

24 O B S E R V A T I O N S
M O L A S S E S, or S Y R U P S,

Which are of very great importance to the American States, on account of the numerous distilleries, and the extensive commerce, carried on by means of the rum made out of them, were purchased, and imported into the American States from the French islands, and from Surinam, in great quantities. The British West India islands prudently distil their own molasses, and export a small quantity.

R U M.

The amount of this article, imported and consumed in the United States, greatly exceeded that of any one article of the West-India produce imported in the New-England States; it was more than equal to every other article, that of molasses excepted; with this circumstance, that of the other articles a part was re-exported, particularly the rum made out of the molasses, the greatest part of which was sent to Africa, to Nova Scotia, to Newfoundland, and to Canada*. But the rum imported from the West Indies, was consumed in the country; and except a small quantity, and a trifle from Santa Cruz, of a very indifferent quality, the whole was imported from the British West India islands. The French make very little rum, and that of a bad quality. They do not encourage the making of rum; it might interfere with their brandies.

C O F F E E.

The consumption of this article was so very inconsiderable in the American States, that it scarcely bears any proportion to the others; it was chiefly imported in a clandestine manner from Martinico, and from other French and Dutch possessions.

C O T T O N.

Was never imported in any considerable quantity, there being no demand for it, except for the home or family manufactures of the country. It was imported free from the British West Indies, but prohibited in the French and Dutch ports. The demand was so inconsiderable, that it never became an object of commerce. The Dutch at Surinam raise very fine cotton, and are increasing their plantations: it will be run from thence.

Indigo,

* The distilling of spirits from corn will become a great business in Canada, grain being cheap.