

## ON COMMERCE 15

have a share of the trade\*. The American States may have East-India pepper from us cheaper than elsewhere, and they took a great quantity from us. China earthen-ware is merely brought in our ships as ballast, and to raise the teas above the danger of wet †; it is an article of no consequence, and little is used in America. It will hardly be her interest to go to Canton; she has no articles to send there, or money.

### SALT-PETRE and POWDER.

In time of peace, the importation has been and will continue to be too inconsiderable to merit attention; but it will be imported cheaper than it can be made in America: From whence cheapest remains to be decided.

### LAWNS.

The consumption of this article is greater than that of cambric, and it is a question, whether coarse kinds of it can be had on better terms in Flanders, France, or Britain. Large quantities are made at St. Quintin, and that part of the continent, and also in Scotland; but the finer kinds are run into England from France and Flanders.

### THREAD.

Great quantities are made in Scotland, Ireland, and England, but there will be a competition with Flanders

### HEMP.

America does not raise the fiftieth part she consumes. She formerly got it through England and Holland, from the Baltic. It is necessary to screw it down to prevent its being too bulky, but in consequence, it is liable by heating to suffer great damage, unless it is very well cured, put on board dry, and kept so. If not it will be necessary to unload it to air, on so long a voyage as that from the Baltic to America. Some might go unscrewed, with heavy articles, to make up a cargo, such as cordage; but America has little to send to the Baltic, and a cargo for America could not easily be made up there.

### Articles

\* The Dutch navigate in most respects cheaper than us; but so slow, that in the end there is no great difference. Tea (Bohea) has been as low as 1s. 4d. in Holland, when in England it was at 2s. 11d. and 3s. The Dutch purchase the damaged teas.

† There are often in London orders from Holland for china.