

owing to want of territory, but of people and encouragement. The *northern* colonies (I speak not of *Nova Scotia*) which are by far the most populous, are discouraged from raising any quantities of hemp and flax, because they make better of their lands, by growing corn and the like for the *West-Indies*, and other places: the *southern* can employ all their hands in raising tobacco, indigo, rice, silk, &c. or if any of them could be spared for the cultivation of different commodities, it is not done because of the difficulties attending the introduction of a new branch of business. The prudent planter will stick to his tobacco, indigo, rice, &c. while he can procure a support from them, tho' they do not yield him the same gains as formerly, rather than hazard his ruin by cultivating the vine, the olive, and the like, with which he is but little acquainted, when at an utter uncertainty, whether his commodity will fetch its prime cost at market. But let him be properly informed, the necessary lights be given him, and a suitable encouragement be proposed, and he will attempt the growth of new articles. I shall be heartily glad to find, that the premiums proposed, by the *Society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce*, prove effectual for the introduction of new branches of trade among our colonists. Whether its views are answered or no, it hath made a noble attempt. But should not premiums prevail, necessity will at length oblige the colonies to grow other commodities, and to betake themselves to new branches of trade; and this necessity will be brought