

R E P O R T
O F T H E

LORDS of the COMMITTEE of COUNCIL,
APPOINTED FOR THE
CONSIDERATION OF ALL MATTERS

RELATING TO

Trade and Foreign Plantations,
UPON THE
T W O Q U E S T I O N S

Referred to them by HIS MAJESTY'S Order in Council,
of the 14th *January* last, *viz.*

- I Upon the PROPRIETY of reducing the Duties payable in *Great Britain* on the Importation of Goods, the Growth and Manufacture of *Ireland*, to the same Rate as the Duties payable in *Ireland*, on the Importation of the like Goods, the Growth and Manufacture of *Great-Britain*.
- II. What REFERENCES are now given to the Importation of any Article, the Growth, Produce, or Manufacture of *Ireland*, by any Duty or Prohibition on the Importation, Use, or Sale of the like Articles from Foreign Parts; and how far it may be the Interest of *Great-Britain* in future to continue or alter the same.

D U B L I N:

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M,DCC,LXXXV.

REPORT

OF THE

LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL,

APPOINTED FOR THE

CONSIDERATION OF ALL MATTERS

RELATING TO

Trade and Foreign Plantations,

IN TWO QUARTERS

Related to them by His Majesty's Order in Council

of the 14th January, 1790.

I Upon the Recommendation of the Board of Trade

and the Board of Customs, the Committee

have the honor to lay before the House

the following Report, on the Importation of the like Goods

from the Colonies and Plantations of Great Britain.

It is the duty of the Committee to state, that the

very great and increasing Consumption of the

like Goods in the Colonies and Plantations of Great Britain

has of late years been increasing, and that the

Importation of the like Goods from the Colonies and

Plantations of Great Britain has of late years been

increasing, and that the Importation of the like Goods

from the Colonies and Plantations of Great Britain

has of late years been increasing, and that the

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the
1st Day of *March*, 1785.

By the Right honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council, appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

YOUR Majesty having been pleased, by your order in Council, of the 14th of January last, to signify your Royal Pleasure to this Committee, that they should consider and report upon the propriety of reducing the duties payable in Great Britain, on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, to the same rate as the duties payable in Ireland on the importation of the like goods, the growth and manufacture of Great Britain; and that they should also consider and report what preferences are now given to the importation of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Ireland, by any duty or prohibition on the importation, use or sale of the like articles from foreign parts; and how far it may be the interest of Great Britain in future to continue or alter the same.

The Committee have taken this extensive subject under their consideration; and they first called for the accounts necessary for their information, that they might see in what articles of growth and manufacture the trade between the two kingdoms was carried on, and to what amount in each respective article.—Upon examining the accounts of exports and imports, as stated by the proper officers of the customs in each kingdom, they found the most material difference, not only in the total valuations by which the real balance of the trade between the two countries could alone be ascertained; but also very great differences in the quantities of the several specific articles, stated as imported from Ireland into Great Britain. It is true, that Great Britain and Ireland make up their annual accounts to different periods in each year; viz. Great Britain to the 5th of January in each year, and Ireland to the 25th of March; but this circumstance is not sufficient, in the judgment of the Committee, to reconcile the very great difference, as well in the totals of each year, as in the quantities of some of the articles stated in the accounts.—If the committee

mittee are to rely on the accounts stated in Ireland, the balance of trade between Great Britain and Ireland is much against Great Britain;—If, on the contrary, they are to rely on the accounts of the British Custom House, the balance of trade between the two kingdoms is greatly against Ireland;—and yet it is singular, that in the most capital articles of Irish export, it appears, by the British accounts, that more has been imported from Ireland into England, than appears by the Irish accounts to have been exported from thence to Great Britain — Thus, in the period 25th March 1782, to 25th March 1783, it is stated by the Irish accounts, that 114,029 Cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lb. of butter only were exported from thence to Great Britain; and by the accounts of the English Customs it appears, that from the 5th of January 1782, to the 5th of January 1783, 145,612 cwt. 7 lb. were imported from Ireland into England only. It also appears by the English accounts, that in the same period, 45,995 barrels of pork, and 41,044 cwt. 24 lb. of tallow were imported into England; and by the Irish accounts 44,408 barrels of pork, and 31,667 cwt. 21 lb. of tallow only, were exported from Ireland into Great Britain.

The quantity of linen imported into England in the above period appears, by the English accounts, to be near 1,000,000 of yards more than the quantity said to be exported from Ireland into Great Britain, between the 25th of March 1782, and 25th of March 1783.—And, exclusive of the articles above mentioned, many others are totally omitted in the Irish accounts of exports to Great Britain, or appear to be much less in quantity than the imports into England; so that if the Committee are to rely on the truth of the English accounts, with respect to the import of the foregoing articles, the general balance of the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, would be much greater against Great Britain, than it is stated to be in the Irish accounts; though, as before mentioned, upon the total of the British account, the balance appears to be considerably against Ireland.—It is true, that the Committee have not yet been able to procure complete accounts of the trade between Ireland and Scotland; but it is not probable that any thing would appear from those accounts, sufficient to reconcile the great contradictions before mentioned.

It is further true, that many articles of import and export, in the accounts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, are all differently rated: Thus in England, linen, which is by far the capital article imported from Ireland, is rated at from 7d. to 9d. per yard; in Scotland, at from 8d. to 3s. 6d. per yard; and in Ireland, the whole is rated 1s. 4d. which makes a difference between the English and Irish accounts of near 50 per cent. against Ireland: and in the Scotch accounts, a difference of near as much in favour of Ireland.

The article of butter, is also rated near 30 per cent. lower in England than in Ireland; being at 40s per cwt. in the latter, and only 27s. 6d. in the former.----Hides tanned, are rated at 37s. 9d. in the Irish accounts; and untanned at 26s. 9d. And in the English accounts, the first are only rated at from 8s. to 10s. and the last at from 6s. to 9s.

The article of worsted, or bay yarn, is rated in Ireland at 30s. per stone, and in England at 7s. 3d. only; and linen yarn, which is rated by the Irish accounts at 6l. per cwt. is by those in England rated at only from 4l. 4s. to 5l. 12s. if a full investigation of this part of the subject was likely to reconcile the several accounts, the time allowed the Committee is not sufficient for that purpose; but this labour would be useless, for it appears, by what has been before stated, that the quantities of several capital articles exported from Ireland, and imported into England, during a period nearly similar, are in the two accounts widely different.

Under these difficulties, and for want of sufficient time, the Committee find themselves obliged to leave this subject. But that your Majesty may be informed of the articles that principally constitute the trade between the two kingdoms; they will here insert the Irish account of their imports and exports, from and to Great Britain for five years, ending the 25th March, 1784; by which your Majesty will see, not only the articles in which the commerce between the two kingdoms consists, but the quantities and value, and the duties now payable thereon, as stated by your Majesty's officers of the Customs in Ireland.

An ACCOUNT of the DUTIES payable on
Goods, of the Growth, Produce, or Manufacture
of IRELAND, IMPORTED from thence into
GREAT-BRITAIN.

DENOMINATION.		D U T Y.		
		£.	s.	d.
Ale	—	—	11	—
	} Customs.	—	—	the Ton
and besides	—	27	10	—
Excise on Ale imported	—	—	17	3
Apples	—	—	2	3 $\frac{3}{20}$ $\frac{3}{5}$
Arms, prohibited without Licence.	—	—	—	the Bushel
Ashes, viz.	—	—	—	—
Pot and Pearl Ashes	—	—	2	2 $\frac{8}{20}$
Weed, Wood, or Soap Ashes	—	—	—	the Cwt.
	—	—	6	1 $\frac{12}{20}$
	—	—	—	the Cwt.
Bacon	Free.	—	—	—
12 Geo. III. } Bark, when the Price	Cap. 50. }	—	—	1 $\frac{2}{20}$
24 Geo. III. } will allow the im-	Cap. 19. }	—	—	the Cwt.
Beef	Free.	—	—	—
Beer	—	—	11	—
	} Customs.	—	—	the Ton
and besides	—	27	10	—
Excise on Beer imported	—	—	17	3
Bladders	—	—	—	per Cwt. on Value
Books, bound	—	—	—	the Barrel of 32 Galls.
unbound	—	—	—	1 $\frac{2}{20}$ the Dozen
Books, first composed and	—	—	19	3
printed here, and re-print-	—	—	8	9
ed in Ireland, are prohi-	—	—	—	the Cwt.
bited.	—	—	—	—
Bottles, of Glass	—	—	6	1 $\frac{11}{20}$ $\frac{4}{5}$
Brass Shruff	—	—	13	2 $\frac{8}{20}$
Bricks	—	—	7	1 $\frac{16}{20}$
	—	—	—	the Thousand

Bullion

DENOMINATION.	D U T Y.
Bullion — Free Bullocks and Cows — Free Butter — Free	£. s. d.
Candles, of Tallow — must be imported in Packages qt. 224 lb. Nett.	1 12 6 $\frac{14}{20}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ the Cwt.
Candles, of Wax, white or yellow green — must be imported in Packages qt. 224 lb. Nett.	— 1 7 $\frac{5}{20}$ the Pound — 1 5 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Pound
Candlewick — Cotton Yarn is Duty-free.	27 10 — per Ct. on Value
Cards, viz. Wool Cards —	— 2 2 $\frac{8}{20}$ the Doz. Pair
Chalk —	27 10 — per Ct. on Value
Cheese — } prohibited.	
Chocolate —	
Chaifes —	27 10 — per Ct. on Value
Chariots —	27 10 — Do.
Coaches —	27 10 — Do.
Coals —	27 10 — Do.
and besides — and more, if imported into London —	— 5 6 the Ton
Copper, in Plates or Bricks —	— 3 3 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Ton
Copper Ore —	— 10 5 $\frac{8}{20}$ the Cwt.
Cordage —	— — 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ the Cwt.
Corn, viz. —	— 8 5 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Cwt.
When the Price will allow the Importation	
Barley —	— — 2 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Quarter
Bere, or Bigg —	— — 2 $\frac{4}{20}$ Do.
Beans —	— — 3 $\frac{6}{20}$ Do.
Oats —	— — 2 $\frac{4}{20}$ Do.
Pease —	— — 3 $\frac{6}{20}$ Do.
Rye —	— — 3 $\frac{6}{20}$ Do.
Wheat —	— — 6 $\frac{12}{20}$ Do.
Wheat Flour. —	— — 2 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Cwt.

Drapery,

DENOMINATION.	D U T Y.
	£. s. d.
Drapery,	
All Manner of Woollen	
Cloth	1 17 4 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Yard.
Stuffs of all Sorts, made of, or mixed with Wool	— 5 6 the Yard
Dying Stuffs, viz.	
Allum	— 7 1 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Ct.
Copperas	Free
Orchal	Free
Earthen Ware	41 16 — per Ct. on Value
Fans, of Paper	— 1 5 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Dozen
Feathers for Beds	1 6 4 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Cwt.
Fish, viz.	
Fresh	Free
Flannel	— — 6 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Yard
Flax, undrest	Free
Fustians, if not particularly rated	27 10 — per Cent. on Value
Glass Ware	46 15 — per Cent. on Value.
and besides, for every pound	
Weight	— 1 5 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Pound
Glue	— 4 4 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Cwt.
Gloves, prohibited	
Grocery	
Refined Sugar	4 18 7 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Cwt.
19 Geo. III. } Cap. 48. }	But Goods, of the Growth or Produc- tion of Asia, Africa, or America, in any degree manufactur- ed, are prohibited, unless manufactur- ed in, and imported from, the place of their growth or Pro- duce.
Haberdashery, viz.	
Gold and Silver	} prohibited.
Lace	
Laces	—
Needles	—
Pins	—
Thimbles	—
Gold and Silver Thread pro- hibited	
	— 13 2 $\frac{8}{20}$ the Doz. Thousand
	— 11 — Do.
	— 13 2 $\frac{8}{20}$ Do.

DENOMINATION.	D U T Y.
Hats, of Beaver Wool, or Hair Hides, raw and undrest, except Horse, Mare, } Free or Gelding — }	$\begin{array}{r} \text{£. s. d.} \\ 2 \quad 6 \quad 2 \frac{8}{20} \text{ each} \end{array}$
Hogs — Free	
Hogs Lard — Free	
Hops — —	5 18 9 $\frac{12}{20}$
Horns, of Ox or Cow — —	— 1 10 the 100
Horn Tips — —	— — 6 $\frac{12}{20}$ Do.
Iron, unwrought — —	1 10 9 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Ton
Iron Wares manufactured, not particularly rated — —	— 14 3 $\frac{12}{20}$ the Cwt.
Ivory, wrought, prohibited	
Kelp — —	— 16 6 the Ton
Lace, viz.	
Gold and Silver, prohibited	
Thread-bone Lace — —	— 17 7 $\frac{4}{20}$ Doz. Yds.
Lead, viz.	
Pigs — —	27 10 — per Cent on Value
Red — —	— 3 8 the Cwt.
Sheet — —	27 10 — pr. Cent. on Value
White — —	— 4 4 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Cwt.
Ore — —	— 17 7 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Ton
Shot — —	27 10 — pr. Cent. on Value
Linen,	
Irish Linen, plain, } Free with Certificate }	
Linseed — Free	
Millinery, of Silk, prohibited	
Mill Stones — —	2 4 — each
Oakum — —	— 2 2 $\frac{8}{20}$ the Cwt.
Oil, viz.	
Linseed Oil — —	24 4 — per Ton
Train Oil, imported in Ships belonging to Great Britain or Ireland, and taken by the Crews of such Ships. } Free	
Ox Guts — —	27 10 — per Cwt. on Value

DENOMINATION.	D U T Y.
Painters Colours — PASTE Boards — and besides —	— — 1 $\frac{13}{20}$ the Pound — 2 11 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Thousand — 9 10 $\frac{16}{20}$ the Cwt.
Pictures, above 4 Feet Square above 2, and under 4 Feet Do. under 2 Feet Square	3 11 6 — each 2 7 8 — Dit. 1 3 10 — Dit.
Pork — Free	
Rabbits Fur — — Rape Cakes, or Cakes } Free made of Rape Seed } Rape Seed, when the Price is at 15 Geo. III. } or above £.12 10 the Ch. 34. } Laft	— — 1 $\frac{13}{20}$ the Pound — — — — — 1 1 $\frac{4}{20}$ the Laft
Seed, viz.	
Clover Seed —	— 2 9 the Cwt.
Garden Seeds —	— — 1 $\frac{15\frac{1}{2}}{204}$ the Pound
Silk Manufactures, and Ribbands prohibited	
Skins, viz.	
Calf undrest Free	
Goat Skins, Dit. Dit.	
Kid Skins, Dit. —	— 19 3 — the 100
Lamb Skins, Dit. —	— 2 9 — the 120
Rabbit Skins, Dit. —	— — 3 $\frac{6}{20}$ the Doz.
Soap, Hard — —	2 4 — the Cwt.
Soft — —	1 17 4 $\frac{16}{20}$ Dit.
must be imported in Pack- ages of 224 lbs. Nett.	
Starch — —	5 5 7 $\frac{4}{20}$ Dit.
must be imported in Pack- ages of 224 lbs. Nett.	
Stockings, viz.	
Cotton — — and besides —	— 9 7 $\frac{10}{20}$ the Doz. Pair 16 10 — per Cent on Value
Silk, } Silk and Worsted } prohibit. Silk and Cotton }	
Thread — —	— 9 7 $\frac{10}{20}$ the Doz. Pair
Woollen — —	27 10 — per Cent on Value
Worsted — —	27 10 — Dit.

DENOMINATION.				D U T Y.			
				£.	s.	d.	
Stuffs. See Drapery							
Syder, —		Customs		6	3	$2\frac{8}{20}$	the Ton
		Excise		17	17	6	Ditto
Tallow —		Free					
Tongues — —		Do.					
Toys — —		—		33	—	—	per Cent. on Value
Twine, — —		—		—	11	—	the Cwt.
Tiles, viz. Pantiles —		—		2	12	9	the Thousand
Velvet, prohibited if Silk							
Vinegar — —		—		32	18	$10\frac{16}{20}$	the Ton
Walnuts — —		—		—	1	$5\frac{12}{20}$	the Barrel
Small Nuts — —		—		—	2	$2\frac{8}{20}$	the Barrel
Whalebone, cut, prohibited							
Wood, viz.							
Casks, empty —		—		—	8	3	the Ton
Hoops for Coopers —		—		—	5	$10\frac{8}{20}$	the Thousand
Oak Plank — —		—		—	16	6	the Load, qt. 50 Feet
Oak Timber — —		—		—	8	3	the Load, qt. 50 Feet
Wooden Ware, not particularly rated —		—		27	10	—	per Ct. on Value.
Wool — —		Free					
Woollen Cloth. See Drapery							
Yarn, viz.							
Cotton Yarn	}	Free					
Linen Yarn							
Worsted Yarn							

Custom-House,
London, 28 Feb. 1785.

R. FREWIN,
Examr.

They will next insert an account of the duties payable upon goods, the growth or manufacture of Ireland, imported from thence into Great Britain. (*See page 6.*)

And that your Majesty may have some view of the general trade of Ireland, they will add a general account of the value of the imports and exports of that kingdom, from and to all countries, as taken from the accounts stated by the officers of the customs in Ireland, for a period of nine years ; and the balance for and against them with Great Britain, the British colonies and plantations, and foreign countries, as it can be collected from those accounts. (*See Table, page 13.*)

The Committee next proceeded to enquire into the trade between the two kingdoms, in many of the capital articles before stated : And to enable them to form a judgment, how far it might be proper to admit the importation of such articles from Ireland into Great Britain, subject to the same duties as are now payable in Ireland upon importation of the like articles from Great Britain ; they have been attended by many eminent merchants and manufacturers concerned in those respective branches of trade : and as in a business of so much importance to the interest of Great Britain, the information received from gentlemen of their experience and knowledge, ought to be stated with the utmost accuracy, the Committee have thought it right to lay the whole of their evidence before your Majesty, notwithstanding the length of it—Long as it is, they would have wished to have entered into a like investigation of other articles, in which the commerce between the two kingdoms is carried on, if there had been time sufficient ; they trust, however, that the articles they have selected are the most important, and the most deserving your Majesty's consideration.

Before they state the evidence given by the Merchants and Manufacturers, they think it proper to observe,

First, That they humbly conceive, that such goods as are prohibited by the laws of Great Britain to be exported from this kingdom into Ireland, do not come within the terms of your Majesty's order, and cannot therefore be considered as any object of the present enquiry.

Secondly,

Secondly, That it is intended, that such goods as are subject to any duties of excise, or other internal duty, by the laws of Great Britain, shall be made subject, on their importation from Ireland into Great Britain, to a duty equal to such excise or internal duty, in addition to the duties payable in Ireland on the importation of the like goods there.

The evidence of the merchants and manufacturers upon the several branches of commerce, distinguishing each particular head ; and the persons whom the Committee have examined, is as follows, *viz.*

W O O L L E N S.

Robert Patridge, Esquire, Mayor,
of Norwich,
Mr. Jeremiah Ives, of St. Clements, And
Mr. Tho' Kett, Merchants,

Deputed by the Manufacturers of the City of Norwich ;

Examined.

Q. In your Manufactures at Norwich, do you make use of Irish yarn ?

A. We do—of Irish worsted yarn—we use about 3,500 packs in value about £. 87,500 annually.

Q. What proportion does the Irish yarn, used in your Manufacture, bear to the English ?

A. Nearly one-fifth, that is to say, four parts in five are English, and one Irish.

Q. Are you able to purchase this yarn brought to Norwich cheaper than any of the like sort spun in England ?

A. We can purchase it in general at about six per cent. cheaper, including freight, carriage, and all expences ; sometimes (according to circumstances) it is at equal prices.

Q. Can you state to the Committee what the freight and other charges you mention, amount to ?

A. The freight and port duties we suppose to be about 7s. 6d. per pack—the Lord Lieutenant's licence four shillings and nine pence, being in the whole
twelve

twelve shillings and three pence per pack, or about two and a half per cent. This is exclusive of commission and insurance paid by the seller, which may amount to about four per cent. more.

Q. To what cause do you impute that the Irish are able to spin this yarn cheaper than the like sort is made in England?

A. We impute it to the difference of labour in spinning, which is as three to two.

Q. What proportion does the labour bear in England and in Ireland to the raw material, in working up any given quantity of worsted yarn?

A. The labour in working up a given quantity of wool into worsted stuffs is about £. 85 per cent with us; of the remaining £. 15 per cent. £. 10 only is raw material, and £. 5 articles bought, viz. soap, coals, dying stuff, &c.—The Irish labour can by no means bear an equal proportion, the raw material or wool, being much dearer.

Q. Do you apprehend, that in working this yarn up into their own stuffs, their labour is in the same proportion as in spinning their yarn?

A. We apprehend it is by no means in the same proportion; if we can trust their own Report, the expence of combing is equal, and we infer from thence, that the other branches of labour are equal too.

Q. What difference of price is there in general between English and Irish wool?

A. Irish wool is $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. as stated in their own Report—English $6d.$ per lb.

Q. What difference is there in the quality?

A. The English wool used in the Norwich manufactures, to the same purpose for which Irish is used, is brighter, stronger, and longer in the staple—this refers to our more ordinary manufactures only, as the Irish wool is not fit for the finer and more valuable branches of them.

Q. Have you found, since the Irish ports have been opened for the exportation of their woollen and worsted manufactures, that they have rivalled you in the foreign markets?

A. Not

A. Not to our knowledge, except in Portugal, and there not to any considerable degree that we know of.

Q. Have you any reason to apprehend that Ireland will be ever able to rival England in the baize trade?

A. Not being manufacturers of baize, we cannot give a precise opinion on that point, but we conceive not; part of the material being much dearer there than here, and the material constituting a great part of the value.

Q. Is any quantity of Norwich manufactures exported at present to Ireland?

A. We believe not to any considerable amount, and that chiefly through the London market.

Q. If the trade between England and Ireland, for the woollen and worsted manufactures when completed, was to be opened on an equal footing, that is to say, that the like woollen and worsted goods imported from Ireland shall pay the same duties which the British woollen and worsted goods pay on the importation there, is there any reason to apprehend the sale of our manufactures will be diminished at home?

A. The Norwich manufactures being chiefly for exportation to foreign countries, we do not deem ourselves proper judges of this question in all its extent; but we suppose the Irish would not be able to rival us in the home market, if care were taken that no bounties were granted in Ireland to counteract the Duties that may be imposed in England; we apprehend they could come nearest to us in some light kind of worsted stuffs, or stuffs mixed with silk.

Mr. Everett, of the City of London,

Q. What is your profession?

A. I am a factor, or warehouseman, principally concerned in the export of woollens to Ireland, and foreign countries.

Q. Has

Q. Has the export of woollens to Ireland increased of late, or diminished?

A. Decreased; in fine cloths considerably, owing to their non-importation agreement; before that agreement, I exported thither to the amount of £30,000 per annum; since that, not to the amount of 5,000 a year.

Q. If the non-importation agreement was to cease, do you apprehend the trade would revive to the same extent as before?

A. I have no doubt of it from my correspondents, who have given me considerable conditional commissions.

Q. In what manner do you suppose they have supplied themselves since the said agreement?

A. From their old stock of English cloth, and their own manufacture.

Q. Do you apprehend they have large manufactories of fine cloths?

A. At this time they have not; I always understood their principal manufactures to be in coarse cloths; they have however lately imported some Spanish wool.

Q. Are fine cloths wholly made of Spanish wool?

A. Superfine cloths ought all to be made of Spanish wool, and I believe formerly they were; but the price has been so high of late, that I apprehend the manufacturer is under a necessity of mixing it with English wool.

Q. Have the Irish any quantity of wool fit to mix up with Spanish wool, for the purpose of making superfine cloths?

A. As to the quantity, I cannot speak; but they must have some, because they make cloths as high as 12s. per yard; and the wool employed in those cloths must be fit to mix with Spanish wool.

Q. To what cause do you impute the former importation of so great quantities of English fine cloths into Ireland?

A. Because they have it not in their power to manufacture sufficient quantities for their own consumption; by

by not having it in their power, I mean, that they have not at present manufacturers enough.

Q. Do you apprehend they have wool enough?

A. They can certainly import Spanish wool as well as we can; but I apprehend that their own wool is neither sufficient in quantity, nor good enough in quality, to injure the woollen manufacture of this country.

Q. Do you apprehend that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the manufacturers of this country, are always likely to give them a decided superiority over those of Ireland?

A. I have no doubt in the world they would have such a superiority; it is of the utmost consequence to this country, to prevent the exportation of English wool or sheep—this being done, I should not have the least apprehension of any competition, even if they were at liberty to send their woollen manufactures here.

Q. If the Irish were permitted to import their coarse cloths into this country, do you apprehend they would be able to interfere with the like manufactures of Great Britain?

A. I apprehend not, provided our coarse cloths are allowed to be exported to Ireland on the same terms—I mean, on the same duties.

Mr. <i>William Smithson,</i>	} Merchants of Leeds.
Mr. <i>Jeremiah Dixon,</i>	
Mr. <i>Charles Clapham,</i> Merchant and	} From Saddleworth.
Manufacturer,	
Mr. <i>Andrew Hollingworth,</i> Mixed	
Broad Cloth Manufacturer	
Mark <i>Thomas,</i> Broad White Clo-	
thier,	
Mr. <i>James Buckley,</i> Manufacturer	}
of Broad and Narrow Cloth.	

Q. What is the nature of the manufactures principally carried on within the West Riding of Yorkshire?

A. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, and parts of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, woollen cloths and worsted stuffs; the woollen cloths, distinguished into

C

broad

broad and narrow, under which head are included blankets and rugs—stuffs of various sorts—callimancoes—shalloons—tammies and durants—figured everlastings—plain ditto—drawboys—ferge de fattins, &c.

Q. Are great quantities of these goods exported to Ireland?

A. There are great quantities, subject to an Irish duty of about 6*d.* per yard; and stuffs, subject to a duty of about 2*d.* per yard, or five shillings per piece.

Q. Has the export of these goods to Ireland increased of late, or diminished?

A. Rather diminished of late, but not considerably.

Q. To what cause do you impute this diminution?

A. We impute it to the troubles that have subsisted lately in that country, particularly at Dublin;---at Cork, and in the northern parts, the trade has been more open.

Q. Do you apprehend the Irish have manufactured of late greater quantities of these goods than formerly?

A. We cannot answer exactly; but we have been informed, that their manufactures have increased of late, in shalloons and durants. We have never heard that their manufactures in cloth have increased.

Q. Have the exports of your manufactures from Great Britain to foreign countries increased of late, or diminished?

A. We cannot speak with certainty; but we are all of opinion that they have increased.

Q. Have you any reason to suppose, that the Irish manufactures of the like sorts have interfered with yours in the foreign markets?

A. We believe not in the fine goods. We understand they have sent some of their coarse stuffs to America; but we have not perceived that our trade has on that account diminished.

Q. Can you furnish the committee with any general state of your trade?

By way of answer, the gentlemen delivered in the annexed paper, intitled, estimates of the Yorkshire woollen manufactures, including the Rochdale Bays, 1772; and an account of broad and narrow

ACCOUNT No. I.—Particular Estimate of the Yorkshire Woollen Manufactures, including the Rochdale Bays, 1772.

The District bounded on the North by Settle, on the South by Saddleworth, distant from each other 40 Miles; bounded on the East by Leeds, and on the West by Haslingden, in Lancashire, distant from each other 35 Miles. The Space of Ground occupied by Manufactures, equal to a Square of 30 Miles about one half of which are Moors and waste Grounds.

THE ANNUAL AMOUNT.

		Pieces.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
From Clothing, or short Wool	Broad Cloths, mixed and white, 112,370 or 3,232,913 Yards, at 5s. per Yd.	-	808,228	6	3			
	Do. made or milled in Lancashire, presumed of value	-	50,000	0	0			
	Narrow Cloths — 95,539 Pieces, or 2,377,517 Yards, at 4s. 3d. per Yd.	-	310,000	0	0	858,228	6	3h
	Bays, and other Rochdale Woollens, 124,000 Pieces, at 50s.	-				505,222	9	4h
	Deduct, and carry to the Manufacture of combed Wool, for worsted Yarn, the Warp of broad Bays	-	30,000	0	0			
	Kerseys, 40,000 Pieces, at 2l.	-	80,000	0	0	280,000	0	0
	Half thicks, 25,000 Pieces, at 25s.	-	31,250	0	0			
	Blankets, 20,000 Pieces, striped and plain, at 3l. 10s.	-				111,250	0	0
	Hose	-	20,000	0	0	70,000	0	0
	Coln-ferges and Plains, Pennistone Kerseys, Hats, Horse Sheets and Coverlets	-	25,000	0	0			
						45,000	0	0
For combing, or long Wool	In this Branch are employed	-	3,900	Combers.				
	Whose Labour, individually, produces weekly (allowing for Sickness, and other necessary Avocations)	-	36	lbs. of Wool.		1,869,700	15	7h
			140,400					
	Allow 2 Weeks for Holidays, per Ann. and then multiply by	-	50					
			7,020,000	lbs. of Wool.				
				4 Shillings.				
			28,080,000	Shillings, or		1,404,000	0	0
N. B. Besides this, are wrought up Quantities of Irish, and other worsted Yarn, made in distant Parts of England.						Total amount	£. 3,273,700	15 7h

THE EXPORT AND HOME CONSUMPTION.

		Exports.			Home Consumption.					
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Of short-wool manufactures	Broad Cloth	9 1/5	772,405	9 7 1/2	9 1/5	85,822	16 7 1/2	858,228	6	3
	Narrow Cloaths	1 1/2	101,044	9 10 1/2	1 1/2	404,177	19 6	505,222	9	4 1/2
	Bays and other Rochdale woollens	4 5	224,000	0 0	4 5	56,000	0 0	280,000	0	0
	Kerseys, and Half Thicks	1 1/5	100,125	0 0	1 1/5	11,125	0 0	111,250	0	0
	Blankets	2 3/5	46,666	13 4	2 3/5	23,333	6 8	70,000	0	0
Of long wool manufactures	Hose, Coln Serges, &c.	1 1/5	4,500	0 0	1 1/5	40,500	0 0	45,000	0	0
		4 5	1,123,200	0 0	4 5	280,800	0 0	1,404,000	0	0
			2,371,941	12 10		901,759	2 9 1/2	3,273,700	15 7 1/2	

THE MATERIALS AND LABOUR.

		Materials.			Labour.					
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In the short-wool manufactures	—	1 1/3	623,233	11 10 1/2	2 3/5	1,246,467	3 9	1,869,700	15 7 1/2	
In the long-wool manufactures	—	1 1/5	234,000	0 0	5 5/6	1,170,000	0 0	1,404,000	0 0	
			857,233	11 10 1/2		2,416,467	3 9	3,273,700	15 7 1/2	

SECOND ACCOUNT.

BROAD CLOTHS, ending 25th March, 1784.

No. 138,023 Pieces, containing 4,094,335 Yards, at 5s. per Yard	—	£. 1,023,583	15	0
No. 115,500 Pieces, containing 3,356,648 Yards, at 4s. 3d. per Yard	—	713,287	14	0

narrow

narrow cloths made from the 25th of March 1783, to 25th March 1784; and then proceeded as follows:

We beg leave to observe, that the second account, ending 25th March 1784, contains a less quantity of cloth than was manufactured; because from the severity of the winter, we were not able to mill it all, and consequently it will come into this year's account. The comparison is only between broad and narrow cloths; but we are of opinion, from the best information we have been able to obtain, that the manufacture of the other articles mentioned in the first account has much increased.

Q. Do you make use of Irish wool or Irish worsted yarn in your manufactures?

A. We make use of a good deal of Irish worsted yarn in our stuffs.

Q. Do you consider Irish worsted yarn as a necessary material in your stuffs?

A. It is necessary, because we cannot get enough of our own, and it is cheaper. We should prefer our own if we could get enough of it.

Q. To what cause do you impute that the Irish do not work up their own worsted yarn?

A. One reason may be, that they are not so well skilled in manufacturing their wool; another reason, as we presume, is, that they have found a better market for their wool, by sending it to France. We conjecture this, because Irish wool is sold at double the price in time of peace that it bore during the war with France.

Q. Is the quality of Irish wool as good in general as English?

A. No; if we may judge by the Irish worsted yarn imported into this country, and used in our manufactures; for it will not bind into so strong a Thread for the chain or warp, and cannot, consequently, so well bear the friction of the loom.

Q. Is not Irish wool of the like quality generally dearer than the English?

A. We believe in general it is.

Q. Do you apprehend that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the Irish manufacturer, is equal to ours?

A. Clearly not, either in cloths or worsted stuffs similar to those manufactured in Yorkshire; in what are called poplins, and other manufactures mixed with silk, they are arrived at great perfection.

Q. If the Irish were allowed to import into Great Britain their woollen cloths, or worsted stuffs, subject to the same duties at which British cloths, and stuffs, of the like sorts, are now imported into Ireland, would you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain?

A. At present, we should not fear a competition. We cannot speak to futurity; but we hope the English manufacturer will have too much liberality of sentiment, to wish to deprive the Irish of any fair and equal advantage in working up their own materials, arising from their skill and industry; but we trust the exclusive privilege of manufacturing of their own wool, will always be reserved to ourselves.

Mr. <i>Samuel Waterhouse</i> ,	} Merchants and Ma-	
Mr. <i>John Leese</i> ,		nufacturers of Ha-
Mr. <i>William Smith</i> ,		lifax,

On the same Head.

Q. What is the nature of the manufactures carried on at Halifax, and in the country round it?

A. Worsted stuffs and woollen cloths, broad and narrow, from three shillings to nine shillings and ten shillings per yard.—Blankets and carpeting, chiefly coarse, but some fine—calimancoes, shalloons, tammies, and durants; and our manufactures differ from those of Leeds in this, that the principal manufactures carried on at Halifax and its neighbourhood, are worsted stuffs.

Q. Are great quantities of these goods exported to Ireland?

A. Great

A. Great quantities of broad and narrow cloths, and some few stuffs, through the ports of Liverpool and Chester. The broad and narrow cloths are principally rated as old drapery ; if they are what we call pressed goods, they are generally rated as old drapery ; if not pressed, as new.

Q. Has the export of these goods to Ireland increased of late or diminished ?

A. It has diminished, and of late considerably.

Q. To what cause do you impute this diminution ?

A. To the troubles that have lately existed there, particularly at Dublin. In the north, and at Cork, the trade has been more open.

Q. Do you apprehend the Irish have of late manufactured greater quantities of those goods than formerly ?

A. We cannot speak with certainty ; but we don't know that they have.

Q. Can you say in what manner the Irish were supplied with those goods during their non-importation agreement ?

A. They were considerably overstocked, and consumed what they had upon their hands.

Q. Have the exports of your manufactures to foreign countries increased of late, or diminished ?

A. Considerably increased.

Q. Have you any reason to suppose that the Irish manufactures of the like sorts have interfered with yours at the foreign markets ?

A. We do not feel the effects of it.

Q. Can you furnish this committee with a general state of your trade ?

A. We have not a register of stuffs, which is our principle manufacture ; but we are of opinion, that all our manufactures have increased of late very considerably ; and particularly stuffs.

Q. Do you make use of Irish wool or Irish worsted yarn in your manufactures ?

A. We make use of a great deal of Irish worsted yarn in our stuffs.

Q. Do

Q. Do you consider Irish worsted yarn as a necessary material in your stuffs?

A. We don't think it absolutely necessary, so far as relates to the quality of our manufactures; but we could not carry them on to their present extent without it—we should prefer our own worsted yarn, if we could get enough of it.

Q. To what causes do you impute, that the Irish do not work up their own worsted yarn?

A. They have not yet made the same progress in their manufactures—we observe too, that Irish wool is much dearer in time of peace, than in time of war with France; from whence we conjecture, that great quantities are exported to that country.

Q. Is there the like difference in time of peace as in time of war with France, in the price of wool in England?

A. It is directly the reverse, wool is generally dearer here in time of war than in the time of peace. This was not the case in the last war, as it extended to America and Spain, the ports of both which countries were in some measure shut up: the observation holds good more particularly with regard to a war with France.

Q. Is the quality of Irish wool as good in general as that of this country?

A. As far as we know, it is not so good; but we cannot speak to that point with precision, not being acquainted with all the different sorts of wool they grow in Ireland.

Q. Is not wool of the like sorts in Ireland generally dearer than in England?

A. As far as we are informed it is generally dearer.

Q. Do you apprehend that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the Irish manufacturer, is equal to ours?

A. No, not at present, so far as relates to the manufactures of worsted stuffs and woollen goods—In poplins, and stuffs mixed with silk they are arrived to a great degree of perfection.

Q. If the Irish were allowed to import into Great Britain the woollen cloths and worsted stuffs, subject to the

the same duties at which British cloths and stuffs of the like sorts are now imported into Ireland, would you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain?

A. By no means, so far as we are at present able to judge.

Mr. *John Ainslie*,

Chairman of the Committee
of manufacturers in Wiltshire,
and a principal clothier of the
Devizes;

On the same head.

Q. What are the sorts of cloths made at the Devizes, and in the country thereabouts?

A. Superfine cloth and casemere are the principal manufactures; but we make besides, second cloths, ferges, beavers, &c. and of late a great variety of fancy manufactures, some of which are yarn mixed with silk.

Q. Are these manufactures made principally of Spanish wool, or English, or of both?

A. The finer sorts entirely of Spanish.—In the coarser sorts we use the finer and the coarser sorts of English wool.

Q. Are any quantities of these goods sent to Ireland?

A: There have been some quantity of the finer goods sent to Ireland, and I believe also of the second cloths.

Q. Do you know whether the export of these goods to Ireland has increased of late, or diminished?

A. It has decreased of late so much, as almost to amount to a cessation.

Q. To what causes do you impute this diminution?

A. I impute it to the Irish non-importation agreement.

Q. Do you know how the Irish supplied themselves during the agreement?

A. I impute it to the stock they had in hand, which they

they had imported in greater quantities, with a view to the non-importation agreement.

Q. If the non-importation agreement was to cease, do you imagine the trade would revive as before?

A. I do.

Q. Do the Irish manufacture any considerable quantity of fine cloths?

A. I do not apprehend they do any great quantities. They have a considerable manufacture near Dublin, which, however, cannot supply nearly enough for the demand.

Q. Is the quality of the Irish superfine cloths equal to ours?

A. I cannot speak with certainty, but I do not think them equal in superfine cloths;—in ratteens I give them the preference.

Q. Do you use in the manufactures near you any Irish yarn?

A. None is used in the Devizes, or its neighbourhood.

Q. Do you know whether any is used in the manufactures in Gloucestershire?

A. I apprehend there is, but not in any great quantity.

Q. Are you acquainted with the quality of Irish wool?

A. I have no particular knowledge of it; in general I should think it not equal to ours; but there are some sorts which I should conceive to be equal to the English, particularly that of the County of Kerry.

Q. Do you apprehend that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the manufacturers of this country, are likely always to give them a decided superiority over the manufactures of Ireland?

A. I do conceive that, viewing the circumstances as they are at present, there is a decided superiority in these points in favour of the English manufacturer; but I cannot speak with regard to futurity.

Q. If the Irish were allowed to import into this country their woollen cloths, subject to the same duties at which British cloths of the like sorts are now im-
port-

ported into Ireland, would you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain?

A. With respect to the superfine manufactures, I should think the advantage decidedly in favour of this country; but in the manufacture for which Irish wool is fit, there might be a danger, arising from the cheapness of labour in that country. I speak this last doubtfully.

The Committee will next lay before your Majesty, the average price of English and Irish wool for fifteen years, from 1770 to 1784, both inclusive.

ENGLISH PRICES.

1770	—	$6\frac{1}{4}$	to	$6\frac{3}{4}$
1771	—	$6\frac{1}{4}$	to	$6\frac{3}{4}$
1772	—	$6\frac{1}{2}$	to	$7d$
1773	—	6	to	7
1774	—	7	to	$7\frac{3}{4}$
1775	—	$7\frac{2}{4}$	to	$8\frac{1}{2}$
1776	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$	to	$8d$
1777	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$	to	$8d$
1778	—	6	to	$6\frac{1}{2}$
1779	—	$5\frac{1}{4}$	to	$5\frac{1}{2}$
1780	—	$5\frac{1}{4}$	to	$5\frac{1}{2}$
1781	—	$4\frac{3}{4}$	to	$5\frac{1}{4}$
1782	—	$4\frac{3}{4}$	to	$5\frac{1}{2}$
1783	—	6	to	$6\frac{3}{4}$
1784	—	$6\frac{1}{2}$	to	$7\frac{1}{4}$

IRISH PRICES

1770	—	from 14	to	15s. per stone
1771	—	from 14s. 6d.	to	15s. 6d.
1772	—	from 15	to	16
1773	—	from 15	to	16
1774	—	from 14	to	15
1775	—	from 16	to	17
1776	—	from 17	to	18

1777	—	from 17s. 6d.	to 18s. 6d.
1778	—	from 8 6	to 9 6
1779	—	from 10	to 11
1780	—	from 10 6	to 11 6
1781	—	from 11	to 12
1782	—	from 10	to 11
1783	—	from 11 6	to 12 6
1784	—	from 11 6	to 12 6

OBSERVATIONS.

If the Irish woollen manufactures are to be imported according to the plan suggested in the reference,

The duties will be as follows :

On old drapery, that is, broad and narrow cloths, and all other species that are called pressed goods, 6d. $\frac{1}{10}$ ths. Irish money per yard.

On new drapery, being coarse cloths and worsted stuffs, not pressed, 2s. 10d. per yard.

As this duty is laid on by the yard, it operates principally on the coarser and cheaper sorts of the two descriptions of drapery :—It is clear, therefore, that the operation of these duties, as far as they go, will be most to the discouragement of the importation of the coarser and cheaper sorts.

The Committee thought it right to enquire, what had been the export of woollen manufactures from Ireland, before the prohibition which took place in 1699.—As the accounts of the Custom-House of that kingdom go back only to 1698, they could only obtain the account for that year, which stands as follows ;

To England.	Scotland.	Elsewhere.
Old drapery $1\frac{1}{2}$ Ps	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	250 $\frac{1}{2}$ the P ^{ce} 27 Y ^{ds}
New drapery 601 yards	2,128 D°	20,566 $\frac{1}{2}$ D°
Frize 127,601 yards	1,355 D°	537,945 D°

To this account the Committee will add, that of the imports of woollen manufactures into Ireland for that year, and which was,

Old drapery	-	11,784 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards.
New drapery	-	21,294 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards.

By

By this state it appears, that the import of old drapery was, in that year, as above,

11,784 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards, and the export 281 $\frac{1}{2}$ pieces,

or, 7,597 yards;

and of course that 4,187 yards were imported, more than were exported.

The committee will now proceed to state, the general export of woollen goods from Ireland, for a period of four years, from 25th March 1779, to 25th March 1783; and the value.

An ACCOUNT of WOOLLEN GOODS, of the Manufacture of *Ireland*, Exported from thence the 25th of *March* 1779, to the 25th *March* 1783; and of the Values of the said Articles respectively.

	DRAPERY, NEW			DRAPERY, OLD			FLANNEL.			FRIZE.		
	Yards.	Value. £. s. d.		Yards.	Value. £. s. d.		Yards.	Value. £. s. d.		Yards.	Value. £. s. d.	
Years ending 25th Mar. 1780 —	8,653	865 6 —	—	494	164 13 4	230	230	9 11 8	—	1,779	148 5 —	—
1781 —	286,859	28,685 18 —	—	3,740	1,246 13 4	27,049	27,049	1,127 10 —	—	800	66 13 4	4
1782 —	336,607½	33,660 15 —	—	4,633	1,544 6 8	8,641	8,641	360 — 10	—	784	65 6 8	8
1783 —	538,061	53,806 2 —	—	40,589	13,529 13 4	11,416	11,416	475 13 4	—			

(30)

It appears to the Committee, by the Irish accounts of export to America, for the year 1783 and 1784, in which they apprehended the United States are included, as well as the remaining British possessions, that the export of new drapery to that country had increased from 125,286 yards in the year 1783, to 259,141½ yards in the year 1784; the export of old drapery from 24,588 yards in the year 1783, to 28,450 yards in the year 1784; the export of flannels, from 5,609 yards, in the year 1783, to 36,067 yards in the year 1784; and the export of Frize, from 84 yards in the year 1783, to 2,738 yards in the year 1784.

The increase in the export of Woollen Manufactures from Ireland, has not been confined to British America and the United States only; but has been equally considerable to other foreign markets, according to the following state of the exports from Ireland to foreign parts, for four years; viz.

	Old Drapery.	New Drapery.	Flannels.
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
1780	— 499	5,889	190
1781	— 1,292	240,712	15,746
1782	— 772	306,178	4,728
1783	— 38,796	511,394	9,672

But the Committee apprehend, that the export to the United States is again included in this account of exports to foreign parts; though for want of proper accounts, and officers of the Irish revenue, from whom they might have obtained particular information, it is impossible to state, with accuracy, the difference this circumstance would make in the account: From the export of the year 1783, which they have had an opportunity of examining, they conceive it would amount to about one fifth of the new drapery, and one third of the old drapery, and flannels.

During the years 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, and 1784, the import of English woollen manufactures into Ireland was as follows:

Old

		Old Drapery.	New Drapery.
1780	—	64,381 Ys.	159,428
1781	—	326,820	433,198
1782	—	363,787	547,336
1783	—	373,053	420,415
1784	—	354,139	323,217

By the diminution of the imports of new drapery in the year 1784, compared with the great export of that article to America, and to foreign countries in the same year, it appears probable, that the Irish manufacture of woollens, under the description of new drapery, is increasing considerably. In the old drapery, or finer sorts of woollen goods, a like comparison of their import and export, does not mark any material increase.

C O T T O N S.

Messrs. *Thomas Walker*,
 and
Thomas Richardson,
 Messrs. *Tho. Phillips*,
 and
Thomas Kershaw,
 } Manufacturers of *Manchester* ;
 }
 } Printers of that place ;
 Examined.

Q. Do you make use of any quantity of Irish worsted bay yarn in the Manchester manufactures?

A. Considerable quantities are used in the small ware trade, such as garters, &c. and in checks and stripe furniture ; but none at all in the cotton manufacture.

Q. Are you able to purchase Irish worsted bay yarn cheaper than the like sort spun in England?

Manufacturers.

A. We cannot speak to that fact, as we are not concerned in that business.

Q. Is a considerable trade carried on to Ireland in the manufactures of Manchester?

Printers.

Printers.

A. There has been a much more considerable trade than there is at present. In the year 1783, there was an export of about 130,000 square yards of printed cottons and calicoes to Ireland, from the port of Chester only, from the month of July to December of that year; but in the six months from July to December 1784, only about 18,000 yards were exported from the same port.

Q. What quantity of fustians is exported to Ireland?

Manufacturers.

A. The trade to Ireland in fustians is very considerably decreased.—One house, which, from October 1783 to January 1784, sent £ 5,000 worth of goods there has not, from October 1784 to January 1785, sent a single piece, and has received no order, but one to the amount of about £ 60; and that house is by far the first house in Manchester in the Irish trade. Another house, which, from January 1783 to August 1784, sent £ 6,271 19s. worth of goods there, has, from that time, sent none, and has received no commissions but to the amount of from £ 200 to £ 300.

Q. Is Chester the only or the principal port from which Manchester goods are exported to Ireland?

Printers.

A. It is the principal port. Manchester goods are also exported from Bristol, Liverpool, Whitehaven, and London; and the exports from London are probably equal to those from Chester. Considerable quantities of cottons and calicoes go from Manchester to Glasgow, where they are printed, and from thence are exported to Ireland. This answer respects printed goods only.

Manufacturers.

Very few fustians go from any other port than Chester and Liverpool.

Q. You have spoken of the decline of the trade to Ireland in printed goods and fustians from the port of Chester: can you speak of the decline of it from other ports? or do you infer from the decrease of the exports from Chester, that it has so declined?

Printers.

Printers.

A. We cannot speak to this as a certain fact, but we infer it must be so.

Q. You have also spoken to the decline of this trade in the last six months of the years 1783 and 1784: Can you inform this Committee of the state of the trade during the first six months of each of those years?

Printers.

A. With respect to the printed manufactures, the exports of the first six months of the year 1783, we presume, were equal to the exports of the latter six months of that year. In the first six months of the year 1784, there was a larger export than in the latter six months, but the trade the whole year kept declining.

Manufacturers.

With respect to the trade with Ireland in fustians, we can only say, that from the beginning of the year 1784 it has been considerably on the decline?

Q. Are fustians and printed goods the principal object of the Manchester manufactures?

Manufacturers.

A. They certainly are.

Q. To what causes do you impute this decline?

Manufacturers.

A. To the quantity of fustians the Irish now manufacture themselves; and this must be so, because there was a considerable reduction in the trade to ports of the North of Ireland, where the non-importation agreement had not taken place, as well as to the port of Dublin, where it existed in its full force: the Manchester fustian trade, from the first of October 1784 to the first of January 1785, laboured under the following difficulties and disadvantages—1st by an old duty of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on importation into Ireland: then by a bounty of £5 per cent. lately given by the Irish Parliament on home consumption: by another bounty of £5 per cent. given by the Linen Board, likewise on home consumption, which was to expire on the 1st of January 1785, but may be renewed—by freight, insurances, and expences, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more—by the late English tax, which, on the average, is, upon the gross amount
of

of our sales, £. 3 per cent. and though drawn back on exportation, yet the goods exported will still be loaded with £ 8. per cent. owing to the effect of the tax. Besides which, the Irish Linen Board gives great encouragement to the Irish manufacturer, by supplying him with looms; and the Irish Parliament gives also a bounty of £. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on exportation, so that we shall meet them in future at a foreign market at a disadvantage of £. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from our tax and their bounty; and in Ireland to the disadvantage of £. 26 per cent. exclusive of the bounty given by the Linen Board.

Printers.

With respect to the printing manufacture, we likewise impute the decline of that trade to the increase of the Irish manufacture of cottons and calicoes, but principally to a duty, imposed last Session in Ireland, of 1s. per yard on all printed calicoes imported from Great Britain, and to the duty imposed in Great Britain, which we estimate at about £. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and though allowed to be drawn back on exportation, in general it cannot be obtained, because the marks put on by the excisemen are frequently defaced in bleaching.

Q. Can the Irish supply themselves with cotton wool cheaper than our manufacturers can in England?

Manufacturers.

A. We suppose they can have no advantage over us, but upon a direct importation in freight and insurance.

Q. Is there any other material used in the cotton manufacture, in which the Irish have an advantage over our manufactures?

Manufacturers.

A. Yes—very materially, in linen yarn, which is the growth and manufacture of Ireland, and which of course must be much cheaper to them than to us, and of which we buy considerable quantities from that country. Irish and German linen yarn (which is generally dearer than Irish) is the warp of all our lower-priced, and many of the middle-priced fustians—in checks, $\frac{7}{8}$ of the material is linen yarn, which is wholly Irish.

Q. Have the Irish manufactures any advantage over the British, in the price of labour?

Manufacturers.

A. We conceive that labour is much cheaper there than here, but in what proportion we cannot say: the Irish must have a great advantage in the cheapness of provisions; besides being exempt from land tax, and excise on soap, candles, leather, and many other articles, while we are burthened therewith; and in stamp duties upon bills, receipts, &c. &c.—We know they have many of our machines already; and we have no doubt they will soon have them all.

Q. Do not you conceive that the art of ingenuity of the British manufacturer will secure to him an advantage to him in these branches of trade?

Manufacturers.

A. Undampted, unchecked, and untaxed, we have not a doubt but he will be equal, if not superior, to any other manufacturer in the world.

Q. If the Irish and British manufacturers in the cotton trade were put upon the same footing with respect to taxes and bounties, as well internally as upon export from one country to the other, should you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the British or Irish market?

A. If we were put in all these respects upon equal terms, we should not apprehend a competition at either market.

The Committee think it proper, in this place, to inform your Majesty, that the above witnesses sent the next day, and desired to correct their former answers in the following manner.

Manufacturers.

A. If we can, *in all respects*, be put upon *equal terms*, England and Ireland will naturally supply themselves with cotton goods for their internal consumptions, and in foreign markets we shall meet upon equal terms—except in America and the West Indies; where Ireland will certainly have an advantage in freight and insurance, exclusive of the very great saving she will enjoy in the victualling of her ships.

Printers.

Printers.

If we were put, in all these respects, upon equal terms with respect to internal as well as external taxes, we should not apprehend a competition at either market.

The Committee having transmitted to the above gentlemen the following questions, subjoin the same, with their answers.

Q. Whether the exportation of cotton goods, printed or otherwise, to other countries, except Ireland, has increased of late, or diminished?

Manufacturers.

A. With respect to the exportation of printed cottons and calicoes, we conceive it may be accurately known, by referring to the Custom-House books, as they were not only entitled to a drawback of the duty, but (as we are likewise informed) to a bounty of 2*d.* per square yard upon exportation.—The exportation of fustians previous to the year 1763, was not very considerable; since that time, to the first of October last, it has upon the whole kept increasing, though not without fluctuations: notwithstanding that, we are greatly underfold, and have almost wholly lost some articles, for which we not long ago had a considerable demand; but that ingenuity and invention which has hitherto so eminently distinguished our manufactures and workmen, had, till that period supplied the deficiency.

Printers to the same Question.

The exportation of printed cotton goods did very considerably increase in the year 1784; but that increase will not continue, for the following reasons.

On the conclusion of the peace, a great number of adventurers to America obtained very extensive credit, and shipped large quantities of printed cottons and calicoes for which no return has been made.

From the best information, the exports to America, in the year 1784, exceeded the consumption of two years.

The Quantity of British printed goods that will be exported this present year, must be very small: the East

India white callicoos, which were sold at the last sale, and are now selling, can be exported from 40 to 50 per Cent. lower than British callicoos.—There are 60,000 pieces of East India printed goods now on sale, which usually sell from 80 to 100 per cent, lower than British printed goods; from these causes, we expect almost a total prohibition of our own manufacture.

The quantity of British printed cottons and callicoos exported to other parts, is very inconsiderable.

Messrs. *Walker* and *Richardson* were again examined on the before mentioned amended answer.

Q. You have said, that if England and Ireland were put upon equal terms with respect to duties and bounties upon their cotton manufactures, they will naturally supply themselves with cotton goods for their internal consumption; do you mean, that the Irish manufacturer will supply the Irish market, and the English manufacturer the English market?

A. We apprehend the Irish manufacturer will have the advantage, and may in time even supply the English market.

Q. If the cotton manufacturers of Ireland are made subject to a duty of ten and a half per cent. on importation into Great Britain, do you apprehend the Irish manufacturer will be able to supply the English market to the detriment of the cotton trade of this country?

A. If the cotton trade of this country was protected by a duty of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the importation of cotton goods from Ireland into this country, we apprehend it would be a sufficient security to our trade for the home consumption.

Messrs. *Walker* and *Richardson* having transmitted to the committee a paper, containing information received by them since their former examination, respecting the purchase of Irish worsted bay yarn being cheaper than the like sort spun in England, it is thought proper here to insert the same, viz.

A. The information which they have since received from Manchester is, “at least 20 per cent. cheaper than the like sort spun in England; which is a striking proof

“ proof of the very great advantage the Irish have over
 “ us in the price of labour.

“ That the number of packs of worsted bay yarn im-
 “ ported to Manchester from Ireland, for the last four
 “ years, were as follows ;

“ In the year	1781	—	—	1,052
“ Do.	1782	—	—	1,359
“ Do.	1783	—	—	1,332
“ Do.	1784	—	—	2,088

5,831 Packs.

“ Each pack contains 270 lbs.

“ Total 1,574,370 lbs.

“ Average value is 1s. 10d. per lb.

“ Total amount is £. 144,317. 5. 0. for the 4 years,
 “ which averages annually £. 36,079. 6. 3.—Besides
 “ the Irish worsted bay yarn imported to Manchester,
 “ they are well informed that a much greater value is im-
 “ ported into Yorkshire and to Norwich; also consider-
 “ able quantities to Exeter, Coventry, Kidderminster,
 “ Wilton, Kendal, and Glasgow, and several other
 “ parts of Great Britain.

“ An account of the number of trusses of linen yarn
 “ imported to Manchester from Ireland, for the four
 “ last years, which is principally used in sheetings,
 “ checks, small wares, printed cottons, printed and
 “ check handkerchiefs, low and middle-priced fustians.

“ In the year	1781	—	—	3,491
“ Do.	1782	—	—	3,995 $\frac{3}{4}$
“ Do.	1783	—	—	4,532 $\frac{1}{2}$
“ Do.	1784	—	—	3,543

“ 15,562 $\frac{1}{4}$ trusses.

“ Which is upon an average, 3,890 $\frac{1}{2}$ trusses annually.
 “ Each truss is 33 heads, or 792 lbs.—the average price
 “ of which is 1s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. which amounts to £ 176,
 “ 531. 8. 9. yearly, and upon which a duty of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per
 “ lb. is charged on being exported from Ireland, which
 “ makes

“ makes £. 6,419. 6. 6. per annum.—It is here to be
 “ remarked, that this only includes the yarn imported
 “ into Manchester ; that very considerable quantities
 “ are used in Lancashire, which do not come to Man-
 “ chester, besides what is imported into various other
 “ parts of this kingdom.

“ Exclusive of the above duty, the English Manu-
 “ facturer is loaded with at least 5 per cent. more than
 “ the Irish Manufacturer, in commission, insurance,
 “ freight, &c.”

Mr. *Walker* and Mr. *Richardson* think it almost need-
 less to remark, that no non-importation agreement took
 place in any part of Ireland, except in Dublin ; yet the
 decline of the fustian trade from Manchester, has for
 some time past been general throughout the whole of
 that kingdom.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

On British calicoes imported into Ireland, the du-
 ties are, if stained, about 1s. the yard ; if white, about
 8d. the yard.

On cotton manufactures, and on cotton mixed with
 linen or silk, the duty is £. 10 10s. per cent. on the
 value ; on fustians, the duty is 1s. 10d. the end. On
 the importation of the foregoing articles into Great-
 Britain, these duties ought, according to the proposed
 plan, to be added to any excise or inland duties impos-
 ed on such articles.

Whatever advantage the Irish Manufacturer may now
 have on the commission, freight, and insurance, paid on
 English cotton manufactures imported into Ireland, as
 stated by the evidence, the English Manufacturer will
 have a like advantage against the Irish, in the consump-
 tion of the like goods at home. It appears by the Irish
 accounts of imports before stated, that the quantity of
 English printed calicoes imported into Ireland has rather
 increased ; and that the cotton and mixed manufactures
 have been, during the five years stated in the said ac-
 count, nearly the same. The quantity of fustians import-
 ed into Ireland from Great-Britain has, during the same
 period,

period, rapidly decreased ; while the export of fustians from Ireland to America has increased as follows :

In the year 1781	—	1,108 yards.
1782	—	None.
1783	—	24,296 yards.
1784	—	47,237 yards.

The export of cotton and mixed goods from Ireland to America, has also increased in the following manner :

In the year 1781	—	145	12	4	Value.
1782	—	414	7	6	D
1783	—	1,148	16	—	D
1784	—	8,319	18	2	D

The export of cotton manufactures from Ireland to foreign parts, although not to any great extent at present, appears to be increasing.

In the year 1781, the value of cotton and mixed goods exported, was £. 11. 14. 8.; and in the year 1783, it amounted to £. 427. 1. 0.

It may not be improper to observe here, although it does not immediately apply to the manufacturing of cotton, but rather to the printing branch, that the export of coloured linen from Ireland to foreign parts, which, in the year 1780, was only 5,771 yards, in the year 1783 was increased to 119,628 yards, of which 80,253 yards were exported to the United States of America.

S I L K.

Mr. *John Merrick*, of London, Silk Manufacturer ;
Thomas Tatlock, Silk Broker, of London ;
Stephen Barbett, of Spittal Square, Silk Manufacturer ; And
William Fulton, Manufacturer of Ribband and Silk, in Scotland.
 Examined.

Q. Has there been a considerable export of silk manufactures from this country to Ireland ?

A. There has.

Q. In

Q. In what articles?

A. Large quantities of ribbands—a-la-modes—fattins—gauzes—persians and farfenets—brocades of all kinds—plain and figured fattins, and a variety of other articles.

Q. Has the export of these articles increased of late, or diminished?

A. In general very much diminished, particularly in plain and rich goods—It has not diminished in the articles of gauzes and figured ribbands.

Q. To what causes do you impute this diminution?

A. Intirely to the non-importation agreement.

Q. Can you say in what manner the Irish have supplied themselves with goods of the like sorts since that agreement?

A. We cannot answer that question.

Q. Do you know whether the Irish have any considerable silk manufactures?

A. They have about fifteen hundred manufacturers in Dublin.

Q. Do you know whether their manufactures are increased of late or diminished?

A. Diminished last year, but we think they are now increasing again.

Q. From whence do the Irish derive their raw and thrown silk used in their manufactures?

A. They have derived their raw and thrown silk in part from Italy, but chiefly from this country; and while the present drawback subsists upon thrown and raw silk exported from hence to Ireland, it is likely to continue.

Q. Can you state to the committee what duties and drawbacks are paid upon raw and thrown silk carried from this country to Ireland, and upon the like articles imported from Italy into Ireland.

A. The duty upon raw silk imported into this country from all foreign countries is 4s. 6d. upon the great lb. of 24oz. and upon the thrown silk, 7s. 4d. upon the lb. of 16 oz.—There is drawn back upon raw silk exported from hence to Ireland, 3. 7½ per lb of 24 oz.—There is drawn back upon thrown silk exported from hence to Ireland, 6s. 6d. upon the lb. of 16 oz.—raw silk imported

imported into Ireland from England, pays a duty of $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ per great lb. ; thrown silk pays $1s. 9d.$ upon the lb. of 16 oz.---raw silk imported from foreign countries into Ireland, pays a duty to $1s.$ per lb. of 24 oz ; thrown silk imported from foreign countries into Ireland, pays $2s. 0\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. of 16 oz.

Q. As the duties upon raw and thrown silks imported directly from foreign countries into Ireland, are lower than upon the like articles carried through this country into Ireland, why do you think the Irish will come here for their raw and thrown silk, rather than import it directly from foreign countries ?

A. We apprehend it is principally owing to a credit they obtain here, which they could not so easily get from Italy.

Q. Do you apprehend that the Irish can work up the raw material into the like manufactures cheaper than we can in Great-Britain ?

A. We apprehend in general they cannot.

Q. Do you apprehend that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the English manufacturers, will always give them a decided superiority over the Irish in the silk manufacture ?

A. We have no doubt of it ; we do not believe they have a single pattern drawer.

Q. If the silk manufactures imported from Ireland into this country were made subject to the like duties as are now paid upon the silk manufactures of the same sorts exported from this country to Ireland, do you think the manufacturers of this country would have any reason to apprehend a competition ?

A. We think the English manufacturer would have great reason to apprehend the competition, as the raw material is cheaper to the Irish;--viz. as $2s.$ are to $7s. 4d.$ upon thrown silk, and as $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ is to $4s. 6d.$ on the raw silk.

Q. Do you think the British Manufacturer would have any reason to apprehend a competition in the British market ?

A. We apprehend there would be reason to fear the competition, even in the British market. We fear it the
F more,

more, because the Irish give premiums and bounties to their manufacturers, and, the retailers, out of sums of money voted by the Irish Parliament for that purpose. We still further apprehend that there would be great quantities of foreign silk manufactures imported through Ireland into Great Britain---French velvets, and in general all silks, may be imported through Ireland into Great Britain, under the duties intended to remain, much cheaper than they can be wrought in Great Britain.

Mr. Tatlock, Silk Broker,
Mr. John Phillips, of Manchester, deputed by the ma-
 nufacturers of that place,
James Malo, of London,
Richard Lee, of Spital Fields, and
Thomas Tirgun, of London ;

On the same Head.

Q. What is the nature of the silk goods you manufacture ?

A. Silk handkerchiefs of various kinds---handkerchiefs of cotton and silk mixed, for women's wear---goods made of silk mixed with linen, and sometimes with cotton, for waistcoats ; these goods are made in great quantities in Manchester, and likewise in London.

Q. Are large quantities of these goods exported to Ireland ?

A. None, as we believe.

Q. Are large quantities of these goods exported to foreign countries ?

A. Yes ; to France, Spain, Italy, Flanders, Holland, and the West Indies ; but still more to North America.

Q. Is the export of these goods increased of late, or diminished ?

A. It is decreased to foreign European countries, but increased to America. In consequence of the peace, the trade upon the whole is increased.

Q. Do you know whether the Irish have any considerable manufactures of the goods before mentioned ?

A. They

B. They have some, but they are not very extensive; their manufactures of handkerchiefs, we think, have of late diminished.

Q. From whence do the Irish derive their raw and thrown silk used in their manufactures?

A. They have derived their raw and thrown silk in part from Italy, but chiefly from this country; and while the present drawback subsists upon thrown and raw silk exported from hence to Ireland, it is likely to continue.

Q. Can you state to the Committee, what duties and drawbacks are paid upon raw and thrown silk carried from this country to Ireland; and upon the like articles imported from Italy into Ireland?

A. The duty upon raw silk imported into this country from all foreign countries, is 4*s.* 6*d.* upon the great lb. of 24 oz.; and upon the thrown silk, 7*s.* 4*d.* upon the lb. of 16 oz.---There is a drawback upon raw silk exported from hence to Ireland, 3*s.* 7½*d.* per lb. of 24 oz. there is drawn back upon thrown silk exported from hence to Ireland, 6*s.* 6*d.* upon the lb. of 16 oz. raw silk imported into Ireland from England, pays a duty of 10½*d.* per great lb. Thrown silk pays 1*s.* 9*d.* upon the lb. of 16 oz.---Raw silk imported from foreign countries into Ireland, pays a duty of 1*s.* per lb. of 24 oz.---Thrown silk imported from foreign countries into Ireland, pays 2*s.*---½*d.* per lb. of 16 oz.

Q. As the duties upon raw and thrown silks imported directly from foreign countries into Ireland, are lower than upon the like articles carried through this country into Ireland, why do you think the Irish will come here for their raw and thrown silk, rather than import it direct from foreign countries?

A. We apprehend it is principally owing to a credit they obtain here, which they could not so easily get from Italy.

Q. Do you apprehend there is any danger of the Irish being able to work up the raw materials, into the manufactures before mentioned, cheaper than we can in Great Britain?

A. It might be some time before they can rival us; but we apprehend the cheapness of labour, and their not

paying, as we believe, the same duties on the dying materials, might enable them, in a series of years, to become our competitors in this trade: and it is the more to be feared in Lancashire, because the multitude of manufactures established there, has of late greatly increased the price of labour. We have great numbers of Irish employed in our manufactures, both in Lancashire and London, who, after having gained experience in the trade, return to their own country.

Q. Do you not believe, that the skill, ingenuity, and taste of the English manufacturers, will secure to them an advantage in the articles of trade before mentioned?

A. The manufacture we are concerned in is of so simple a nature, that it depends more on labour than on skill. We are possessed of the advantages arising from skill at present; but we cannot say how long those advantages may last.

Q. If the several articles of manufacture before mentioned, when imported from Ireland into this country, were made subject to the like duties as are now paid upon the manufactures of the same sorts exported from this country to Ireland; do you think the manufacturers of this country would have any reason to apprehend a competition?

A. We apprehend, that for several years there would be no reason to fear a competition in the home market, provided the duties upon raw and thrown silk were made equal in both countries, and provided such goods as are subject, when manufactured here, to an excise duty, were made also subject to a duty on importation from Ireland, equivalent to such excise duty. The duty also on dying materials should be made equal.

Q. Should you apprehend a competition in the foreign market, particularly the American market?

A. We should not apprehend the competition, if the duties on dying materials were made equal.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS.

The Committee, upon enquiry, find the manufacturers are mistaken in supposing the materials for dying are subject to any considerable duties upon importation into Great Britain—few of those articles being subject to a duty upon import, and that very trifling.

By comparing the general import of raw and thrown silk into Ireland, as specified in the accounts inserted in the appendix, with the import from Great Britain, as before stated, it appears, that the imports from foreign countries is very inconsiderable; but it appears at the same time, that the import from Great Britain, of those articles, has very considerably decreased.—The import of wrought silks and ribbands from Great Britain, does not appear to have decreased; and that of wrought silk mixed with worsted, cotton, and inkle, appears to have increased considerably.

IRON, and IRON Manufactures.

Mr. *Richard Crawshaw*, and } Merchants and Manu-
Mr. *Joseph Stanley*, of London, } facturers of Iron.

Examined.

Q. Is it possible to carry on any iron manufacture with peat fire only?

A. Not to any extent.

Q. Have the Irish any considerable manufacture in iron wares?

A. They have a very considerable one in rods, hoops, and nails, which are principal articles; and a variety of others, which it would be difficult to enumerate.

Q. What fuel do the Irish use in their manufacture?

A. Pit coal imported from Great Britain, principally from Whitehaven.

Q. If

Q. If the iron manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland were made subject to the same duties upon importation into each country respectively ; do you apprehend the manufacturers of Great Britain would have reason to fear a competition ?

A. We think they would have no reason to fear a competition.

Mr. *Samuel Walker*, of Rotherham, Iron Manufacturer ;

Upon the same Head.

Q. Do you know whether there are any considerable manufactories of iron in Ireland ?

A. I believe they have some, but nothing very considerable at present ; we have lately made, according to order, iron work and machinery for the purpose of flitting and rolling iron, to be employed in the construction of a mill, which we understand is to be erected in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

Q. Do you know if they have any iron stone of their own ?

A. I never heard that they had.

Q. Have they any coal mines ?

A. I never heard ; but they have lately sent for tools and workmen to bore for them.

Q. Do you apprehend that any considerable manufacture in iron could be carried on with peat fire ?

A. I apprehend not to any great extent.

Q. Has the trade from Great Britain to Ireland, in iron manufactures, increased of late or diminished ?

A. It has rather diminished, as I understand from the neighbourhood of Sheffield.

Q. If the Irish were allowed to export to Great Britain their iron manufactures, subject to the like duties at which ours are now imported into Ireland, would there be any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain ?

A. Provided they are obliged to pay the same duties on the importation of bar iron from foreign countries which

which are now paid in Great Britain, I see no reason to apprehend a competition.

Mr. Matthew Bolton of Birmingham,
John Wilkinson, of Broseley,
Richard Reynolds, of Ketley,
William Gibbons, of Bristol, and
James White, of Birmingham;

Upon the same Head.

Q. Is there a considerable export of iron, or iron manufacture, to Ireland from this country?

A. The principal import of iron to Ireland is from Russia; some is taken from this kingdom—they import from this country a great quantity of iron ware; as the witness believes, the greatest part of what they consume.

Q. Has this export of iron, or iron manufacture, increased of late, or diminished?

A. The demand of iron in bars has not of late diminished, but that of iron manufactured has diminished, I believe, considerably. Their import of iron from Russia is rather increasing.

Q. To what causes do you impute the diminution of the import of iron manufactures from hence into Ireland?

A. They manufacture a great deal more themselves; and have it in their power, from the small duty on iron imported into Ireland, to manufacture it cheaper for themselves. They have established lately at Lucan, near Dublin, very considerable mills, for rolling and flitting, as well as forges; there are other mills in the neighbourhood of Dublin. The Irish appear at present to be giving great encouragement to their iron manufactures; and we understand they laid, last year, a heavy duty on wire imported.

Q. Does not the comparative low price of fuel in this country give a considerable advantage to our manufactures in iron?

A. At present it certainly does; but we have reason to believe that there are veins of coal in various parts of Ireland particularly at Drumglass; that there are collier-
 ies

ies near Dungannon, Bally Castle, and the neighbourhood of Derry, and the neighbourhood of Kilkenny, and at Lough Allen: and five engines, sent from this country, have been lately erected upon some of these collieries; one, we know, at Dunnane, and another is erecting at Drumglafs.

Q. Do you know whether they have iron stone in considerable quantities?

A. We have never known any instance of coal being found without iron ore; and, from good authority, we understand that there is iron stone in Ireland. It appears in the report of the engineer who was employed in the survey of the great canal, that he had discovered, in various places, various kinds of iron ore, some of it of the same kind as the Sweedish iron ore, and as good in its quality.---Offers have been made to some of us, to engage in making iron in Ireland, by a person gone there from England, well skilled in collieries and iron works.

Q. Has the export of iron manufactures to foreign parts of late increased, or diminished?

A. There has been a considerable increase for these last two years, since the American trade has been again opened to us; we do not increase in the export of our iron wares to foreign countries in Europe; we apprehend rather otherwise; we formerly had a very considerable export of nails to Lisbon, but we are totally deprived of that, by the manufactures of Liege and other places, which can furnish them cheaper.

Q. Do you apprehend that the Irish have as yet interfered with you in the American or foreign markets?

A. I cannot say they have not as yet done it, though I have not yet heard that they have. If they continue to import bar iron at about £.2 6s. per ton cheaper than we can, they must soon rival us in the trade, if not deprive us of it.

Q. If they can import Swedish and Russian iron into Ireland cheaper than we can into Great Britain, how comes it that they import bar iron in any considerable quantity from Great Britain?

A. Though they pay a something higher duty upon foreign iron imported from this country, together with

two freights, yet these disadvantages are supposed to be counterbalanced by the credit they obtain here, which they cannot have in Russia, or Sweden;---by our importing iron frequently as ballast, together with hemp, timber, and other commodities, which enable us to sell it much cheaper; and, by the convenience the Irish have of purchasing it in small quantities as they want it, and thereby carrying on their trade with a much less capital.

Q. Will not the skill and ingenuity of the English manufacturer secure to him great advantages in this trade?

A. We have great confidence in the skill and ingenuity of our manufacturers, which certainly give us great advantages; but the vicinity of the two countries enables them very readily to adopt any improvements we may make; and if they continue to import bar iron cheaper than we can here, there is danger that our manufacturers of iron wares may go and establish themselves in Ireland.

Q. If the iron manufactures of Ireland were made subject to the like duties upon importation into this country, as the English manufactures of the like sorts now pay upon importation into Ireland; should you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain?

A. We should have no reason to apprehend the competition, if the duties upon bar iron upon importation into both countries were the same; but, if the Irish are to continue to pay less than we do upon the importation of bar iron, we should have reason to apprehend the competition.

Q. Will not the duties upon the importation of the iron manufactures of Ireland into Great Britain, as before stated, counterbalance the difference that now subsists in the duties on the importation of bar iron into both countries, as far as respects the market of Great Britain?

A. If these goods come into Great Britain charged with the duty of £ 3. 3. 11. per ton, which was settled by compact in 1778, we should not fear a competition---if they are charged with a less duty, they will have an

advantage equal to such difference, and in such case we should apprehend a competition. The duty of £ 3. 3. 11. ought now to be £ 3. 16. 3. owing to two 5 per cents. being added, and the reduction of the discounts, which is an additional burden to which the British manufacturers of iron are now subject.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

The duty upon bar iron imported into Great Britain in British ships, is £ 2. 16. 1. per ton, and in foreign ships £ 3. 17. 1. per ton; of this duty is drawn back upon exportation £ 2. 16. 7. on iron imported in British ships, and £ 2. 13. 7. on iron imported in foreign ships:---Bar iron goes therefore to Ireland from Great Britain with a duty of 3*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and is subject to a duty on importation into Ireland of 10*s.* 6*d.* per ton; so that Ireland may import bar iron from Great Britain at a duty of 14*s.* per ton, which is less than paid by the British manufacturer on iron imported in British ships, by £ 2. 2. 1. per ton: And if Ireland imports iron direct from Russia and other foreign countries, the duty on importation is only 10*s.* 6*d.* per ton, which is £ 2. 5. 7. less than paid by the British manufacturer on iron imported in British ships; and no part of the duty paid on importation into Great Britain is drawn back on exportation of iron when manufactured.---It does not appear, by the foregoing account of imports from Great Britain into Ireland, that the importation of iron, either manufactured or in ore, has much increased or diminished for the last five years. The import of wire does not appear to have decreased during that period; but the duty of 6*d.* per lb. imposed by the Irish parliament during their last session, had not then taken place.

Notwithstanding the advantages which were stated by the manufacturers as likely to induce the people of Ireland to import bar iron through Great Britain, in preference to a direct importation; it appears that, in addition to the quantity imported in that circuitous manner, Ireland

land has imported directly from foreign countries, on a medium of seven years, ending the 25th March, 1783, 4,700 tons yearly.

C O R N.

Messrs. *Claude Scott*,
and
John Vickrass Taylor, } Corn Factors;

Examined.

Q. Have you read the bill that passed in Ireland last year for regulating the corn trade of that kingdom?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you apprehend that the proposal that is made in it, to admit British and Irish grain and flour to be imported into each kingdom respectively, when the prices are lower than those at which a general importation of such grain and flour is admitted from foreign countries, will be for the advantage or disadvantage of this country?

A. Very much to the advantage of this country, because the Irish more frequently want grain and flour from this country, than we want it from that; and because a partial deficiency in our crops may be made up by a sufficient supply from Ireland, when a general supply from foreign countries might be too much, and might discourage agriculture. The Irish having prohibited the importation of flour and ground corn from all countries but Great Britain, for the encouragement of their mills, it might be a just return to them to prohibit in like manner the importation of flour and ground corn from any country but Ireland; and this would likewise operate as an encouragement to our mills; we having mills enough to supply the greatest possible demand for flour.

The Committee then desired these gentlemen to prepare such a plan for admitting Irish grain and flour into this country, as will correspond with the regulations made in favour of Great Britain in the bill passed last session

session in Ireland.—In compliance thereto, Messrs. Scott and Taylor have made the following return.

London, 22d Feb. 1785.

May it please your Lordships,

In obedience to your Lordships commands, we have turned our attention to the clauses in the last Irish corn act; and in consequence thereof, have the honour to submit to your Lordships the inclosed account, wherein we have stated the respective prices, weights and measures which regulate the importation of corn, flour, and meal, into each country, with the necessary alterations for proportioning the prices of England to those of Ireland, as near as the different weights and measures used in each country can be brought to correspond with the spirit of the said clauses.

We have also presumed to subjoin our reasons for the necessity of extending the powers of the act of 21st of his present Majesty, to ascertain, with more accuracy, the average prices of grain; which will govern the importation into all the ports of this kingdom by one general rule, and thereby give proper effect to the proposed reciprocal intercourse with Ireland, in this article of commerce.

We have judged it unnecessary to add any observations respecting the exportation, that being regulated in each country by prices and bounties already nearly equal: The mode indeed of ascertaining these prices in England (except in the port of London) is liable to much abuse; but as this will soon be brought under the consideration of Parliament, in the bill referred to, which is about to be presented, we forbear to trouble your Lordships farther on the subjects.

We have the honour to be

Your Lordships most obedient servants,

CLAUDE SCOTT,
J. V. TAYLOR.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Prices, Weights, and Measures, by which the Importation of CORN and GRAIN into GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND is regulated ;

With a PLAN for the Importation of IRISH GRAIN into ENGLAND, on the Principles of the last Irish Corn Act.

Ireland admits Importation of Corn from all Foreign Parts, as well as from Great Britain, when the general Average Prices at Dublin, of the Six Weeks preceeding the Quarter Sessions, are as follows :

	s.	d.	lb.
Wheat	a	30 0	per Barrel of 280
Rye	a	26 0	Do. — of 280
White Pease	a	30 0	Do. — of 280
Grey Do.	a	18 3	Do. — of 280
Beans	a	18 3	Do. — of 280
Barley (and Malt)	a	14 6	Do. — of 224
Oats	a	11 0	Do. — of 196

N. Ireland has prohibited the Importation of all Corn or Grain ground into Meal or Flour, except from Great Britain.

England admits Importation of Corn, ground or unground, from all Foreign Parts, as well as from Ireland, when the Average Prices are ascertained, at the Time of the Quarter Sessions, to be as under :

	s.
Wheat	at 48 per Quarter
Rye	at 32
Pease	at 32
Beans	at 32
Barley and Malt)	at 24
Oats	at 16

N. B. England allows Corn or Flour to be exported to Ireland whenever there is an Embargo on the Exportation from thence.

As the Importation of Foreign Corn at the different Ports of this Kingdom has been regulated by the Prices ascertained at the Quarter Sessions; and Experience having proved, that the Ports have opened for Admission of Foreign Corn, when the real Market Prices were below the Import Limits, by false and imperfect Returns being made, either by Neglect or Design; the Parliament of 21st of His present Majesty passed an Act for fixing a more accurate Mode of ascertaining said Prices for the Ports of London, Essex, and Kent. This Regulation has proved so salutary and effectual, that it would very much conduce to the Encouragement of Agriculture, if the Powers and Regulations thereof were extended to all the Out-Ports. A Bill for that Purpose was brought into Parliament in 1783, read twice, and printed: It lay over for Consideration till the next Sessions, but public Affairs that Sessions, and the subsequent Dissolution, prevented its further Progress: it is now about to be renewed, and as Ireland has formed her last Corn Act upon the Model of that Bill, whereby her Ports are either all shut against Foreign Grain, or all open for the Admission of it, according to the Prices ascertained at Dublin; we think it a strong Reason in Support of the Measure, and therefore presume to recommend it.

Ireland proposes to admit British Corn, ground or unground, from Great Britain, when the Prices are as under ascertained, in like Manner, and on Condition, that Great Britain grants the like Preference to Irish Corn :

	s.	d.
Wheat	a	27 0
Rye	a	23 0
Wheat Pease	a	27 0
Grey Do *	a	16 3
Beans	a	16 3
Barley (and Malt)	a	13 6
Oats	a	10 0

* Grey Peas not being an Article either of Food or Commerce in this Country, they are omitted in the Calculation.

The English Ports should therefore open to the Irish, according to the strict Construction of their Corn Act, at the Prices following; the Differences per Quarter above stated being deducted from the established Importation Prices :

	s.	d.
Wheat	at	43 6
Rye	at	27 6
Pease	at	27 6
Beans	at	29 0
Barley (and Malt)	at	22 5
Oats	at	14 7

N. B. Ireland having directed, that every Barrel of Wheat, Rye, Pease, and Beans, shall weigh 20 Stones, or 280lb. the Quarter of all these Articles is taken, in the following Calculation, at the Medium Weight of English Wheat, viz. 456lb. or 57lb. per Bushel; Barley at 392lb. or 49lb. per Bushel; and Oats at 304lb. or 38lb. per Bushel :

	s.	d.	lb.
3 Irish per Barrel, or 4 6 En. per Quar. of 456	3	—	—
The Differences in Favour of British Corn calculated at the Par of Exchange, is	3	—	—
or 4 6 — of 456	—	—	—
2 — or 3 0 — of 456	2	—	—
1 — or 1 7 — of 392	1	—	—
1 — or 1 5 — of 304	1	—	—

But as it appears inconsistent for England to allow an Importation of Grain, even from Ireland, below the Prices at which she gives a Bounty on Exportation, and as Ireland has fixed the Importation of British Corn precisely where the Bounties on Exportation cease, it would be proper for England to act upon the same Principle, and by the same Rule :— In which Case the Scale of Prices to regulate the Importation of Corn from Ireland will stand thus :

	s.	d.
Wheat	a	44
Rye	a	28
Pease	a	28
Beans	a	28
Barley and Malt	a	22
Oats	a	14

Subject to a Duty of 3 per Quarter on Grain, and 2d per Cwt. upon Meal or Flour thereof to correspond with the Duties upon Importation into Ireland.

London, 22d February 1785.

CLAUDE SCOTT,
J. V. TAYLOR.

B R E W E R Y.

Mr. *Robert Barclay*, Brewer in Southwark ;
 Mr. *Joseph Delafield*, from Mr. Whitbread's
 Brewery ;

Examined.

Q. Do you export from this country great quantities of Beer to Ireland ?

A. We export English Porter to the different Ports of Ireland, but no other Sort of Beer. The trade export about £ 60,000 worth of it in value in the year ; to this is to be added, the value of the cask, which amounts to about £ 20,000 per annum.---Our two houses export near 4-5th of the whole.

Q. Has this export increased of late, or diminished ?

A. It has diminished in some degree.

Q. To what cause do you impute this diminution ?

A. The principal cause was owing to a law passed in Ireland in the year 1782, enacting, " That from the month of June in that year, no porter should be sold higher than 3½d. per quart, though the retail price of English porter was known to be at 4d. per quart, by which the retailers profit was reduced 10s. 8d. per hoghead. This law was much resisted by the Irish ; and proved, as we are informed, in some degree ineffectual. The law was made to continue for three years, and will expire next midsummer.—Another cause was, that they altered their duties in the last Session of Parliament upon Beer, and thereby imposed an additional duty of 5s. per hoghead ; and by this, and other duties, they equalized the duty on English Beer imported to their own inland excise on beer. This law is, we apprehend, an annual law.

Q. What is the charge of carrying an English barrel of porter from hence to Ireland ?

A. The charges from hence, consisting of freight, insurance, and merchants commission, amount to about
 4s. per

4s. per barrel, or about 18 per cent. exclusive of the drawback.

Q. Is there any, or what drawback of the duties on beer exported to Ireland?

A. We receive a drawback of the whole duty of 8s. per barrel on beer; and occasionally a bounty of 1s. per barrel, when the price of barley is at or under 24s. per quarter.

Q. Have you any allowance for the duty on malt made use of in the Beer exported to Ireland?

A. We have no allowance, but there remains a duty of 6s. 6d. per quarter on all such malt; whilst malt exported to Ireland pays no duty, and even receives a bounty of 2s. 6d. per quarter, when the price of barley is under 22s. per quarter: this bounty is equal to the whole charge of freight of malt to Ireland, and thereby affords the Irish brewer a net profit of 6s. 6d. per quarter, or £ 20 per cent. on English malt used in Ireland, compared with the London price: and this may make a difference of about 2s. 6d. per barrel on beer.—There is a difference in the English and Irish barrels; the Irish is of 32 gallons, and the English of 36 gallons.

Q. What advantage has the Irish brewer by the drawback on hops exported from hence to Ireland?

A. The Irish brewer has a drawback of the whole duty paid here, being one penny per pound, with three 5 per cents. upon it.

Q. What advantage does that give him on the beer brewed there?

A. The quantity of hops is in general in proportion to the time the Beer is intended to be kept: It is on this account impossible precisely to answer that question; but they certainly have an advantage.

Q. When the price of barley in this country is under 22s. per quarter, so as to receive a bounty upon export, do you find that your export of beer to Ireland diminishes?

A. We do not find that it makes any alteration in the demand for Ireland.

Q. If beer brewed in Ireland was allowed to be imported into England, subject to duties equal to the excise du-

ties

ties payable on such beer brewed in England, would the English brewer have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of England?

A. From the present state of the brewery in both countries, we apprehend there would be no material competition, especially in the article of porter. But if skilful brewers should remove from hence to Ireland, induced from the present advantages of procuring and manufacturing English malt and hops, free from those duties paid by the English brewers, as well as from the low price of labour in Ireland, it is very probable a dangerous competition might in time arise, unless Irish beer imported into this country should not only pay our inland excise on beer, but also a further duty, proportionable to the duties paid in England on malt and hops; on both of which, the duties are drawn back on exportation to Ireland, and even a bounty given on malt when barley is under 22s.

OBSERVATIONS.

The duty now payable on beer and ale imported into Ireland, is 4s. 1d. per barrel of 32 gallons. Irish beer and ale imported into England, ought to be made subject to a duty on the English barrel equal to the foregoing, and to the Excise duties on beer and ale, and on the materials used in making it; and duties should be imposed on Irish beer or ale imported into Scotland, equal to the foregoing Irish duty, and to the Excise duties payable in Scotland on beer and ale brewed in that country, and on the materials used in making it there.

It appears by the foregoing accounts of imports from Great Britain into Ireland; that the quantity of beer and ale imported from Great Britain into Ireland, has not, during the last four years, diminished; it was considerably less in the year 1780.

P O T T E R Y.

Mr. *Thomas Byerley*,

Examined.

Q. Are you a partner of Mr. Wedgwood's ?

A. No ; but the sole director of Mr. Wedgwood's manufacture in town.

Q. Is there any quantity of earthen ware or pottery exported from Great Britain to Ireland ?

A. There are great quantities, principally of the useful kind.

Q. Do you mean of the white ware or the Queen's ware ?

A. Principally of the Queen's ware ; the white ware is a good deal out of use.

Q. Has the exportation of earthen ware to Ireland increased of late, or diminished ?

A. I cannot speak of my own knowledge ; but will procure an answer, and an account of the cause of such increase, or diminution, as it may happen to be.

Q. Has the export of British earthen ware to foreign countries increased of late, or diminished ?

A. It has considerably increased within these two years, principally in the useful branches. I believe it has increased in all the earthen manufactures of the kingdom, as they make greater quantities than before—I am sure it has in our own.

Q. Can you say to what countries it has increased ?

A. Principally to the Ports of the Mediterranean and Spain ;—during the war, the freights were so high it could not be sent there.

Q. To what countries is your greatest exportation ?

A. To Germany.

Q. Do you know that there are any potteries established in Ireland ?

A. I never heard of any in Ireland till yesterday, when a dealer in earthen ware told me they did make some earthen ware there.

Q. Is

Q. Is not the cheapness of fuel one of the most essential circumstances towards carrying on the pottery?

A. It is one of the most essential.

Q. Is there any material furnished from this country essential for carrying on the pottery, which cannot so well be got in any foreign country, particularly in Ireland?

A. The essential articles are pipe clay and flints. I never heard they had any pipe clay in Ireland; but we now import flint stones from thence.

Q. To what cause do you impute the superiority that England has of late years obtained over every other country in Europe, in her potteries;---to the advantages arising from cheapness of fuel, or to the cheapness or excellence of materials, or to skill?

A. I apprehend it cannot be solely owing to the cheapness of fuel, nor to the cheapness or excellence of the material, though these are certainly important articles; I impute it principally to skill. We bring several of the materials, at great expence, to Newcastle-under-Line, where our manufactures flourish so much.

Q. What are the duties and charges upon earthen ware exported to Ireland?

A. Five per cent. in carrying it from our potteries to Liverpool, and putting it on ship-board; to this must be added freight, insurance, port charges, landing in Ireland, and the duty there.

Q. If the pottery or earthen ware of Ireland was allowed to be imported into Great Britain, subject to the same duties as are paid on the like wares imported into Ireland from hence, do you think that the British potteries would have any reason to apprehend a competition?

A. I hope I shall be excused answering that question.

Mr. Josiah Wedgwood,

Potter to Her Majesty; delegated by the Potters of Staffordshire, to speak in their Names, as well as his own.

On the same Head;

H. Examined.

Examined.

Q. Is there any quantity of earthen ware or pottery exported from Great Britain into Ireland?

A. There are great quantities, principally of the useful kind.

Q. Has the exportation of earthen ware to Ireland increased of late, or diminished?

A. It has increased very much.

Q. What are the charges of sending earthen ware to Ireland?

A. About $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the value of common useful ware, from our potteries to Liverpool; and freight from Liverpool to Ireland nearly the same.

Q. At what do you estimate the duty in Ireland upon earthen ware imported from Great Britain, according to the real value of such earthen ware?

A. The duty is 15 per cent. upon the value, two 5 per cents. upon that 15 per cent. and one 5 per cent. upon the two 5 per cents: this, together with the port charges and Custom House fees, we estimate at nearly 20 per cent. upon the value of such earthen ware. This information I received from the person who has the largest concern in sending earthen ware from the potteries in Staffordshire into Ireland.

Q. Has the export of British earthen ware to foreign countries of late, increased or diminished?

A. It has lately greatly increased, notwithstanding the duties and prohibitions laid on it in foreign countries; and making its way into Turkey, for the use of Turkish families, and into other new markets.

Q. Do you know whether any potteries are established in Ireland?

A. They have none of any consequence. In the year 1784, a pottery was begun at Dublin, in imitation of our Queen's ware. They procured workmen from the potteries in Staffordshire, and patterns from Mr. Wedgwood's warehouse in Dublin: the Dublin society took this pottery under their patronage, giving, £.150. for the first table service made of it, and a premium of one-third on the value of all goods made there. The undertaking, however, was soon given up, but from recent circumstances,

stances, there is reason to believe, that it will be revived again, especially as they have been so successful in rivaling this country in manufacturing of Glafs, having now nine flourishing Glafs Houses, every one of which has been introduced and established since the duty laid here upon glafs.

Q. Have the Irish materials necessary for establishing potteries, or can they easily procure them?

A. They have, as I believe, most of the materials for that purpose.

Q. To what do you particularly impute the present superiority of the British earthen ware?

A. The revolution in our favour was brought about by the invention of several new species of earthen ware, never made before in this or any other country; and has been greatly promoted since, by the skill and ingenuity of those concerned in this business, co-operating with the cheapness and excellence of the useful sorts; and by the encouragement received since the year 1763, from the patronage of their majesties and the public.

Q. If the pottery or earthen ware that may be made in Ireland was allowed to be imported into Great Britain, subject to the same duties as are paid on the like wares imported from hence into Ireland; do you think the British potteries would have any reason to apprehend a competition.

A. I certainly apprehend, that there might be danger of a competition in time, in their own and every foreign market. I should think we were safer if earthen ware was allowed to be imported free of all duties into both countries; because the Irish would not have then so much encouragement to begin to set up potteries, or to establish them to any extent.

Q. Should you, in the case stated in the last question, have reason to apprehend a competition in the British market.

A. If the Irish potteries should once be established to an extent, it is probable they may invent something new, which we are not in possession of; and in that, and in other cases which cannot now be foreseen, they may send their earthen ware to this market.

Q. Should you, in such case, have reason to apprehend a competition, in the sale of the useful ware, in the British market?

A. I should apprehend we should have least to fear in the sale of the cheaper articles; perhaps nothing at all in the useful: if they should invent any thing, we should have reason to apprehend a competition.

Q. Are not the skill and ingenuity which our manufacturers already possess, great advantage in our favour?

A. They are very great advantages, and would be still greater, if they were not so liable to be carried, along with our workmen, into our own.

Mr. *Wedgwood* transmitted to the Committee the answer to the following question, which he could not take upon himself to answer, till he had consulted the manufacturers in Staffordshire.

Q. What is the proportion of earthen ware exported from Great Britain to foreign parts, including Ireland, compared to the whole of the manufactures?

A. From the best information I can obtain, at a general meeting of the potters, a proportion not less than five sixths of the whole of our manufacture of earthen ware is exported to foreign parts, including Ireland under description.—The manufacturers were at this meeting unanimous in opinion, that it is not less than five-sixths but some thought it to be much more; I was afraid of over-rating this export when the question was asked me, and my business being so much in the retail line, in serving English families, I could not be so competent a judge of it as those potters who are more in the export business; but I am convinced I under-rated it much, and upon examining my own books, notwithstanding the proportion of my whole consumption is so much greater than that of the other potters, I find that the goods I sell for exportation exceeded those for home consumption in the proportion of 100 to 48.

OBSERVATIONS.

The duty on earthen ware imported from Great Britain into Ireland, as stated in the foreign account of imports into that kingdom, is £. 15. 15. for every £. 100 value.---By the same account it appears, that there was a general increase of the importation of earthen ware into Ireland from this kingdom, during the years 1781, 1782, and 1783, which has declined in the year 1784.

SOAP and CANDLES.

John Lees, Esquire,

the Accountant General,
and one of the Surveyors of Excise;

Examined.

Q. Is it supposed, that any considerable quantities of soap and candles are clandestinely imported from Ireland into Great Britain?

A. It is supposed, that considerable quantities are; particularly into Bristol and its neighbourhood and the Welsh coast.

Q. What are the excise duties on soap, candles, and starch?

A. The excise on hard soap are $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb. ; on soft soap, $1\frac{3}{4}$ per lb. ; on starch, $3d.$ per lb. and 15 per cent. which, together, amount to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. On candles---tallow candles, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. no per cent. ---on wax and spermaceti, $3d.$ per lb. and 15 per cent.; which, in the whole, amounts to nearly $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.

Messrs.

Messrs. *George and Jesse Russell*,
 hard and soft soap makers,
Joseph Fry, of Bristol,
 soap maker and tallow chandler,
Whitchurch and Skinney,
 soap maker ; and
Samuel Vere and Nathaniel Child,
 tallow chandlers ;
 Upon the same head.

Q. Is there any great quantity of tallow imported from Ireland into this country ?

A. Certainly, great quantities every year, and particularly to Bristol, Liverpool, and Lancaster ; very little to the port of London ; the import of tallow there is chiefly from Russia.

Q. Do we export to Ireland soap and candles ?

A. None.

Q. Is there any import of soap and candles from Ireland into Great Britain ?

A. None that pays duty ; but great quantities are certainly smuggled into all the western counties of England and Wales ; and from thence, by inland navigation into other countries.

Q. If Irish soap and candles were to be made subject to the same duties upon importation into Great Britain, as soap and candles manufactured in Great Britain pay at present, and those duties were strictly collected ; should you have any reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain ?

A. With respect to hard soap, we should have no reason to apprehend a competition, if the manufactures of the two countries were put on an equal footing in all respects ; we have no objection, therefore, to equal duties upon importation of such soap.—But the Irish have a duty of 1s. 6d. per Cwt. on their tallow exported, to which their manufacture of course will not be subject.—We have also a duty of 5s. 2½d. per Cwt. on barilla, which the Irish do not pay, for they import it duty free, as an article used in bleaching their linen.—It is

true,

true, that in the country, wood ashes are sometimes used instead of barilla ; but then the duty on the sea salt, necessarily used with such ashes, is equal to the duty on barilla (when employed) and the Irish pay but a very small duty on sea salt used in this manufacture.—We import also from other countries, and particularly from Ireland, great quantities of kelp, which is a necessary ingredient in the soap manufacture ; and on this we pay, when imported from Ireland, a duty of about 16s. 6d. per ton ; to which likewise the Irish manufacturer cannot be liable. If we import it from other countries, we pay still a higher duty. It is true, however, that a great quantity of kelp is made in Great Britain, particularly in Scotland, which pays no duty. The Irish also have British coal upon a lower duty than is paid here, when it is water borne to any part of Great Britain, particularly to London. All these charges we consider as equal to an additional duty of at least 2s. 6d. per Cwt. upon hard soap.—When it is made of olive oil, which the sort used in the woollen manufacture principally is, the duty is still heavier, and will add another 7s. per Cwt. in favour of the Irish, if they pay no duty on olive oil.—If therefore these burthens are to remain on our trade, we do apprehend a competition ?

With regard to soft soap ; none that we know of is manufactured in Ireland (they import it from Holland ;) but if there should hereafter be any manufactured there, the Irish would have an advantage in the price of pot and pearl ashes, as we pay a duty of 1s. 6d. per barrel, or 8d. per cwt. on those articles, which they import duty free ; and if olive oil should be used, it will be a further burthen upon us.

Mr. *Nathaniel Child* and Mr. *Samuel Vere*, Tallow Chandlers, again attending, the question before put to them being repeated, as far as the same respects Candles ; viz.

Q. If Irish candles were to be made subject to the same duties upon importation into Great Britain, as candles manufactured in Great Britain pay at present, and these duties were strictly collected ; should you have any reason

reason to apprehend a competition in the market of Great Britain?

A. We think we should have reason to apprehend a competition, unless such an additional duty was laid on the Irish manufacture of candles on importation into Great Britain, as will counterbalance the disadvantage the English manufacturer will in such case labour under, viz. The English manufacturer pays his duty at the time of making his candles, which is generally six months previous to the sale of them: The Irish will pay it only on importation; and this disadvantage we estimate at a halfpenny per doz. or £. 2½ per cent.—the difference in wages is 2¼d. per doz. upon the whole 3½d. per dozen.

Q. Are the Irish candles as well manufactured as ours?

A. Not in general—they make very good mould candles for the supply of Dublin and Cork.

Q. Has the trade from hence in candles and soap to North America and the West Indies increased of late, or diminished?

A. It has certainly very much decreased since the compact in 1778, in both articles.

Q. To what causes do you impute this decrease?

A. We impute it to the possession the Irish have now got of that trade—we export but very few candles now to the West Indies.

OBSERVATIONS.

The duty on tallow candles imported into Ireland from Great Britain, is not mentioned in the foregoing account of imports: but from Eaton's book of rates, it appears to be nearly one half penny per lb.—The duty on soap appears, by the foregoing account on importation from Great Britain into Ireland, to be 9s. 5½d. the hundred weight. These duties ought to be added to our excise duties on soap and candles.—There can be no pretence to insist on the Irish taking off any duty they may have imposed on their tallow, when exported; they have a right to a preference in the manufacture of their own raw materials.—The duty on kelp, except of France, is the same from Ireland

Ireland as from any other country. Pot and pearl ashes, from the British colonies, and from the United States of America (from whence large quantities are imported) are at present duty free.

The export of candles and soap from Ireland to America, according to the account of Irish exports to America, appears to be a very increasing trade. The export of soap and candles to foreign countries is considerable, but does not appear to have varied much in the last seven years.

The Committee having thus laid before your Majesty, the information they have received; and having stated such observations as appeared to them to be necessary, for the purpose of explaining the accounts, and pointing out any mistakes in the evidence given; it is their duty now, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, to offer their opinion on the first question referred to them; that is,—On the propriety of reducing the duties payable in Great Britain on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, to the same rate as the duties payable in Ireland, on the importation of the like goods, the growth and manufacture of Great Britain.—And the Committee think it right to begin by observing, that since the constitution of Ireland has been put on its present footing, it is not probable that the people of that kingdom will rest satisfied with the same system of commerce that subsisted before the alteration was made; for though the parliament of Ireland, in their last system, rejected the duties that were proposed for the protection of their woollen manufactures, they imposed duties on four other articles of British commerce; viz. on refined sugar, on beer, wire, and painted calicoes; for the express purpose of encouraging their trade in these several articles.

And it appears, that the Two Houses of Parliament of Great Britain, were of opinion, that in consequence of the change made in the Irish constitution, some new arrangement would be necessary:—For, on the 17th of May 1782, after having resolved, that an act made in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the First, intitled “An Act for the better securing the

“ dependency of the Kingdom of Ireland, upon the
 “ Crown of Great Britain,” ought to be repealed ; they
 came immediately to the following resolution.

“ RESOLVED,

“ That it is indispensable to the interests and hap-
 “ piness of both kingdoms, that the connection between
 “ them should be established by mutual consent, upon a
 “ solid and permanent basis.”

The present question is not therefore, whether the system of commerce on which your Majesty has required the opinion of the Committee, is better or worse than that which existed before the change made in the Irish constitution ; but, whether it is better or worse than that, which, if some agreement is not made, is likely now to take place.

It appears to the Committee, that in arranging the commercial intercourse in future between the two kingdoms, there are but three plans, that can possibly be adopted.

First, That the ports of each kingdom should be open to goods, the growth and manufacture of the other, free from all duties, except those of excise, and other internal duties.

As there are certainly articles of commerce, in which each country has a decided advantage, it is probable that such a plan would occasion the ruin of many of your Majesty's subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, and introduce an immediate convulsion in the commerce of the two kingdoms.

The Second plan is, that each kingdom should for the future proceed in making such regulations, and imposing such duties on the importation of goods, the growth or manufacture of the other, as their respective legislatures shall, in their wisdom, think necessary for the protection and improvement of their own commerce. This plan, which will probably be followed, if some agreement is not made, will be the source of perpetual dissensions—will necessarily tend to separate each country farther from the other ;
 and,

and, in a course of years, will place them, in their commercial relation to each other, in the state of foreign countries.

The Third plan is, That the two kingdoms agree on certain moderate duties, to be imposed on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of the other; such as will secure a due preference in the home market, to the like articles of its own growth and manufacture; and yet leave to the sister kingdom, advantages, though not equal to its own, yet superior to those granted to any foreign country.—The duties now payable on British goods imported into Ireland, seem, by their moderation, as well adapted to answer this purpose, as any that could be devised; but to make this system complete, there should be added proper regulations with respect to bounties in future, and with respect to the duties on raw materials, imported into each kingdom.

It is, in the judgment of the Committee, a great recommendation of this plan, that if it should now be carried into execution, and become the system, to which both countries shall be bound hereafter to conform, it will secure them in future from those unpleasant contests, to which, in pursuit of their respective interests, they may otherwise be exposed; and your Majesty, as soverign of the two kingdoms, will be relieved from the disagreeable situation of having laws presented to you, by their respective Houses of Parliament, for your royal assent, which, though beneficial to one of your kingdoms, may in their operation be highly detrimental to the interests of the other.

The Committee humbly take leave to refer your Majesty to the information given by the merchants and manufacturers for what relates to the particular branches of commerce, in which they are respectively engaged, and to the observations made thereon. They think it right however in general to observe, that the duties intended to be imposed, according to the proposed plan, on the importation into Great Britain of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, appear to them to be a sufficient preference in the home market, which is the only object at present to be considered; for Ireland as well as Great

Britain has already a right to supply its own market, and the markets of foreign countries, with any goods of its growth and manufacture, subject only to such duties and restrictions as its own legislature shall think proper to impose.

The duties imposed by this plan on woollen goods imported from Ireland, will be lower than those on any other article of Irish growth or manufacture, being about six-pence per yard on old drapery, and two-pence on new; which is, on an average, not more than five per cent. and yet the merchants and manufacturers in this branch of commerce, whom the Committee have examined, appear by their evidence to have very little apprehension of a competition. The duties on the importation of all other goods of the growth and manufacture of Ireland into this kingdom, will, according to the proposed plan, be at least £. 10 per cent. and on some articles considerably more, which, with the charge of freight, insurance, commission, and port charges, will, in the judgment of the Committee, be amply sufficient to secure a due preference to the subjects of Great Britain in their own market; especially if we add, to what has been already mentioned, the skill of established manufactures, and the advantages arising from long credit and great capitals. And it ought to be considered, that if the Irish should be able to extend their trade in some branches of manufacture, which will probably at first be of the inferior kinds, where labour rather than skill is required, the British trader will in return have his advantage in the superior articles of manufacture; for which, by his skill and experience he may be better qualified; which advantage the proposed plan will secure to him against non-importation agreements, or any new laws that might be otherwise made to his detriment. And as the people of Ireland increase in wealth, in consequence of the extension thus given to their commerce, the subjects of Great Britain will necessarily derive advantages from it, by the larger sale of those commodities in which they particularly excel.

The Committee have also taken into consideration the second question referred to them by your Majesty, viz.

—What

—What preferences are now given to the importation of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Ireland, by any duty on prohibition or the importation, use, or sale of the like articles from foreign parts ; and how far it may be the interest of Great Britain in future to continue or to alter the same.

For their information on this head, the Committee called for the two following accounts, which have been presented to them by the Commissioners of your Majesty's Customs in England.

On considering the several articles of Irish growth and manufacture, to which, according to the foregoing accounts, preferences are given, it does not appear to the Committee that there is any reason at present for altering the same : According to the true principle of reciprocity, the Irish ought to grant the same bounty on British linen exported from Ireland, as is now paid on Irish linen exported from Great Britain. It would be very inconvenient, and even detrimental to the commerce of Great Britain, in its intercourse with foreign nations, to say, that these preferences should at no time, and in no respect be altered ; but the Committee are of opinion, that some sufficient preference should always be given to the foregoing articles, being the growth or manufacture of Ireland, on their importation, use, or sale in Great Britain.

AN ACCOUNT of Articles, of the Growth, Produce, or Manufacture of Ireland, which, on Exportation from hence, have Preferences above those being the Growth or Manufacture of Foreign Countries.

Linen the Manufacture of Ireland, which shall be exported from Great Britain to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, the Island of Minorca, or the East Indies.

	Bounty,
For every Yard of Linen of the Breadth of 25 Inches, or more, and under value of 5d. per Yard	$\frac{1}{2}$
Of the Value of 5d. and under the Value of 6d. per Yard	1
Of the Value of 6d. and under the Value of 1s. 6d. per Yard	$1\frac{1}{2}$

J. MELLER, D. Col.

J. HUME, D. Comp.

Custom House, London,
3d Feb. 1785.

F I N I S.

Houses of the Oireachtas

E R R A T A.

PAGE 3. Line 18. for confiderations, read, confideration, p.
 4. l. 13. f. are r. were p. 6. l. 17. f. that r. who p. 7. l. 6.
 f. him r. them same p. l. 12. f. wretched r. wicked p. 8. l. 31.
 f. the r. his p. 9. l. 7. f. Whiggisms r. Whiggism p. 11. l. 15.
 f. confesses his r. confesses that his same p. l. 24. f. remove r. re-
 prove p. 12. l. 2. f. is r. as same p. l. 4. f. prime r. Prince
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 p. l. 27. f. might r. may p. 16. l. 4. f. directed r. directing
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 l. 27. f. brought r. bought p. 35. l. 19. f. Treasury r. Treasurer
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 Naufon r. Nanfon same p. l. 15. f. Naufon r. Nanfon p. 58.
 l. 34. f. might r. may p. 61. l. 7. f. or r. and same p. last l. r.
 Esteem p. 63. l. 3. f. necessary r. unnecessary p. 64. l. 3. f.
 and r. or p. 69. l. 13. f. foever) it r. foever) and it p. 71. l. 2.
 f. Countries; r. Counties; p. 72. l. 3. f. tacked r. tuned.

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