

ON COMMERCE. 7

Porcelain and Earthen Ware of all Qualities, except the most gross and common.

The consumption of this article has been very considerable, and will increase. The importation has been and must be made from Great Britain, on account both of the quality and price. An attempt to manufacture this article was made at Philadelphia, but failed; it may succeed hereafter. East India china is perhaps cheaper in Holland; a very trifling quantity is used in America.

G L A S S.

per duty, for the sake of a revenue. There is scarce any article on which it would not be more prudently laid. The duty on foreign iron being 46s. per ton, undoubtedly produces considerably. In 1781, 50,000 tons were imported from Russia alone; but the average importation yearly from thence, does not exceed 30,000. It is a duty however we should lower very much, or spare intirely, notwithstanding the moment of difficulty to our financiers. There should be no duty on raw materials, especially in this case. Russia, Germany, and other countries which have iron without duty, will undersel us in the manufacture of it.

The cheaper the raw materials, certainly the greater advantage to the manufacturer, and to the country; and for the sake of British iron mines, we should not burthen the raw materials. The mines cannot be an object of so much consequence; besides our iron is inferior to foreign. Raw materials are better for us in return than gold; they are the parents of many manufactures. As the duty now stands, the manufacturer of nails in Russia might afford to sell them 3l. a ton cheaper than we can. Russia makes great quantities for home consumption, and having now taken off the duty, may soon greatly undersel us. Iron imported into England pays 56s. per ton; iron into Ireland 10s. per ton only. As there is no drawback in either country upon foreign iron manufactured, Ireland can export at 46s. per ton advantage. Coals, and the means of manufacturing, are however much in favour of England. We should also take off the duty on hemp and tar from Russia, which would greatly help our exportation of cordage. We import 15,000 ton of hemp yearly from thence. An advantage in return might be expected from Russia, on such articles as she gets as cheap or cheaper from other countries.

As to woollens, at present, we have lost the cloathing of the Russian army by abuses in the manufacture, especially by overstretching the cloth; the consequence of which is, shrinking extremely when worn. Our treaty of commerce with Russia expires in 1786.

May we hope before that time our ministers will have leisure, from political struggles, to pay attention to that most interesting business. Our intercourse is, and must ever be, great with Russia. She has not inhabitants for manufactures; she cannot interfere with us much in the