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OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE

State of the *BRITISH* MANUFACTURES

O F

Striped and Checked Linen, and of Linen mixed
with Cotton.

THE Manufactures in this Kingdom of coarse, checked, and striped Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton, have, for many Years past, been carried on to a very great Extent; and have not only entirely supplied our Home Consumption, but the Exports thereof to *America*, and other Foreign Markets, have been much more considerable than of all the other Branches of our Linen Manufacture.

These Manufactures are chiefly supplied with coarse Linen Yarn imported from *Ireland*, to the Amount of 100,000*l.* *per Annum*, or thereabouts.

A Duty of One Halfpeny *per* Pound Weight (which, upon an Average, is about 5 *per Cent.*) has been paid, for many Years past, in *Ireland*, upon the Exportation of all Linen Yarn:---This Duty has been long complained of by the *British* Manufacturers of coarse, checked, and striped Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton, as a great Burden upon their Trade; which might, without this Incumbrance, have been further extended, to the great Benefit of this Kingdom.

The Linen-Board in *Ireland* have, of late Years, given large Premiums upon the Exportation of coarse Linens from that Kingdom; and the *British* Parliament have also allowed considerable Bounties upon coarse, white, brown, and dyed Linens exported from hence; which have subjected the said Manufacturers of checked and striped Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton (which are not intitled to the Benefit of the said Bounties), to still greater Disadvantages, as the Manufacturers of the other coarse Linens have been enabled to give higher Prices for Yarn, than those concerned in the striped, checked, and Cotton Trade could afford to give (as will evidently appear by the annexed Calculation); and the Price of Yarn has accordingly advanced, at least, 20 *per Cent.* above the Price it formerly bore.

Under

Under these Circumstances, the Exports of our coarse, checked, and striped Linen, and Linen and Cotton Manufactures, have of late very considerably decreased; and there is great Reason to apprehend, that this Trade must in a very short time be totally ingrossed by the *French* and *Dutch*, who have established, and are industriously promoting and encouraging, those Manufactures in their own Countries; and can be supplied with coarse Yarn at as moderate Prices, as the same has been usually sold for in *Ireland*, and even frequently at a cheaper Rate. — From which Supply the *British* Manufacturers are in a manner excluded by the present high Duties upon the Importation of Foreign Yarn.

By the low Prices of coarse Linen Yarn in Foreign Countries, the *French* and *Dutch* are also enabled to purchase Cotton at a higher Rate than the *British* Manufacturers can, by reason of the advanced Price of *British* and *Irish* Yarn, afford to pay; the Cotton so purchased may be manufactured with Linen; and, as the advanced Rate of one Material is more than compensated for by the reduced Price of the other, those Manufactures may be sent to Foreign Markets upon more reasonable Terms, than Manufactures, of the same Fabrick and Species, can be sent from this Kingdom; and by this means the Cotton-Trade at Foreign Markets, and even in some of our own Plantations, is in a great Degree fallen into the Hands of the *French* and *Dutch*.

It is humbly submitted, Whether it is not necessary for the Preservation of the Manufactures of striped and checked Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton, — either to grant a Bounty, upon the Importation of Yarn from *Ireland*, equivalent to the Duty paid there, so long as the said Duty shall subsist; and also upon the Exportation of all such *British* Manufactures of striped and checked Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton, as is at present allowed upon the Exportation of brown, white, and dyed Linens of the same Prices; — or to permit the said Manufactures to be supplied from Abroad, by allowing the free Importation of coarse Foreign Linen Yarns. — Without some such Parliamentary Relief, these important and valuable Branches of Trade must inevitably be lost; to the Ruin of many Thousand Manufacturers employed therein; and to the great Detriment of his Majesty's Colonies in *America*, particularly to such of the said Colonies, as are concerned in the Growth and Culture of Cotton; and also to the great Prejudice of the Trade and Navigation of these Kingdoms, especially to the *Mediterranean* and *Levant* Seas.

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The Calculation before referred to.

	l. s.	l. s.
600 Yards of checked and striped Linen manufactured in <i>England</i> , takes 105 Spangles Yarn, at 2s. each	10 10	
Charges of manufacturing the same	5	
Duty paid in <i>Ireland</i>	11	
Factorage, and Charges of bringing from thence	12	
	16 13	
600 Yards of low-priced <i>Irish</i> Linen 105 Spangles, at 2s. per Spangle	10 10	
Charges of manufacturing the same	5	
	15 10	
Bounty granted by the <i>British</i> Parliament	3 15	
	11 15	
Difference in Favour of <i>Ireland</i>		4 18

The Premiums given in *Ireland* are not included in the above Calculation; but, exclusive of the Advantage of such Premiums, it is evident, that a Manufacturer in *Ireland* may afford to give 2s. 11d. per Spangle, better than an *English* Manufacturer 2s. — It will therefore be impossible to support the Manufacture of striped and checked Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton, under these Disadvantages.

The first thing I observed
 was the quality of the
 linen. It was very
 soft and smooth.
 The cotton was also
 very good. I was
 surprised to find that
 the British manufactures
 were so well made.
 The striped and checked
 linen was particularly
 nice. I had never seen
 anything like it before.
 The cotton mixed with
 linen was also very
 good. I was very
 pleased with the
 quality of the
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 I had heard that they
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