

is a matter of disgrace and reproach to us, that we have been dependent upon any foreign quarter for their supply. There probably is scarcely a country to be found, in which the latter article in particular, can be raised with less difficulty, and in greater abundance than here.

Through the extension and improvement of our Agriculture, our husbandmen and all the inferior orders of persons, would, also, after a short time, be rendered less under the power and controul of wealthy and arbitrary individuals. Some of these, it is well known, are to be found in certain parts of the Province, who exercise within the extensive jurisdictions they have prescribed and secured for themselves, the most potent, and indeed it may almost be said, unlimited sway. However extensive, the powers and authority with which they are legally invested, yet it is obvious, that it is not upon these, that the influence they possess, and the dominion they exercise are founded. Their power arises, from most of the persons within their jurisdictions being deeply indebted to them. The influence they derive from this source, is exhibited in the most marked and unquestionable manner, on all public occasions; their views and desires in relation to which they have only to make known, in order to secure their accomplishment. Many of the oppressions which are committed in the course of the exercise of this influence can scarcely be accurately described, but they are well understood by those in whom they are practised; and are felt the more keenly, from their being of those descriptions, which preclude all hope of redress. Jealous of any encroachment on their power, and tenacious of their influence, those haughty individuals are constantly on the watch, to cramp and to stifle all exertion and enterprise, which would militate in the least with their own selfish, and prejudiced views.

In countries of but recent settlement, and whose prosperity depends upon agricultural improvement, great