

14 OBSERVATIONS

had great part of its white cottons for printing from England, but her intercourse with the East Indies, now opened, may enable her to supply herself.

S I L K S.

The whole importation of silk goods of every kind into the American States, never was at any time equal to that of calicoes and printed linens, nor is it probable that it will exceed in future; but a small proportion of the inhabitants of the American States can afford to wear costly silks. The men wear very little, except for vests, breeches and stockings, and the women universally prefer a chiatz, or calicoe, to a common silk. Light silks are not likely to become a general wear in America; neither France or any other country will ever engross the whole, or even the principal part of that branch of commerce with the American States, but it will be divided between Spain, France, and England. Black cravats, and silk handkerchiefs of all kinds, amount to nearly as much as any one article of silk consumed in America, and those, with silk lace, and some other articles, are to be had at Barcelona better than in any other part of Europe; though great quantities of silk handkerchiefs, and cravats made at Manchester and Spitalfields, slighter and cheaper, are sent to America. Silk hose, and light showy silks of every kind, may go from France, and the more substantial and durable silk from England. All mixtures of silk and cotton, and silks and worsted, will come best from Manchester and Norwich. Possibly silk may hereafter be raised in America. It is said, it succeeded with the French in the Illinois, but it must be a long time before it can be used in manufactures there.

S A L T from E U R O P E.

This article will seldom or never answer to form an intire cargo, but is profitable to ballast with. American articles are bulky, those taken in return from Europe are not so. Salt will be taken indiscriminately from France, Great Britain, and wherever ships want a ballast on their return to America, and the salt is to be had. English salt is cheaper than French. Much goes from Lisbon and St. Ubes, and is best for fish, English is best for beef, and West India salt for pork and butter.

Tea and East-India Goods in general.

The amount collectively is very considerable, and those nations in Europe that can afford them the cheapest and best will have the preference. As to tea, Holland purchases an inferior kind, and can undersel us, but the tea not being so good as ours, we shall have