

Spain, will be insufficient for the purpose.

To improve a country, I conceive that some degree of liberty and security must be first established, and then industry, which is the real riches, will gradually, of itself, follow and produce its own signs, money, stock, and credit. Whereas money, or any other of the signs, or arbitrary measure of riches, poured into a country before that period, will not promote but prevent industry, and tend to impoverish the people by diminishing their exertions. When they awake, and discover that money is neither food nor raiment; that they have been led to mistake the sign for the substance, and have been only gathering the fallen and perishable fruit, while they neglected the tree that produced it; it is then too late to contend with the established industry of cheaper countries. From those they will continue to be supplied for their money, as long as they have it. Their customs, manners, and habits of life, will then be formed on this arrangement. We know that men, in general, will work only so far as they are forced to it by necessity, and the people of this nation will be forced to it at least as late as any others. But during all this time the arts vanish, and the country is depopulated. Thus we may fancy and trace the decline of Spain.

In these provinces, however, where money is not seen to be so plentiful, and materials may be had, a spirit of industry might be raised by those who understand the principles and the nature of it, but not by monopolies, prohibitions, or exclusive privileges; nor by royal manufactories, on great and expensive plans at first, where jobs and superintendence generally eat up all the profits: Yet these are the only methods hitherto devised by this government for that purpose, and being so conformable to their character and designs, it is not probable they can soon advance far beyond those ideas in arts and policy.

This government seems not to know, that the proper means of improvement are wanting, or deficient throughout the country: That there are no country gentlemen, or middle ranks, nor sufficient capitals to undertake or assist in any great or useful improvements. The great proprietors are detained at court. Nor do they know, that small and rude beginnings are generally the best, and that nature has destined every thing, industry, invention, legislation, stock, credit, &c. to go through a progress and gradation.

But where pride and indolence are the inveterate habits of both government and

people, and the higher classes are become unfit for business, there can be but little hopes of the return of industry, or of any of those great and patriotic exertions which, under their ancient constitution, before they fell a victim to despotism, animated and enriched the nation, and thro' the successive reigns of several princes, threatened Europe with too powerful a superiority.

Full of these romantic ideas, and planning, as I rode along, various schemes of improvement, it struck me what a noble employment it would be for a prince of Asturias to be invested with actual administration of these provinces, which might, at the same time, promote the happiness of those people, and serve him as an apprenticeship in the art of governing a kingdom.

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CURIOUS PARTICULARS in the Natural History of the ANAS, or DUCK Kind; including the various Species of SWANS, GEESE, and DUCKS.

[From the Universal Magazine for July, 1789.]

OF the distinguishing characters of the *Anas*, or Duck Kind, in ornithology, we gave an account in our Magazine for June last, together with many curious particulars in the natural and poetical history of the *Cygnus Ferus*, the wild Swan, and the *Cygnus Mansuetus*, the tame Swan.

The *Cygnoides*, or *Swan Goose* of Ray, from Guinea, is another species, of *Anas*. It has a semi-cylindrical bill, gibbous wax, and timid eye brows. There is also a variety of these species, of a less size, called the *goose of Muscovy*. They are found wild about the Lake Baikal in the east of Siberia, and in Kamtschatka. They are also kept tame in most parts of the Russian empire. These birds likewise inhabit China, and are common at the Cape of Good Hope. This is no doubt the species mentioned by Kolben called *crop-geese*; who says, that the sailors make tobacco-pouches and purses of the membrane which hangs beneath the throat, as it is sufficiently tough for such purposes, and will hold two pounds of tobacco.

They are sufficiently common in Britain, and readily mix with the common *goose*; the breeds uniting as freely, and continuing to produce as certainly, as if no such mixture had taken place. They are much more noisy than the common tame *goose*, taking