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EIGHT SETS
OF
QUERIES,

SUBMITTED, with an UNUSUAL DEGREE of HUMILITY,

TO THE

NOBILITY, LAIRDS, FINE GENTLEMEN,
FINE LADIES, TENANTS, MERCHANTS,
MANUFACTURERS, CLERGY, and People
of Scotland,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF WOOL AND OF THE

WOOLEN MANUFACTURE.

BY A PEER OF THE REALM.

EDINBURGH:

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M, DCC, LXXV.

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advantage to Scotland in cultivating the woolen than the linen manufacture?

Whether, in superfine cloths, there be one grain of wool that is not Spanish? Whether the said Spanish wool, in going from the port of importation in England to the great seats of the woolen-manufacture in the interior parts of England, be not subject to a land-carriage of from 100 to 150 miles, from which the importation of Spanish wool to the great towns on the east or west coasts of Scotland is free? And consequently, Whether Scotland has not in that respect the advantage over England in the manufacture of *superfine cloths*?

Whether in the middle kinds of woolen cloth, which are partly composed of Spanish and partly of English wool, and in the coarser kinds of cloth, which are composed entirely of English wool, the English part of the wool be not carried from the sheep counties to the manufacturing counties, a-cross land upon an average of fourscore miles; whereas Scotch wool carried to the great towns of Scotland is not subject to a land-carriage upon an

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average above 14 miles? And consequently, Whether Scotland has not in this respect an advantage over England in the manufacture of *the middle priced, and of the low priced cloths*?

Whether living and wages be not cheaper in Scotland than in England; and consequently if, in that respect, Scotland has not the advantage over England in the woolen manufacture? Whether the possession which Scotland has of fuel, be not a still greater, because a more lasting advantage which nature has given her; and whether this single article in the manufacture of hats, all the coarse kinds of which are made of wool, will not make a difference on the side of Scotland in the expence of manufacture to the extent of 20 *per cent*? Whether Scotland has not another material advantage over England in the infinite number of rills of water she possesses; rills so necessary in almost every movement of the woolen manufacture?

Why the French undersell the English in broad-cloths, although they receive the very wool of which they are made from

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from England at a smuggled, and therefore at a high price; and why the Scotch may not also undersell even the French, seeing they may have the wool at their door? And if, in the one case, the causes be the low price of labour and the industry of individuals, why may not the same causes have the same effects in the other case?

Whether Doctor Roebuck did not forget, 12 years ago, that the banks of the Carron would one day be the seat of one of the greatest iron-works, and of the greatest foundery in the world, on account of advantages which nature had given them, and of the cheapness of labour? Whether it was not commonly objected that Scotch people knew nothing of iron-works, and that other nations were in the possession of the manufacture? Whether, in disputes upon that subject, those who had least sense did not say that Doctor Roebuck had no sense; and, on these occasions, were not those who were by nature the most dull, the most witty? But has not the Doctor's prophecy proved true notwithstanding all that?

Whether,

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Whether, when the manufacturers of England, Scotland and Ireland, applied two years ago to Parliament, for encouragement to the linen-manufacture, they did not receive for answer, That the linen-manufacture was an exotick of which three-fourths of the materials were foreign, that it could not walk without crutches, nor stand without being bolstered up, and that no manufacture should be supported by art which could not support itself by nature; and whether such excuses will not be ready upon every such new application to Parliament? Whether all the parliamentary encouragements given to the linen-manufacture of Scotland were not accounted personal favours to the late Archibald Duke of Argyle, in return for political services performed by his countrymen? And whether the nobility of Scotland, who are not at present over-loaded with political interest, or apt to barter favours done by themselves for favours to their country, have most to expect from the

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the chance of parliamentary encouragement to the linen-manufacture, or from the certainty of gain in advancing the interests of the woollen-manufacture upon their own estates; that manufacture which can walk without crutches, can stand without being bolstered up, and can carry its head high, if not kept down by the very men who have an interest to hold it up?

Whether that be really true of English Ministers, which is so often asserted by many wise heads of Scotland, who never saw one of their faces; that they will rise in fury against Scotland, if she presumes to interfere in the favourite manufacture of England? Whether a Minister or Parliament that has common sense, will complain of the increase of Scotland in wealth and numbers, when England must reap the benefit of both? Whether the customs, the excises, the naval and the military strength of England would not be greater than they are, if there were 500,000 woollen weavers among the miserable inhabitants of Scotland, ^{one-half of whom}
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are every day of the year dying of hunger, without the comfort of being buried, till an age comes when nature can bear famine no longer? And whether it is any great compliment to English Ministers and English Parliaments, to imagine that they do not see the meanness as well as the futility of the argument of these wise heads as clearly as the writer of these queries does?

Whether it be not a certain fact that large quantities of wool go yearly and regularly upon horses backs, from certain counties in Scotland, one hundred and fifty miles into England, to be sorted and dressed there? Whether, when so dressed, the wool be not returned upon horses backs, the same one hundred and fifty miles into Scotland, to be spun there? Whether, when so spun, it be not sent upon horses backs the same one hundred and fifty miles a second time into England to be woven into cloth there? And lastly, Whether, when so woven into cloth, it be not sent upon horses backs, the same one hundred and fifty
B miles,

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miles, a second time back to the very counties where it grew, to be worn there? Then, Whether such cloth, if spun and weaved in Scotland, might not be made *perhaps a little* cheaper there than in England, when discharged of a land-carriage, uphill and down hill, of good long six hundred miles, three fourths of which have the name, without the reality, of a turnpike? Whether any minister, or any parliament could be so infinitely absurd, as to think that there can be a gain to Great Britain in such waste of land-carriage, or in Scotland losing a sixpence to gain a penny to England? Finally, Whether there be any nation on earth, but the Scotch, in such a state of blindness, stupefaction and indolence, as not to see the consequence to be drawn from such a fact?

2d CLASS

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2d CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether any Gentleman who wears a suit of broad cloth of Scotch wool and manufacture in a year, does not thereby maintain one of his countrymen, together with his family for two months of that year? Whether there be not full as much charity in this, as in giving a sixpence to the church-board on a Sunday? Whether the poor of Scotland do not stand in need of employment and *compassion* more than those of other countries, because other countries make legal provision for their poor, but Scotland makes none? Whether it would be beneath the clergy of Scotland in their pulpits and elsewhere, to remind their parishioners of this kind of charity, instead of preaching mysteries which no one can understand, or figuring in church-courts, where
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their importance, either imaginary or affected, no matter which, is laughed at by all?

Whether a weaver of broad-cloth may not earn double the wages in a day which a weaver of linen can earn? Whether the different articles of which the different branches of that manufacture are composed, are not more fitted for the employment of old persons, of women, and of children, than any other manufacture in Scotland? and whether these circumstances do not merit some attention from landed men for the sake of their own rents, *independent of compassion?*

Whether a stocking-weaver may not have his stockings at market in three weeks, and a weaver of broad cloth his broad-cloth in six weeks from the time of clipping the wool from the back of the sheep, when the manufacturer of linen cannot bring his goods to market in less than eighteen months from the reaping of the flax? And whether this difference does not entitle the woollen
manufacture

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manufacture to peculiar favour, in a country where stocks are small, and credit still smaller?

Whether the landlord and tenant would not get more for their wool, if it was sold to the Scotch manufacturer within four or fourteen miles of their door, than when it is sold to the English manufacturer, at the distance of fourscore or twice fourscore miles?

Whether the addition of one shilling to the value of each sheep in Scotland, would not encrease the produce of land L. 100,000 a-year? Whether the wisest and richest man in Scotland, with the experience of near 70 years upon his head, and one of the greatest sheep-estates in Scotland in his possession, does not think so? and therefore, if it is not worth the while of a Gentry, loaded with their ancestors debts and their own, and in a fair way, by their vanity and extravagance, of handing those debts down larger to their posterity, to try, if, by mending the breed of their sheep, they can produce
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that one shilling, so as to create real rent rolls upon their flocks, instead of imaginary ones upon their tenants?

Whether the highland nobility and gentry, who are generally more quick-sighted to their interests than the lowlanders, are not beginning to see that an animal which supplies men both with food and with raiment, is more profitable than one which supplies them only with food, and are therefore turning their grazing grounds from feeding black cattle into feeding sheep? Whether this, by bringing new supplies into an old market, will not sink the value of sheep in the lowland estates; and consequently, whether it be not a matter of necessity in self-defence, in the proprietors of lowland estates, to improve the breed of their sheep, so as to secure the superiority which they once had, and which it is in their power still by that means to command, because the highland estates are incapable of improving the breed of sheep to the same extent with the lowland ones?

Whether

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Whether if every inhabitant of Scotland should wear his cloaths, stockings, night-caps, coarse hats, blankets, carpets, bed and chair curtains, and his wife her petticoats, &c. of Scotch woolen manufacture, L. 500,000 Sterling *per annum* at least would not be saved to Scotland? And, whether in that case so many people would be seen in it without shoes or stockings, in whose very looks, famine care misery and a sense of dependence are exprest? But whether there is any chance of these appearances being removed until doom's-day, unless the landlords and tenants resolve to raise proper wool, the manufacturers to weave it, the people to wear it, and the merchants to export it?

3d CLASS



3d CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether inattention to the obvious answers to the above queries be not partly owing to the country gentlemen, who are generally dull, muddled with drink, and indolent ; and partly to the shop-keepers of Scotland, who are quick-fighted and selfish, who charge what they please for English goods, because the price of them is unknown, but who would be obliged to submit to a moderate profit upon Scotch goods, because the cost of them is known ? Whether there is the least difference in the manner of living between a younger brother of L. 500 fortune, who keeps a cloth-shop in Edinburgh, and his elder brother, who holds the family estate of L. 1000 a-year ; and whether that manner of living in the former can be supported by any but immoderate and unknown profits ? Whether a Noble Lord did

did not lately give an order for liveries to his servants of Scotch-manufacture to a shop-keeper ; whether the shop-keeper's answer was not, that he did not deal in Scotch cloths ; whether his Lordship did not, upon receipt of the letter, change his tradesman ; and whether that Lord was not a very wise man, and that tradesman very much the contrary ?

Whether the kind and wonderful anxiety which the shop-keepers of Scotland exhibit, in assuring their customers, who are not asking their opinions, that woollen cloths of Scotch-manufacture are good for nothing, does not raise a suspicion of the cause of it ; and whether it proceeds from their fondness for those customers or for themselves ?

Whether the Gentlemen of Scotland and their children, are not indifferent about their dress, because they know that distinctions in dress in this country make no distinctions in persons ? Whether the men who dress the finest in London do not dress the plainest in Edinburgh, as imagining themselves always in the coun-

try when they are not in the metropolis? Whether the merchants and manufacturers of the great city of Glasgow do not disregard dress as much as their wives are finical in it? Whether the customer does not take any piece of broad-cloth which the shop-keeper presents to him, without asking from what country it came, or examining any thing but the price and the colour; and therefore why it would not be just as easy for him to desire the shop-keeper to hand down a piece of Scotch cloth, as to leave it to the shop-keeper to hand down a piece of English cloth? But whether it is to be expected, that the manufacturer will put himself to the expence of furnishing the commodity, when the customer will not put himself to the trouble of asking for it?

Whether a tradesman of character who should write over the door of his shop, that he sold no cloths but of Scottish manufacture, and who should pledge that character for the sufficiency of the goods

goods which he sells, as the foundation of his present and future fortune, could not secure the custom, recommendation, countenance, and protection of every person who has either a head or a heart in this country? And whether the first step of his good fortune might not be a general association of his countrymen to buy no broad-cloths but from him?



4th CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether the Duke of Buccleugh, Lord Hopeton, the Lord Advocate, Sir John Dalrymple, Doctor Hay, Lord Adam Gordon, Mr Hepburn of Clerkington, and Mr Scot of Harden, have not by the simple operation of importing rams of good breeds from Mr Bakewell of Licesstershire, and Mr Chaplin of Lincolnshire, introduced a breed of sheep which yield eight or more pounds of fine wool instead of two or less of coarse

coarse wool, and eighteen pounds a quarter of mutton instead of six or seven, and yet which do not require a fifth part of more food to support them than the common hungry half-starved breed of this country; and whether these persons find their rent-rolls impaired by so doing? Whether so simple an example followed by other men of estates, might not give to Scotland just the very same wool which England produces; that wool to which the industry, wealth, greatness, and independence of England has been owing; that wool on which her nobles sit in the House of Lords, in acknowledgment of its importance to the greatest, as well as the lowest: While yet, painful contrast! there are not six Peers in Scotland who have a sheep worth twice six shillings?

Whether the tenants of East-Lothian are not just now, by the suggestion of David Loch, erecting a woollen manufacture, in which the share of each partner is only five pounds; but whether this share,

share, trifling as it is, will not engage every Partner of the Company to get his relations, friends and acquaintance to purchase the manufacture of the Company; and whether so simple an example, followed in other counties in Scotland, would not in the end ensure a market to the manufacturer, in spite of all the arts of the shop-keeper to exclude it?

Whether there are not broad-cloths of an excellent fabrick made in the Lothians, and particularly at Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Musselburgh, and Haddington? Whether there be not a vast manufacture of another species of woollen goods at Aberdeen? But whether the country Gentlemen of Aberdeenshire, who have a more immediate interest in the subject of these queries than any other class of men in Scotland, shew any more attention to the wool of their sheep, than if their county-town was at three thousand miles distance from them; and particularly if there be a sheep in Aberdeenshire

deenshire that has three pounds of wool on his back? At the same time, in justice to some of the Gentlemen of that county, whether it throws any disgrace on Lord Monboddo or Lord Gardenston, that they sometimes admit a stocking weaver, or grazier, or even skilful shepherd, to dine with them, however much the Lairds who are not accustomed to so strange a sight, may take it amiss; a class of men who sometimes have, and sometimes have not, a little more good breeding than these their new associates, but who very seldom have one half of their understanding, good nature, or freedom from envy?

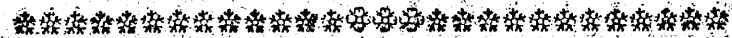
Whether the merchants and manufacturers of Glasgow who have great stocks and greater spirit, and who used to send their sons to Manchester, and other places of England, to work on looms like common weavers, in order to find out the secrets of the cotton and linen trade, might not find their advantage in sending some of their sons,

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or at least of their poor relations, apprentices to the great cloathing towns of England, to discover all the arcana of the woollen manufacture? Whether they might not also bring down workmen from England in that manufacture, as they have done, to their immortal honour, in so many others; and whether to secure such adventurers against losses, it would not be a step worthy of the prudence, private generosity, and public spirit of the inhabitants of that town, to form general resolutions of taking goods from them, for two or three years, in preference to all others? Whether when the present American quarrel shall be over, the exportation of Scotch woollens from Glasgow to America and the West Indies, might not maintain ten thousand weavers with their families, in a circle of ten miles round that town, and bring more money into it than all their other manufactures put together? Whether the landlords and tenants within that circle, and ten miles beyond and round that circle,

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cle, might not find the benefit of this new assemblage of men, in the price of the produce of their lands ; and whether the reason why these things have not been done long ago has not been, partly, that nobody thought of them, and partly, that there was no good wool within reach of Glasgow, the country Gentlemen being busied in drinking, hunting, and talking contemptuously of merchants and tradesmen?



5th CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether many of the daughters and sisters of the best merchants in Glasgow do not rise early in a morning, and spend three or four hours between that time and dinner-time, in sewing broderies on Paisley gauzes, which they are *vain* enough to sell in private, and to *boast* in public of having done so? Whether a young Lady in a great town in Scotland, who thought

thought it awkward not to be married, and yet could not bring it about, did not declare that she would have a husband by the same means by which men contrived to get wives, did not take up a business of making thread for seven years, at the end of which time she produced 40,000 merks in her pocket ; whether that Lady was not soon after married, and has ever since proved one of the best of wives, mothers, and friends : And whether there was grace or awkwardness, spirit or the want of it, dignity, or meanness, in all this sort of conduct, which, to be sure, many who have the words *dignity of sex* continually in their mouths, tho' not a grain of it in their minds, may call *quite shocking*? Whether Homer, by throwing an enchanted veil of industry a-round the irregularities of Helen, does not make us not only forget these, but even take an interest in her happiness or misfortunes? Whether by the same veil he does not throw new lustre upon the tender virtue of Andromache, the firm virtue of Penelope, and

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the beauty of both ; and whether that great master of the human heart did not know, while he was drawing such pictures of life, that they would touch the human heart in all ages, and independent of all fashions ? Whether the next great creative genius to Homer, Milton, was not conscious of the effect of the same secret spell, when in his representation of Eve, until the day that she became *idle*, he united *industry*, beauty and tenderness ? Whether there be a more lovely object in God's creation, than a young woman of fashion, who adds all the cares of age in one part of the day, to all the carelessness, play, frivolity and charms of youth through the rest of it ? Whether the French women, tho' apparently the most careless, be not in reality the most careful in Europe, never failing to pay attention to the fortunes of their husbands, even when they are paying none to the honours of his bed ; and thus by the balance of one great virtue against one great vice, securing a certain degree of respect to themselves from the world, in
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situations when the women of other nations could not fail to lose it ? Whether the word *virtue* be not always applied to the qualities, which are held highest in estimation, by the people who make use of that word ? Whether in antient Rome *virtus* did not signify martial courage, in modern Rome does not *vertu* signify a taste for the fine arts, in France *la virtue* signify private virtue, in England *virtue* signify public spirit, and in the language of our grandmother's in Scotland did not the word *vertue* signify sometimes chastity, and sometimes the union of industry and frugality in a woman ? And consequently whether it does not from thence appear that these good old Ladies put the two latter combined qualities in their own estimation upon much the same footing with the former single one ? And query, If there was much want of judgment in their doing so, seeing that of the two evils which a wicked woman may bring upon a man, to wit, that of ruining his estate during his life, or that of making it go after his death to a son begot
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got by another, it may perhaps be doubted, which is the greatest? Whether it would be unwise in the young Ladies of Edinburgh to imitate the example of the young Ladies of Glasgow, instead of lying in bed all the morning, gossiping all the forenoon, junketing all the evening, and sitting up almost all the night?

Whether every man, rich or poor, wife or foolish, who thinks of marrying, does not confess to all his male, tho' he denies it to all his female acquaintance, that frugality and industry are, among other qualities, principal objects to him in his choice of a wife; the generous that she may share the fruits of them with him, the ungenerous that she may not? Whether many husbands do not bear with many turns of temper and spirits, to which the female sex is by the constitution of nature subject, when they reflect, that, by means of their wives, no creditors besiege their doors, and many of those who enter them are their debtors? Whether one gentleman, out of twenty, in Scotland, be in a situation of fortune

fortune to enable him to marry in his own country; and it being now perfectly understood from one end of Europe to the other, although not yet in Asia, that most husbands are made or undone by their wives, whether young Ladies are to expect to win this twentieth man for a husband, by the habit of constant, repeated, daily, and hourly idleness? Whether every father and mother in Scotland does not feel the force of the answer to this last query? And whether many young Ladies, and their aunts, will not betray their consciousness of the same force, by pretending to despise it?

Whether a woman is not as capable of being taught to keep accounts as to play at cards? Whether a Dutch woman does not keep her husband's books, is made acquainted with all the movements of his business, and is often left to carry it on after his death? And whether, in return, the husband bestows fewer caresses upon her while he lives, or a smaller jointure upon her when he dies, upon this account? If there be any doubt in the answer

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answer to this last query, so far as relates to the affair of careffes; then query, Whether it be not at least certain that the widows in Holland have larger jointures than any other women in Europe, *ceteris paribus*, and by what secret charm they bring this about, from a race of men not the most amorous of the human species? Whether when the circumstances of a country are unhappily such, that women of fashion have no, or a small chance for husbands, there would be much impropriety in permitting them to intrude a little into the sphere of business of men, since they are excluded from moving in that of women; with a view to put it in their power to command respect by their own independence, since they cannot obtain it under that of another? Whether to a mind of sensibility there be a more painful reflection, than what arises from the sight of so many angel-forms, and angel-minds, as are to be found in every public place of entertainment in Edinburgh, but doomed to fulfil the end of the creation neither of the one sex or the other?

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other? Whether one of the chief causes of human misery be not that internal void in the mind which arises from its not being occupied? and whether want of occupation be not the reason why young women in the metropolis of Scotland, are gadding about in private all day, resorting in public, one-half of them three days in the week, in the forenoon and afternoon, to hear sermons in churches, where they feel all the pains, but none of the pleasures of religion, and learn to detest the vices, instead of loving the virtues of human kind; and the other half of them to *other* public places in the evening, six days in the week, and *no more*, only because there are no *other* public places on the seventh? Whether that internal void be not the cause why most of our women in Scotland have a sameness and insipidity in their conversation, except when they are in a passion, which makes every man who considers the end of conversation to be either amusement or conversation, fly from the company of a woman of above 21 years of age, as he would

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would from a crocodile? Whether a woman who knows at least some one thing, be not more agreeable than one who knows nothing? Whether there be not one, but above one hundred modes of occupation in Scotland, in which women might find a relief from all the miseries of the aforesaid internal void?

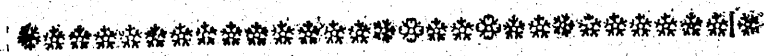
Whether in the writings of the anti-ents, and in modern romances, the scenes of love and of Arcadia be not the same? Whether if one daughter out of many, of a man of fashion's family in the country, should make the flocks the immediate objects of her protection, should see them once a day, should attend to their pasture, their diseases, their wool, the washing, dressing, sorting, spinning, dying, and weaving it; all which she might do without dirtying her shoes or her fingers; she might not find a new glow of complexion from early rising and exercise, new spirits from employment, and new pleasures from the consciousness of her being of some use in the creation, and that she is acting the part of a daughter,
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preparing herself for that of a wife, and taking the surest road speedily to be one? Whether all this might not produce an animation of features, which might give to her eye the radiance of Helen's, the gentleness of Andromache's, and the dignity of Penelope's, although devoid of the coquetish and malignant glances which often escape from that of Venus? Whether in the infinitely various articles, of which the different branches of the woollen manufacture consists, there may not be found occupations suited to all the various tastes and turns of mind, of all the idle gentlewomen of Scotland, and ten times their number added to them?

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6th CLASS



6th CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether the Dutches of Argyle did not introduce a lace-manufacture at Hamilton, and show as much attention to it as if her bread had depended upon it? Whether Lady Mary Louthier does not take more pleasure in looking at the elegance of forms, upon the carpets of the manufacture established by her husband at Louthier-Hall, for the maintenance of orphans, than she does in looking at the landkips drawn by herself, although these have all the sweetness of Claude Lorrain, and all the grandeur of Salvator Rosa? Whether her Grace of Argyle, who now lives in a country replete with wool, although twelve years ago there was hardly a sheep in it, her Grace of Buccleugh, whose Lord has a sheep-estate greater than any man in Europe, Lady Roseberry, Lady Lauderdale, and so many other English Ladies, who have thrown themselves into the arms, and
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trusted themselves to the generosity of the men of this country, and who, tho' strangers, are adored in it, ought not to be the foremost to promote the woollen manufacture of a country, which is now become theirs? Whether it should not be a matter of *pride* with them to hear it said, that a few women of England did, what all the men of Scotland could not do, that they brought with them the richest of all treasures, except themselves, the woollen-manufacture of England into Scotland, that they imported the spirit of industry of the land of their fathers, into the land of their husbands, and that by doing so, they secured the standing of those noble families in future times, which many of them had contributed by the largeness of their fortunes, to raise in their own day?

7th CLASS

7th CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether the Board of Trustees ought not to give their aid to the efforts of their countrymen, by allotting a certain proportion of the publick funds under their direction, to the encouragement of wool-raisers, sorters, washers, spinners, dyers, weavers, and to the importation of sheep from the provinces of Spain, where the finest sheep are? Whether they ought not to send apprentices, and sagacious workmen to the different seats of the woollen manufacture in England, Ireland, and even France, give rewards to those who shall either invent or import machinery useful in the infinitely various branches of the manufacture, bring down from England complete systems of workmen necessary for those different branches, and even, in order to fix their residence, bestow upon them houses and gardens near the metropolis, as the predecessors

deceffors of the Trustees did, with regard to the French weavers of cambricks, upon whom they bestowed almost a town between Leith and Edinburgh, and called it *Picardy* to please them the more? Whether they ought not also to incite ingenious men by rewards, or rather by honours, because these most please the most ingenious men, to investigate and publish to the world accounts of the diseases of sheep and their cures, by which the lives of one hundred thousand sheep at least, might annually be saved to Scotland? And, Whether if the Trustees do none of these things, but continue to bestow all their favours upon the linen manufacture, merely because their predecessors did it, they will not resemble these very sheep which they neglect, and which follow the bell-wedder without knowing why, or where?

Whether Parliament did not in the year 1767, pass an act, 7th Geo. III. ch. 3d, obtained chiefly by the address of Mr John Cross merchant in Glasgow, and another gentleman of that town, which laid an

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an additional duty of five *per cent.* on German linens, and appropriated seven thousand pound annually thereof, to the encouragement of the linen-manufacture of Scotland, under the direction of the Board of Trustees? Whether it be not reported, that there is due to Scotland out of that fund about L. 27000 Sterling, the interest of which goes regularly into the pockets of the public officers, in whose hands it lies, instead of being applied to the use of the public itself? Whether, if this fact be true, it be not full time for the Trustees to apply against this abuse of office to the Treasury, the Ministry, the Parliament, or the King himself, it being certain that men who plead their country's cause, and not their own, can seldom give offence in a free country by doing so? And whether, when they have obtained that money, which they will not be long of getting, if they bestir themselves properly, there would be any impropriety in applying that L. 27000 now due, and the L. 7000 that becomes annually due, to the linen-manufacture, and

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and to apply to the woollen alone, that share of the other funds, which has been in use to be bestowed upon the linen-manufacture alone?

Whether, when the Trustees shall make the linen and woollen manufactures equally their favourites, it will not be found that both of these manufactures mutually give aid and extension to each other; it being observable of the two greatest manufacturing towns in the universe, London and Paris, that the more numerous the branches of manufactures are, the more each branch thrives?

Whether the order of the Trustees to permit woollen cloths to be sold by their own officers in the great Canongate Hall, upon the plan of the Linen-Hall of Leeds, was not a wise, public-spirited, luminous idea, and worthy of them; but whether the whole of it was not spoiled and made good for nothing in the execution, by ordering 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* commission to be paid to their own officers instead of the $\frac{1}{4}$ *per cent.* given by the English directors to support the expence of the
Hall

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Hall at Leeds; and, Whether this does not give occasion for ill-natured people to say, that there never was, nor ever will be, a public undertaking in Scotland, without a job in it sooner or later?

Whether the Hall at Leeds would permit any Scotch cloth to be exposed for sale in it; yet, Whether the Scotch great Hall does not every day and every hour, expose to sale Leeds and other English cloths in order to gain $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission to the officers of said Hall? Whether does not this practice put it in the power of the English dealers, by a trifling loss upon each man to drive the Scotch manufacture out of its own country? Whether a Board of Trustees appointed by act of Parliament to apply their funds to the encouragement of the manufactures of Scotland alone, can be justified in keeping a great shop, furnishing a hall, and paying officers for the encouragement and sale of the manufactures of England? and, Whether the abuse pointed at in this query, does not

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not give occasion for ill-natured people again to say, That there never was, nor ever will be a public undertaking in Scotland, without a job in it sooner or later?

Whether if one of the reasons for selling English goods in the Trustee's Hall, be to circulate the British Linen Company notes, because these goods are commonly paid in them, that alone be not an exceeding good reason for the Board of Trustees to stop; seeing, that otherways, they who should be the servants of the public alone, are nothing more than the tools of a private Company, to the interest of whose paper-trash they are made to sacrifice the interest of their country?

Whether, if it be absolutely necessary to lay on a tax of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the public, from private friendship to one or perhaps two individuals, it would not be more proper to pay this tax from the public funds in the hands of the Trustees, than to raise it upon a manufacture struggling for existence; seeing ma-

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ny manufacturers complain, and justly, that they could hire a hall and servants for themselves, at a cheaper rate than this $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. but are afraid to do so, because the other Hall has got the start of them, has the vogue, and can boast that by enjoying the confidence of the Trustees, the goods sold in it are intitled to the confidence of the public?

Whether the first man who opened the eyes of his countrymen to the interest of Scotland, with regard to the woollen-manufacture was not David Loch? Whether perhaps it may not happen, that that gratitude will be paid by the public to his memory when dead, which may not be paid to himself when living? But whether it is not the duty of the Board of Trustees, as private Gentlemen, as well as Stewards for the public, in honour and in conscience, not to make other ingenious and public-spirited men, by the example of the neglect shown to him during his life, resolve for the future to hide their talents under a bushel, when they see that they can be bene-

beneficial to others only, but not to themselves?

Whether if a public Board be so constituted by the local situation of its members, that, out of 21, 14 cannot attend it once a-year, and that consequently its meetings are rare from want of a quorum, it would not be a more honourable conduct in many of the members of it to resign their seats to those who could fill them? Whether it can be a feather in any man's cap to have it in his power to continue to neglect the interests of his country in the distribution of L. 12,000 a-year, which the Board of Trustees can apply or misapply as they please?



LAST CLASS of QUERIES.

Whether when a surgeon is forced to cut off a patient's limb to save his life, he stops in the operation because it gives the patient great pain? Whether there be

be any hardship in awakening men from a lethargy by the sound of a drum? Whether if there be any severity in the expression of any of the above queries, the person be to blame who puts them, or the persons to whom it is necessary they should be put in a manner which alone can awake them from a deep, long and death-like slumber?

Whether it be not a very sensible thing in the author of these queries to conceal his name, least, intending to oblige all, he should disoblige many; and whether it is not a very common thing in a narrow country like this, where every man juttles with his neighbour, to oppose a measure on account of its author, sometimes because those who oppose him think he has less sense, and sometimes because they feel that he has more sense than themselves?

F I N I S.