

6 OBSERVATIONS

*Articles in which there will be scarce any
Competition.*

WOOLLENS.

In this great and capital article Great Britain will have very little competition, except in superfine cloths made in France, to appearance of equal quality to those made in England; they fail in firmness and durability, but are afforded cheaper; they have a superior lustre. France excels in single colours, though seldom in mixed colours; but the demand of the superfine cloths from America will be very inconsiderable; the consumption of that country is chiefly under fourteen shillings per yard; the quantity of those of a higher price bears no proportion to that of any one of the inferior qualities, down to the coarsest and cheapest. There will be no competition in woollen stuffs of other kind and quality, such as camblets, callimancoes, shalloons, dorants, &c. The manufactures at Lille and some other towns in France have attempted camblets, serges, and some other light woollens, but have hitherto made so little progress, that the same cloths of English manufacture, loaded with duties or expences near 30 per cent. are preferred, both in the French and Austrian Netherlands. As to the shalloons, tammies, dorants, and other light stuffs for the lining of cloaths, and such uses, the French manufacturers have hitherto made nothing but some very bungling and coarse imitations. The article of wool being from 15 to 20 per cent. dearer in France than in England, though the price of labour is lower; yet, whilst wool continues to be dear, it is hardly possible that coarse cloths, which require a greater proportion of materials than of labour, can be afforded so cheap in France as in England; and it is certain, that all coarse woollens are at this time at least 15 per cent. dearer in France than in England.

Cutlery, Iron and Steel Manufactures, of every Kind.

Which never were, nor probably ever will be imported to any amount, but from Great Britain. The Americans already exceed the French workmen, both in the fashion and finishing of their iron and steel manufactures. French nails are clumsy, and bad. At Liege nails may be had cheaper than in England, but they also are clumsy, and do not suit the American market. By having British workmen many articles are made as well in America as in Europe, but in no quantities, except scythes and axes, which are much better, but bear near double the price. * *Porcelain*

* No branch of commerce is more interesting to us than the manufacture of iron; yet we suffer them to be clogged with a most improper