

## FLOUR AND WHEAT.

These inestimable commodities are not, in the opinion of lord Sheffield, the best staples for the united states to depend on; because, as he observes, in general the demand in Europe is uncertain. He again repeats his unfounded notion of a competition between us and Nova Scotia for the supply of Europe, in these articles; and adds, that it is a fortunate consequence of American independence, that the British European islands may regain the supply of their West Indies, with bread and flour, and that they can furnish them cheaper than we. In regard to the prospects from Nova Scotia, enough has been already said; and particularly till they discover symptoms of internal resources for their own use, by ceasing to import grain and flour from the united states. As to the European corn trade, authentic and important information, indeed, is to be derived from a report of the British privy council, of March, 1790, which is said to have been drawn by lord Hawkebury. It is wisely observed, in that report, that the culture of grain is the most important object that can receive the public attention: and it is stated that the demand of Great Britain, for flour and grain, has produced an average balance against the nation, of £291,000 sterling, for the last nineteen years, although from the year 1746, to the year 1765, they had annually gained, by their corn trade, £651,000 sterling on a medium. Ireland, it is true, has greatly increased its exports of grain, flour, and biscuit, but by no means in proportion to this falling off by Great Britain, and its whole exports of flour and grain are much less than our shipments to the British West Indies. Their lordships proceed to state, that in consequence of information received by them from the principal corn countries of Europe, they are of opinion, that the quantity of grain raised in Europe, in common years, is not more than equal to the ordinary consumption of its inhabitants; and that, in the event of a failure of their crops, *a supply can only be expected from America.* In verification of this formal official communi-