired success. The growth of silk having been very scarce in Europe two years successively, the price of it was considerably raised, wherever the exportation of it was free, and of course the different commodities that are manufactured out of it became much dearer. This rising of the price was felt in Spain, in regard as well to the manufactured commodities imported by foreigners into that kingdom, as to the raw silk which was exported; but in a very unequal proportion as to the latter, because of the prohibition of the exportation of it, which was absolute and general to all nations. * By this means they

* This prohibition was extended even to the manufactures of France, which could not be excepted from the general rule: and this has done them an infinite deal of harm, especially to those of Lyons, where a great number of manufacturers have been obliged to lie idle, and

(19)

they have prevented the rising of the price, which the great demand of foreigners would have inevitably occasioned, and at the same time they have

and artificers have been reduced to beggary. The following is an extract of a letter from Paris upon this subject, which shews how greatly these manufactures have suffered through the want of silk; besides, particular advices, and even the public papers, and among others, the *Cologne gazette*, have mentioned it at the same time. Extract from the *historical Mercury*, Hague, Nov. 1750. p. 493. *Article from Paris. The only conversation here is concerning the manufactures erected, or that are going to be erected in foreign countries. Spain and Piedmont, from whence we used to have most part of our raw silk, refuse now to supply us; and for a very good reason, which is, because these powers want to use them in the manufactures lately erected in their own country. The king has been at several millions expence in procuring this commodity from more distant parts; and at the same time that his majesty gives particular attention to the great number of manufactures erected throughout his kingdom, in order to preserve them in a flourishing condition, he applies himself also to the erecting of new manufactures. This prince has ordered three or four pieces of ground to be purchased within four leagues of Paris, where they are actually employed in erecting new buildings: here they*

have kept a vast quantity of raw silk for their home manufactures.

In the mean time the scarcity of this commodity having put a stop to several foreign fabrics, a great number of manufacturers were quite at a stand, and a far greater number of artificers were reduced to beggary.

Under these circumstances, the blow was struck by Spain; she employed her emissaries to tamper with those people in private, and to intice them to come and bring their arts and industry with them, offering to defray the expences of their journey, with every other encouragement to settle in that country. The manufacturers, considering the dear-ness of foreign wrought silks in Spain,

design to plant some mulberry-trees, and a like establishment for the breeding of silk-worms is intended to be made in Tourraine, and in the southern provinces. The whole is directed by a merchant of Lyons, a man of great capacity, &c.

and

and the plenty and cheapness of their raw silks, perceived a prospect of making very large fortunes by removing thither; and the artificers saw a sure method of getting a comfortable livelihood. Thus they both went over in crowds to Spain*, and the year 1750 has furnished that nation with a greater number of experienced manufacturers and artificers, than they could have pos-

* The manufacture of Lyons was in such distress in 1750, from the stop put to the importation of raw silks, and consequently to the labour of the artificers, that multitudes of the manufacturers and artificers went over to Spain. The French were so afraid lest the latter, who were quite unemployed, should desert all in a body, that the city of Lyons made considerable collections, in order to relieve their wants, and to supply them with the means of subsisting, till there was a greater plenty of silk, and they could return to their usual employment; and the government concurred in the measures taken to keep the artificers at home. But they intend to have their silk hereafter from the Levant; a branch of trade which the merchants of Marfeilles have hitherto neglected, and left to the English.

C 3

fibly

(22)

sibly trained up in twenty years in the country. There is no reason therefore to be surprized at the vast progress which we hear is daily made by those manufactures.

This method of multiplying artificers is as easy as concise: and therefore it may naturally be expected, that it will be used for the encouragement of the woollen manufacture; that some time or other they will begin with prohibiting the exportation of their ordinary wool from any of their ports in the Mediterranean, with permission however to private people of exporting what is really superfluous; but that the first year of mortality among the sheep that shall happen in Europe, when this commodity must become scarce, the prohibition of exporting it will be made absolute; and as this prohibition will withhold the usual supplies of wool from the manufactures of Venice, Pro-

vence,

(23)

vence, Languedoc, and Holland, there will consequently be in all those places a number of manufacturers and artificers without employment, whom Spain will intice by her secret emissaries, and with the same success as she has already practised with the French artificers in silk, and with those of England in wool.

By a policy of the like nature, of prohibiting the exportation of English wool, Edward III. introduced the manufactures into his dominions; and *

Queen

* King Edward III was the first prince from the conquest to his time, that we find took any notice of trade; for in the parliament held at Westminster 1338, the transportation of wool out of the kingdom was prohibited; and, for the encouragement of foreign clothworkers, and other manufacturers to come and settle here, a great many privileges were granted, and an allowance from the king, till they were fixed in a competent way of living; and it was enacted, that no subject should wear any foreign cloth for the future. *See on trade, c. 1. p. 61.*

C 4

England

(24)

Queen Elizabeth carried this project to its utmost perfection. In a word the establishment of manufactures in a country possessed of those natural ad-

England having the greatest quantity of the best sort of wool, they purchased that from us, and vast quantities were exported to Flanders.

Edward III. saw the advantage of the woollen manufactory, and made a very fair push for having it removed hither, and took proper measures for establishing it here, as is before mentioned; but for want of the like care in his successors, it did not take root till the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In her time that manufactory was so effectually established, that a mighty progress was made therein, and increased so considerably, that they gained the reputation of being the best in Europe; and a market was opened for them, not only into Spain, France, Italy, and Germany, but into Russia, the Baltic, &c. and carried by way of Archangel into Persia, and also a trade settled into Turkey.

England carried on her trade in the woollen manufactory a considerable time, and the rest of Europe carried on the linen and other manufactures, and exchanged them with us for our woollens. But the French endeavouring to enlarge the trade and manufactories of that kingdom, found out several ways to prevent the importation of our woollens into France, &c. *Id. c. 28. p. 98.*

vantages

(25)

vantages which are capable of making them flourish, such as principally a plenty of materials, is always apt to intice foreign artificers. This is the opinion of Mr. Gee, who expresses himself thus.

“ For it has always been observed,
 “ where new manufactures are set up,
 “ and take away part from another
 “ country, the manufacturers will like-
 “ wise remove. This was the case of
 “ the Flemmings when Queen Eliza-
 “ beth gave such great encouragement
 “ to have the woollen manufactory re-
 “ moved hither, and ours when we
 “ had that inundation of China and
 “ India wrought silks, our weavers
 “ went to Holland, Flanders, France,
 “ &c. and several streets in Spittlefields
 “ were almost desolate; and when those
 “ silks were prohibited, the manu-
 “ facturers returned again.” †

† Gee on trade, c. 29. p. 129.

There

There can therefore be no manner of doubt, but Spain is capable of enticing a great number of foreign artificers, who in conjunction with her own natives, cannot want the means of increasing quickly her woollen commodities, of the same quality as those with which she is at present supplied by England. In this she is likely to succeed the more easily, as the stuffs of her own manufacturing being designed for home consumption, they will be free at market of that multitude of charges, whether of carriage, commission, or others, or of the different duties of importation, which all together amount to twenty per cent, with which the English woollens are loaded, when they come to the Spanish market. Hence as the Spanish manufacturers will have much greater profits than those of England, they will be able to give better wages to their artificers, than it is possible for the English;

and

and this in a country where the necessaries of life are so cheap. Infomuch that these advantages, which foreign artificers will find in settling in Spain, must intice them from all parts, and even from England; and the above mentioned maxim of Mr. Gee's will consequently be verified.

From these two propositions it follows, that how weak soever we suppose the present beginnings of the new manufactures in Spain, they cannot avoid making a rapid progress hereafter, and must inevitably cause the ruin either of the woollen manufactures of England, which Spain will have no more occasion for, or of the manufactures of Italy, France, and Holland, which are supported by the Spanish common wool, that some time or other will be withheld from them.

In fact, if we suppose that in the course of five or six years, these new manufactures in Spain will consume

50,000

(28)

50,000 quintals of their common wool, two consequences will result from thence.

The first, that these 50,000 quintals will be withheld from the manufactures of Italy, France, and Holland, where they are now consumed. The second, that England will vend so much the less in Spain of that same quantity of stuffs, which in the latter kingdom will be manufactured out of the 50,000 quintals of wool; and that the diminution of the manufactures of England will observe the same proportion, as the augmentation of those of Spain. From whence it follows, that when the latter will consume 50,000 quintals of their common wool, the former will consume so many quintals the less of their own growth; in short, that there will be a superfluity of 50,000 quintals of wool in England.*

The

* Here an objection might be started, by saying, that England would not be the only country which would suffer from the erection of the new manufactures in Spain,

(29)

The question is therefore to know, whether the said 50,000 quintals of surplus wool in England, will continue in the country, to be used in other manufactures; and in that case the damage caused by those of Spain, must fall entirely on the manufactures of Italy, France, and Holland: or whether it will be smuggled over into Holland and France, to supply the deficiency of the common Spanish wool; and in that case, the damage mentioned must fall entirely on the manufactures and trade of Great Britain.

Spain, since the French vend the same sort of woollen goods there as the English; and therefore, that it does not follow, that because Spain would consume 50,000 quintals of her common wool, there would be the like quantity superfluous in England, since there would be a superfluity also in France.

To which I answer, that when England is at peace with Spain, the French do not trade with the latter in woollen stuffs, (which shall be proved in another place) and consequently, that the objection is not well grounded.

Now

(30)

Now according to the general laws of commerce, the latter rather than the former must ensue: this leads us to make some general and previous observations on the nature of the running of English and Irish wool, which will help to corroborate the arguments given in proof of the proposition above advanced; since, pursuant to the general laws of commerce, the said 50,000 quintals of surplus wool in England, must by the running of it be carried beyond sea.

In the year 1741 the parliament having invited people to give in their proposals for finding out more effectual methods to prevent the running of English and Irish wool, the next year several papers appeared on this subject.

In one of those papers the author points out, with great perspicuity and exactness, the different ways by which this wool is smuggled into France, and afterwards he makes the following reflections on the said smuggling. “ The

(31)

“ * The great damage which the nation
 “ has sustained by the running of wool,
 “ might induce foreigners to think, that
 “ this point has been neglected by the
 “ government, and that their attention
 “ was not awakened, till they had
 “ felt the melancholy effects of it, which
 “ menace no less than the total ruin of
 “ the manufactures of the kingdom.
 “ But this is far from being the case.
 “ 'Tis now upwards of fourscore years
 “ since the legislature has endeavoured
 “ to prevent this clandestine trade. Fines,
 “ confiscations, transportation, and even
 “ capital punishments have been inflicted,
 “ according to the different exigency
 “ of cases. And in spite of all these en-
 “ deavours, our wool is still smuggled,
 “ and our manufactures are decayed. I
 “ shall give here a few particulars, by
 “ which the source of this evil may be

* This extract is taken from a French book, intitled,
L'Etat politique de L'Europe, vol. 12. p. 328. & seq.

“ traced

(32)

“ traced out, and this species of enigma
 “ perhaps be solved.

“ The first and principal cause of the
 “ running of English wool, is the extra-
 “ vagant price which the French give,
 “ and are able to give for it. This will
 “ be easily understood by the following
 “ example.

“ A piece of cloth, which takes up
 “ four pounds of wool to manufacture,
 “ costs the manufacturer two shillings
 “ for the wool, reckoning it at six-pence
 “ the pound, and for the working it
 “ twelve shillings, which together makes
 “ fourteen shillings.

“ To make a piece of cloth in France,
 “ of the same quality and value, the ma-
 “ nufacturer must have a pound of Eng-
 “ lish wool with three pounds of French
 “ wool. But this manufacturer gives
 “ less wages to his artificers than we
 “ give in England. This enables the
 “ French to pay four shillings and six-
 “ pence

(33)

“ pence for the pound of English wool
 “ which they stand in need of; that is,
 “ nine times more than it can be sold
 “ for in England. 'Tis this exorbitant
 “ gain that tempts greedy and desperate
 “ people to brave all manner of dangers,
 “ and the several punishments with
 “ which they are threatened by the le-
 “ gislature.”

There are in this account considerable mistakes, as to facts relating to different subjects, which indeed are not particular to this author, for they are to be found in Mr. Gee, and several others: but we shall here only take notice of those relating to the price of English and Irish wool in France, which we shall value with great exactness, and from observations founded upon our own personal knowledge of what it sells for, and not upon the report of others.

The finest of the said wool is not, nor cannot be worth more in France than is.

(34)

9d. and that of the common sort is. 6d. *per* pound, French weight, which is eight or nine *per Cent.* heavier than that of England.

Now this difference of weight on the one hand, and the expence of freight on the other, (which must be very considerable, from the hazards to which those are exposed who venture their ships in this illegal commerce) the expence likewise they are at in carrying the wool by land to the seashore, and in shipping it, the duties they pay in France, what they are obliged to pay after its arrival there for its being dried, and in short, for its being put into the magazines, for its being sold, &c. All these expences must amount at least to 6d. *per* pound, so that the said wool cannot produce much more than is. *per* pound, English weight, clear to the proprietors: and from hence it follows, that if it costs them no more than 6d. *per* pound, the profit of the illegal exportation is reduced to *cent. per cent.* at most.

(35)

most. This is a fact to which every prejudice to the contrary ought to submit.

This profit may be one of the causes of the running of wool, but not the immediate one, which is beyond all contradiction another that has not yet been thought of.

The manufacturers are incessantly presenting petitions to parliament, to represent the decay of trade, which they always attribute to the running of wool, as if its being run was in fact the real cause; and we see that the author above-mentioned is of the same opinion: but it is rather the decay of these manufactures which causes the wool to be clandestinely exported.

It is an undoubted truth, that this decay is the cause that there is both in England and Ireland a great quantity of surplus wool, which has produced a diminution of its price; because it is out of

D 2

the

the power of these manufacturers to consume the whole.

If we read Mr. Gee's book we shall see, in a short compass, the immense losses which England has sustained in eighty years, by the establishment of these manufactures in different parts of Europe: we cannot therefore be surprized at hearing it said, that these losses have left a great quantity of sur-plus wool in these kingdoms.

If all the wool they produce then cannot be consumed, it is not at all wonderful, that notwithstanding the rigour of the penalties, some proprietors of flocks of sheep should, under borrowed names, run the hazard of confiscation, by sending it beyond sea. Will not any impartial person allow this to be more advisable for these proprietors, than to see their wool rotting, and turned upon their hands, without their being able to make the least advantage of it?

How-

However that be, the decay of the English manufactures is the undoubted cause of the clandestine exportation of wool. The low price of the said wool in comparison to what it bears abroad, is in itself a convincing proof of the great quantities which remain. An author observes, that when it was dear, none was exported. * The reason of this is evident; its dearness arose only from the great demands of the manufacturers, who at that time could work up the whole growth: In these circumstances, the owners of the sheep were under no necessity of sending their wool

* When our woollen manufacture was in its most prosperous state, and when our wool sold at the highest rate, Ireland then sent abroad no small quantities of woollen goods; which is almost a demonstration, that when foreigners had not Irish wool to work up with their own wool, they could not rival us in that branch of commerce. *Extract from a pamphlet entitled, A method to prevent, without a register, the running of wool from Ireland to France, and other foreign parts.* p. 8.

D 3 abroad

(38)

abroad for sale, the home consumption alone being sufficient to take it off their hands at a reasonable rate. But many English manufactures having been carried abroad, the wool has followed them; and the great price it bears abroad, is an encouragement to its exportation: For the profit being never under *Cent per Cent*; if of two vessels laden with wool, one is taken, and the other reaches its port, the owner of the wool is no loser; and doubtless such an extravagant profit is one cause of its being run, but the chief cause is the impossibility under which the manufacturers labour of working up all the wool.

From hence it is evident, that if this illegal commerce has been carried on for the last eighty years, in spite of all the precautions, oppositions and penalties to suppress it, it is a proof that the methods hitherto practised through such a long course of years, do not reach the source of this evil, and that its effects have

(39)

been only struck at, while its cause remained unobserved.

The best means for removing this original cause, is to call back to England the manufactures that have left it; to restore those that are fallen to their former prosperity; and to introduce new ones. This would cause a consumption of wool equal to its growth, which would consequently raise its price. Tho' this rise should be only fifty *per Cent*, (so that supposing a pound of wool now worth 6 d. it would then sell for 9 d.) yet as in France or Holland it would not yield above 1 s. *per* pound clear of all charges, the profits of smuggling being thus reduced to thirty-three $\frac{1}{3}$ *per Cent*, would not be in any proportion to the hazard; and the owners of sheep in Ireland, finding in that kingdom a safe and easy sale for their wool, and at a better price than at present, would no longer run the hazard of smuggling it.

(40)

In short tho' it were even true, that this commerce would be carried on by those who are smugglers by profession, who would buy up the wool from the owners of flocks, and export it at their own hazard and expence; yet if this principle be admitted, as surely it ought, that the cheapness of wool in England, and its dearness abroad, are the true causes of smuggling; the result is, that upon lessening this disparity, smuggling would not answer, and consequently it would cease.

Now, as it is not in the power of Great-Britain to hinder the dearness of wool abroad, the only way it can take is, to raise the price of it at home, by the institution and encouragement of manufactures. This is the only effectual method for putting a stop to its being run; without which it will not only go on as it has done for these eighty years past, but will increase in proportion to

(41)

the increase of sur-plus wool by the decay of its manufactures.

In effect when the manufacturers of Spain shall work up 50,000 quintals of common wool of their own growth, it follows from what has been above observed, that England will have that quantity unmanufactured; and also that the manufacturers in Italy, France, and Holland, will want a like quantity.

Now from the general rules of trade the price of wool must still fall in England, as it will have a greater surpluse than at present; and must rise in France and Holland, because their manufactures will not have the quantity they want.

These two consequences are grounded upon this axiom, that every commodity, the quantity whereof is not equal to the demand, rises in price, and *vice versa* diminishes. The price of wool falling in England and rising in France

(42)

France and Holland, will proportionably encrease the profits of smuggling Irish wool.

The encrease of this profit will encrease smuggling, and consequently the sur-plus wool will be carried to foreign manufacturers, as those of Great Britain cannot make use of it.

These transactions will still become more sensibly perceived, according to the advancement of the Spaniards in their manufactures.

The manufactures of France and Holland having thus repaired their loss of the Spanish common wool, will not only continue the exportation of their cloths, but will also encrease it, by the addition of the manufactures called Says and Paragons, which the Venetians now export to Turkey. This nation lying out of the way to supply the loss of the Spanish wool by a supply from Ireland, these manufactures will remove into France and Holland, and the more easily as they are already not unknown there. The

(43)

The melancholly consequence of which is, that England would be an extreme sufferer, and the only sufferer by the manufactures of Spain, unless measures can be taken before hand to prevent this immense prejudice. And these will be the subject of the

SECOND SECTION.

AS the new woollen manufactures in Spain naturally tend to ruin those who are engaged in the same industrious employment in England, to leave upon our hands a large quantity of spare wool, and a number of workmen un-employed, there is an absolute necessity that this last power should provide a new remedy against the running of wool, and a new kind of industry for its artificers.

With relation to the wool, the only way is to make use of it at home, by establishing

(44)

establishing the same manufactures in England, as are already established in Holland, in France, and in Italy, who now work up the common Spanish wool which they will soon be in want of.

We have seen above, that these three nations are principally engaged in different kinds of merchandizes for the Levant trade. If therefore the like commodities be manufactured in England, with the surplus wool, this trade will be removed hither, in consequence of the want of wool in those nations.

With respect to the workmen it seems at first, that they may easily be employed in the new manufactures demanded in Turkey: but the working of cloths differs very much from the making of stuffs. In the first the wool is carded, in the second it is combed; and this difference in preparing it causes a remarkable difference in all the subsequent operations in these manufactures. From

(45)

From hence it follows, that the workmen now employed in making stuffs for Spain, will not be at all fit to make the cloth to be sent to Turkey, and that it will be more easy to bring up new workmen to this employment, than to make use of the old ones.

It must appear then more convenient, and at the same time more advantageous to Great Britain, to introduce new manufactures of the same kind, but of combed wool, to employ her artificers, such as those of the stamens of Mans, and the camblets of Amiens, which the merchants of London have already attempted to cause to be imitated in England; since by this means, not only the manufactures here will be increased, but the consumption of wool also, which will contribute to raise its price, and by this means diminish the quantity illegally exported for the use of foreigners.

These,

(46)

These, in general, are the means of preventing the prejudice which the commerce of England is likely to suffer from the new manufactures carried on in Spain, and by means of which the merchants of London may regain in Turkey the trade they will in a short time lose with Spain, with the West-Indies, and perhaps also with Portugal and Italy. But the execution of these means will meet with great obstacles from the foreign manufacturers, which may be proved from the following observations; the first, concerning the manufactures to be established for working up the sur-plus wool; and the second, concerning the employments proposed to be given to the artificers.

I. It is not to be doubted but that the new manufactures to be established for the Turkey trade, in imitation of those of Venice, of France, and Holland, will meet with great obstacles from these

(47)

these powers, who are fixed in this commerce; independently of those which are inseparable from new establishments. For it is a known fact, that a new manufacture set up in opposition to another, and that a foreign one, arrives with difficulty to perfection. The obstacles which attend these sort of enterprizes are easily removed, when the new merchandizes are consumed in the country into which they are introduced; for then nothing is to be done but to prohibit the importation of those made abroad; which people will consent to be without, in order to procure the consumption of the others, how imperfect soever they may be in the beginning. By which means all the time is obtained that is necessary to carry them to perfection.

But it is not the same when merchandizes of a new manufacture are consumed in a foreign country like Turkey.

(48)

Turky. It is in this case necessary that they should be raised to an exact imitation of those manufactured abroad; for if they are not, every the least difference will be considered as a fault. For a people habituated to their old kind of cloth will not easily adopt a new one in its room, against which they had conceived a prejudice; and there is nothing but a perfect resemblance of what they are used to, or a better bargain, or both these together, that can introduce the sale of new ones. So that if on the contrary, they are at first less perfect, and of a higher price, as is very common in these circumstances, the losses which are the necessary consequences, will fall on those who have engaged in these undertakings, and they will either be disgusted against continuing them, or be ruined by their obstinate perseverance.

This event is the more to be feared with respect to the establishment of new manufactures

(49)

factures to be sent to Turkey, as the decay of the antient trade to the same country was caused (as all the world is convinced) only by the excessive cheapness of the cloth made in Languedoc, which will consequently prevent the success of the new. This is an obstacle that industry, and perhaps the political views of the state, may endeavour to increase by all possible means*. Experience confirms the reality of these obstacles, which proceeded intirely from the excessive cheapness of the said cloths: for a merchant of London caused some

* Upon the accession of King William to the throne, the parliament of England made laws with great penalties on such as should trade or deal in French alamodes or lustrings, in order to establish that manufacture here. The French king, on the other hand, gave all imaginable encouragement to his manufacturers at Lyons, &c. and to the smugglers to carry on the trade, and run them into England. When a whole knot was broke, he gave at one time, as we are well assured, forty thousand pistoles to supply them with a new stock, and support the carrying on that trade. *See on trade. c. 22. p. 46.*

E

to

(50)

to be made extremely thin, in imitation of those of the above mentioned province in France; and notwithstanding they were manufactured with great economy, yet he was obliged to sell them in Turkey to a considerable loss, which made him abandon the project of this imitation.

The same obstacles are equally to be apprehended from the new manufactures, in which the English artificers are to be employed.

II. The new manufactures which, in the second place, we shall enquire into, are those of the stamines of Mans, and the common woollen camlets which are made at Amiens, Lisle, and even at Leyden in Holland, for this same sort of stuff is made in these three several places: of the importance of which we shall soon give a general idea, in order to judge how much it is the interest of Great Britain to surmount the difficulties, which may oppose the success of their establishment.

(51)

The stamines of Mans are a thin, light stuff, and inclining to a camlet; whence they are called Stamine camlettees, though they are also called simple stamines.

These stuffs are wore by the secular priests of the Romish religion, in every country in both hemispheres; where they are bought to make cassocks, and the long and short cloaks, which are essential to their ordinary and ceremonial dresses. A great number of friars and monks prefer them to the Scots and English cloths, for their robes and other vestments. Most of the lawyers in Europe also make use of these light robes, which they wear over their cloaths, when they appear at their respective courts. They are also worn by the ministers of the protestant religion; and this is the reason why they are always died black.

The consumption of this French stuff by foreigners amounts annually to 500,000l.

E 2

sterling,

(52)

sterling; and fifty miles round the city of Mans there are from five to six thousand artificers engaged in it, besides a prodigious number of spinners; for this manufacture employs four women or children to one man.

There is made in the West of England a stuff also called Stamines, which they dye of several colours as well as black; and the demand for it is very great in Europe for the use of women and children; however, it is of a different nature from that of Mans, and will not answer the same purposes. In Spittlefields they make stamines of silk and wool, which are very fine; but England has not any manufacture that resembles it in all its qualities, in such quantities as to be able to furnish compleat assortments from the finest to the most ordinary.

Notwithstanding the sale of the stamines of Mans is so very considerable, it would be still greater, if they had the
art

(53)

art of dying them of scarlet, purple, violet, and other colours. In this state their sale would increase in Europe, and might become exceeding great in China, and perhaps in India.

With relation to the first article, there was at Mans one of the greatest dealers in stamines, who caused a number of pieces to be dyed at Paris of scarlet, violet, purple, &c. which were extremely well sold at Rome and Lisbon: but as in the territory of Mayne there were none but dyers of black, the trouble of sending his stamines to Paris, and of having them sent back again to Mans to give them their last finishing, with many other reasons, made him abandon this project.

As to the second article, they prepared at Tours, in the year 1741, six hundred pieces of black stamines for the private account of some officers of the French East-India company, which was

E 3

to

to be carried to Port L'Orient, where it was to have been secretly embarked for Canton in the company's ships. These same officers had made a former attempt, which met with the most favourable success, insomuch that the Chinese were so well pleased with this stuff as to make robes and vests of it: and they flattered themselves with nothing less than establishing in China a trade for stamines superior to that of Europe. The last war must have interrupted this enterprize, which doubtless they have resumed since the peace.

We may form a judgment of the great progress these would make in China, where lively and variegated colours, and that of scarlet in particular, are so much admired, if they had sent thither assortments of all colours: for considering their lightness, the beauty of their grain, and the goodness of the workmanship, they might be worn now and then, from an inclination

nation to change, instead of the silks, with which the rich dress themselves, and made up into those robes that are worn by all the East, which are very long and extremely full. This gives room to presume, that the stamines would be equally approved of by all the other kingdoms in the East-Indies, and that in time they might become a considerable branch of commerce in that part of the world.*

* Some of our ingenious gentlemen have found, that several of our commodities, as well as our woollens, would do very well towards the heart of China; and to speak freely, every lover of his country ought to have the advantage thereof in view, as well as his own private gain. If this trade could be fixed, and any quantities vended in that vast empire, and the fine silk above mentioned imported, it would exceedingly add to the profits we already receive by the Indian trade, and bring those advantages with it that may enable us to vie with any kingdoms in Europe in the silk manufactures; for as cheapness and goodness always gives preference, silk so imported from China would answer in both respects. And it is to be hoped, improvements of this kind would be readily undertaken by the company, and be an acceptable service to them, as well as to the nation in general. *See on trade. c. 21. p. 43.*

(56)

The manufacture of camlets was brought into France in the time of M. Colbert, and they proposed those made at London for a model: but the dearneſs of Wool in France obliged the manufacturers to uſe œconomy, and their care in this point has had ſuch great ſucceſs, that they are at laſt able to make a new kind of camlets of their own, and different from thoſe of London. They are indeed lighter than theſe laſt, but then they are much cheaper, on which account ſuch conſiderable quantities are uſed in Italy, in Spain, in the Weſt-Indies, in Portugal, and in Brazil. It is the ſame with thoſe of Liſle and of Leyden, which are ſold in the ſame places.

Such are the manufactures which would be proportionable to the talents of the artificers, who are now employed in making woollen ſtuffs for Spain; but in their eſtabliſhment, they will be ſuſceptible

(57)

ceptible of the ſame difficulties in working up all the ſurplus wool, as opposed the ſucceſs of the firſt.

I. A deficiency in the exactneſs of the imitation, if they are ignorant of the ſecret management in the workmanſhip.

II. And in conſequence of this, theſe ſame ſtuffs will bear too high a price.

Experience confirms the reality of theſe two obſtacles.

Some merchants of London, zealous for the good of their country, were tempted to procure an imitation in England, both of the ſtamines of Mans, and of the camlets of Amiens: the firſt were made at Exeter, and the ſecond at London; but neither of them were exactly imitated, and beſides they were too dear. For ſeveral years after they were ſent to Leghorn they continued unfold; and at laſt both theſe manufactures were laid entirely aſide.

This is an abridgment of the obſtacles which are likely to prevent the ſucceſs of

(58)

the several manufactures proposed in the general means; because the industry and œconomy of the foreign manufacturers are unknown to those of this kingdom.

Now it will be either possible to surmount these obstacles, or it will not.

If the first should be the case, not only all the surplus wool which the increase of the new manufactures in Spain must one day occasion, will be worked up in England, and at the same time all the workmen out of business will be employed; but further advantages will ensue, *viz.*

1°. The restoration of the Turkey trade, which will be recovered to its former prosperity; for, as its declension is entirely owing to the lower price of the French cloths, it must follow, that, could this evil be remedied in favour of the new manufactures destined for that country, which are proposed in the general means, it will equally promote those which are actually subsisting.

2°. The

(59)

2°. The establishment of considerable new manufactures in England, for the home consumption of a large part of that wool which is now conveyed beyond sea; and of course the diminution, if not total suppression, of this illegal commerce: for these events are all consequences of the same principle, and closely connected with each other.

In the second case none of these several ends are practicable, and the surplus wool will be increased to such a degree in England, that there will be no way to dispose of it but among the foreign manufacturers, where they have the art of working it up with œconomy, an art of which those of Great Britain seem to be entirely ignorant.

It is indeed amazing, that in a kingdom where wool is at least two-thirds cheaper than in Holland and France, we suffer foreigners to under-sell us in several kinds of drapery. From
whence

whence it is apparent, that there must be some secret defects either in the manufactures or in the traffic of them; defects extremely pernicious to Great Britain: for under such disadvantages the woollen manufactures must fall to ruin soon or late; they will steal away from this country over to the continent from whence they were derived.

England is already sensible how much several branches of her manufactures are impair'd. Mr. Gee's book sets this in a true light. Since the time of his writing (1723) the manufactures which Turkey was used to require, have suffered farther declensions; and at present those which used to be exported to Spain and the West-Indies, are menaced with utter ruin, which in process of time must inevitably ensue. The manufactures of cotton, and of a mixture of cotton and linen for women and childrens cloathing, for furniture, and other uses, are daily

daily encreasing throughout all Europe, even in England, and insensibly diminish the consumption of those of woollen. Lastly, the superior œconomy of the foreign manufactures above the English, deprives us of our own wool. So that it seems more than probable, that the manufactures will gradually remove from England to the Continent, especially as the circumstances which occasioned their former emigration, do now no longer exist.

In effect in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, every thing conspired to favour the design of drawing over the manufactures into this kingdom. A furious bloody persecution obliged the Flemings to fly their country. By crossing a narrow arm of the sea they landed in a kingdom where they found plenty of wool, at a low price, and at a time when the art of manufacturing it being very little known in Europe; foreign nations, since the commotions in Flanders, wer

(62)

were greatly streightened for want of woollen commodities, infomuch that the **Hamburghers** themselves came and bought them up in England, by which means these new manufacturers had a quick and profitable market for all their goods. Such advantages very soon encreased their number, as well as that of the manufactures.

But since that period all the nations of Europe have learn'd to calculate, and have been all willing to reap the advantage of manufacturing their own wool. The encrease of those manufactures have put them upon procuring foreign wool, and at the same time to get an exact insight into the manufactures of England, with a view of supplanting us in those foreign countries where our woollen manufactures were in esteem. And now the advantages which we enjoy by the cheapness of our wool, are out weigh'd by the secret œconomy and political regulation
of

(63)

of foreigners; so that if the ballance be in favour of the latter, the conclusion is manifest, that the manufactures of England will return from whence they came, unless we endeavour to equal foreigners in their œconomy, and observe the same regulations. Such regulations are not the province of any private person whatsoever. It was by an act of the civil power, that frugality and œconomy in the woollen manufactures were established on the Continent. And this is the only way by which the same prudent management can take place in this island. And as the success of all that has been said in this first part, turns wholly upon this management, it necessarily follows that the legislature alone can successfully carry on such a beneficial scheme, by taking into consideration the present state of the British manufactures, and of their foreign commerce; in order to a discovery of the real causes of the want

4 of

of œconomy in the manufacture of the wool, which more than destroys the advantage arising from its cheapness; and without attending to prejudices of several kinds contradictory to each other, which prevail almost all over the kingdom: to the end that no time may be lost in preparing the most effectual remedies against the causes of such a destructive mismanagement, rejecting such as do not directly tend to lay open the sources of this evil, and which by a slight palliation instead of redressing would perhaps only make matters worse. This is what is intended to be discussed in the two following parts.

F I N I S.