

Our profound author, beginning with the first traces of man upon the globe, observes that Cain, as an agricultor, must have exchanged with Abel, who was a herdsman, corn against meat and skins for clothing : and thus, perhaps the first murder arose from a quarrel originating in commercial intercourse. He then proceeds to state, that Tubal Cain, the first artificer of brass and iron, must have exchanged the products of his labour for other articles ; and that navigation must have been at a very low ebb before the flood, else ships of any size might have saved great numbers of mankind. These speculations shall be left to the learned bishop, who seems to have resolved, according to the Spanish proverb, " to leave nothing in the inkhorn." But he soon assumes the exuberance of his learning, and the splendour of his talents, to discuss a most variegated theme with great erudition and precision.

" The Holy Scripture does not furnish a more ancient example of commerce than that of the caravan of Ismaelites and Madianites, to whom Joseph was sold by his brethren. They returned from Galaad bringing their camels laden with spices, and other precious merchandises of that country, to be imported into Egypt, where there was a great sale, on account of embalming the bodies after death. The purchase which they made of Joseph, and the sale which they made of him in Egypt, to Potophar, the chief of the household of Pharaoh, shews that their traffic was not confined to those merchandises of Galaad. Their country was situated between Galaad and Egypt, regions abounding in peculiar products, which they exchanged from the one to the other, by constant journies, and assiduous labour. It must, nevertheless be remarked, that when Jacob, for the second time, sent his sons to buy corn in Egypt, he ordered them to take the most precious articles to present to Joseph, so as to procure his favour ; and that those merchandises were almost the same that the Ismaelites and Madianites had brought from Galaad. Joseph himself undertook a commerce of far greater importance ; when, having divined from the dreams of Pharaoh, the seven years of famine, which were to afflict Egypt and Canaan, and even all the earth, he skilfully profited by the seven years of plenty, which were to precede them, and amassed a greater quantity of corn in the royal granaries than was sufficient to extract all the silver and all the cattle of Egypt ; and to turn all the funds of the country to the profit of the King, and thus furnish supplies to adjacent countries."

The reader will hence perceive, that the exquisite history of Joseph includes, not only the first formal mention of commerce, but the slave trade, the bribery of a minister, the dreams of a monarch, the corn laws, the property tax, and the principles of monopoly.

But when our learned author argues from the silver which Joseph puts into the coffers of his brethren, that money was then known, he forgets that no Egyptian coin has ever been found prior to the Ptolemies ; and, as it is probable, that rupees were equally unknown