

We pursue the plan of establishing manufactures among ourselves, we thereby open an extensive field of employment for persons of almost every description.

SAMUEL WETHERILL, Jun.
Chairman pro tem.

THE committee of the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Arts and Manufactures, to whom was referred the above report of the manufacturing committee concerning their transactions and the present state of the factory, having conferred with those gentlemen and fully investigated and considered the subject, deem it their duty to offer the following facts and remarks thereunto with a view to public information.

In the latter part of the year 1787, the Society had obtained subscriptions to an amount sufficient to enable them to open a factory. The general wish of the manufacturing committee, at that time, was to obtain some of these machines, which by a substitution for manual labour, enable the most agricultural countries to manufacture to very great advantage; but as nothing of that kind could be then obtained, and as the approaching winter made the employment of the poor a great object, and further, as the latter was deemed by many one of the principal ends to be obtained by a public factory, they determined to purchase a quantity of flax, which they dealt out for spinning to between two and three hundred women. The manufacturing committee were of opinion, that little profit could be expected from making linen, flax being worth at that time, 10d. halfpenny per pound, and they had then no demand for linen yarn for any other fabric. Thus circumstanced, a large quantity of linen warp was spun of flax, which cost from 9d. to 10d. halfpenny per pound, and for some small parcels even 11d was paid. Out of this thread 2940 yards of linen were made without much expectation of profit, and a sufficient quantity remained to make the chain of near 18000 yards of plain cottons, fustians, jeans, and corduroys: of which however but little more than half that quantity is yet manufactured. From the zeal and activity of the members of the Society, measures were at length fallen on to obtain two complete machines, one for carding raw cotton, and the other (known by the name of Jenny) for spinning cotton yarn. Animated by this acquisition, the manufacturing committee were enabled (on the 12th of April, 1788) to begin the manufacturing of jeans, cotton and fustians, which were very substantial and good, and were eagerly bought up at the same prices as the foreign, by people of various circumstances and situations in life, until the want of demand for summer clothing put a stop to the sale for the present year. The committee, however, being unable to procure some necessary implements for cutting and finishing winter cotton goods, such as corduroys, thicksets, and velvets, have been obliged contrary to their wishes and the evident interest of the subscribers, to continue the manufacture of summer articles, when they should have been preparing for the winter demand, and have therefore only wove 749 yards of federal rib and corduroys, and these were all unfinished on the 20th of September for want of the implements mentioned above.

By the statement of the stock or manufacturing fund on the 23d of August, a profit appears of 72l. 4s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. though the goods sold amounted to no more than 442l. 5s. 11d $\frac{1}{2}$. Your committee find from a careful examination, that the then remaining goods might be expected to yield a profit also; but they think it best and safest to form their estimate upon the whole value of the manufactures made at that period. They remark then, that goods made in the factory up to August 23d, to the amount of 732l. 14s. 11d. have yielded a profit of 72l. 4s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. clear of all expenses, that is 10 per cent. in four months, or 10 per cent. upon each operation; for from temporary difficulties, of which some have been mentioned and others are yet to be stated, there have not been sales to the amount of the like sum of circulating money with which the committee commenced their business, though four, five, or even six operations might be performed in a year. Thus it appears that this new and untried business has, in the first essay of an inexperienced but a judicious committee, produced a profit at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum on the active capital.

A variety of obvious circumstances, attending this experiment, concur to render the prospects of the cotton manufacture much more encouraging than it is proved to be by the profit abovementioned. The price given for flax was from 9d. to 10d. halfpenny, and it may now be purchased of a good quality of the remains of last year's crop at 7d. The attention paid this season to the cultivation of that article affords every reason to expect it will be brought to 6d. halfpenny and lower in future years. Already then has half the raw materials fallen as 150 to 100, the chain of all the goods having been hitherto made of linen yarn. The cotton, that has been worked up, cost on a medium, 2s. 7d. halfpenny per pound, and it may now be procured at 2s. to 2s. 3d. a reduction of price that could hardly have been hoped for, considering the many restraints laid by foreign nations on the exportation of that article. The southern states, which have begun the cultivation of cotton, will keep it at a reasonable price, should it succeed there, and of this there remains but little doubt. Dying and calendring heretofore cost 4d. per yard, but these probably will be done hereafter on much lower terms. Spinning and weaving have been more expensive than they will be in future, for the factory being partly to employ the poor, the manufacturing committee were less particular about wages than a person would be, who should carry on the business as a private occupation. It will be proper to inform the board, that many more spinners and weavers offered than could be then employed in the factory.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that more economy of day labour, and less waste of raw materials would take place in a private manufactory than in this public one, when it is remembered, that each member of the manufacturing committee had a separate private business to pursue. This circumstance led to the employment of a person to attend the sale of the goods, at constant wages, which, if the manufacturer did it himself, would leave an addition to his profit, or if the factory was ten times as great, that business might be done by one person. The Philadelphia goods considerably exceeded British articles of the same kind in weight, so that a great saving might be made in the quantity of raw materials used. In the mean time they must be considered by every reflecting consumer, as really worth more money than European goods of the same fineness, for that which is heaviest will be proportionally substantial and lasting. The price of labour having been heretofore a just objection to manufacturing in the United States, it is evident that the acquisition of machines must be a capital advantage. As they have been found to yield so handsome a profit, on so small a scale, and where the manufacture is one half of linen yarn, which the machines do not make, so it is very certain that more extensive machines, moved by horses or water, and a cotton chain as well as a cotton filling, must increase the manufacturer's profit exceedingly; and the saving of manual labour being the great object, your committee consider these two circumstances as worthy of the most particular notice, and that they should always be kept in remembrance. Water machines have been found best adapted to making the cotton chain, but until they

shall be obtained, cotton yarn fit for warp, it is believed, may be imported to yield a profit directly from India, and thus may manufactures be rendered in another instance advantageous to foreign commerce. As the European companies carefully avoid the importation of cotton yarn, the American merchants will have no rivals in the purchase of that article, which is much more compact, according to its value, than china ware, bohea teas, and some other India goods. The American ships from India proper, having abundance of room, may bring it with great convenience.

The want of one implement, called the burner, to finish the jeans, prevented their appearing as fine as they really were, and probably occasioned a diminution of the price. This being now obtained, the manufacture will bring its real value, and better sustain a comparison with imported goods. Should any private person or company establish a cotton manufactory, several advantages would be gained in the present state of things, besides the reduction of flax, cotton, fuel, provisions, rents and labour. The carding machine, for instance, which cost 100l. may now be obtained for 60l. or less. A Jenny of 80 spindles, which cost the Society 28l. can now be procured for 15l. and so of smaller implements and utensils. Weavers might be got from the country on more moderate terms, and new hands, who may emigrate, perhaps still lower. An evident loss of money arose from the want of a proper bleach yard, a difficulty that cannot long continue. The workmen, except two, were unskilled in the cotton branch, and though linen weavers become excellent weavers of cotton goods, yet it took some part of the time between April and August, and occasioned some expence to instruct them. Most of the spinners with the machines had much to learn and little means of instruction, whereas any number may now be taught. The factory was in a remote place, the best that offered to make the experiment, but a private manufacturer when making a permanent establishment, would chuse a situation in which his goods would sell quickly and to the best advantage.

Your Committee being anxious to ascertain the real profits on the cotton manufacture, and wishing to check their estimate by every method in their power, requesting of two of the most experienced members of the manufacturing Committee (long used to the cotton business) an accurate calculation of the expence of making a given quantity of olive-coloured jean with linen chain. This was accordingly done by each without any communication between them, and the particulars were minutely set down. Flax was rated at 7d. and cotton at 2s. 3d. per pound, weaving at 7d. per yard, dying and calendring at 4d. &c. The result of one estimate was 2s. 5d. and the other 2s. 4d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per yard for olive-coloured jean, equal in appearance to the British quality, which was sold in the piece at 3s. 3d. per yard last summer. It must be observed that the American goods, on which the calculation was made, are above half an inch wider and much heavier than the imported and that the rates of labour and prices of the raw materials were fixed on a medium rather higher than would prove to a careful manufacturer. This fact must give very great satisfaction, as it confirms the truth of those consequences, which have been drawn from the foregoing investigation.

Your Committee having carefully examined into every part of this business, and thus fully stated to the board the facts and observations that occurred to them, impressed with the clearest conviction of the importance of the cotton branch, beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms, the prosecution of this manufacture by fresh subscriptions, until a knowledge and the due sense of its value shall induce some proper persons either citizens or foreigners to undertake the business.

GEORGE CLYMER,
JENCH COXE.

The foregoing report being read and approved, was ordered for publication.

JOS. B. M'KEAN, Secretary.

[All the printers in the United States are requested to publish the above.]

EUROPE.

DUBLIN, September 13.

The town was yesterday again alarmed with the rumour of failures, in addition to those which have already occurred; no less than six traders of eminence are mentioned to have closed; the property lost to the creditors amounts to many thousand pounds. So universal a shock to credit has not occurred within our memory.

No less than six commissions of Bankruptcy passed the great seal last week; a circumstance of a most alarming nature, when it is considered how extensive are the connections of some of the parties concerned, and what effect it may have on the staple manufacture of this kingdom. We trust, however, that the evil will be but temporary, and may prove less pernicious than has been apprehended.

LONDON, October 26.

The following is the total of the Ordinary of the Navy at each port, as made up to the first instant, and transmitted to the Admiralty Board at Charing-Cross:

Deptford.—Sixteen frigates, from

44 to 24 guns, four sloops and 2 cutters.

Woolwich.—One ship of the line, one of 50 guns, 18 frigates, from 40 to 24 guns, five sloops and a cutter.

Sheerness.—Nine ships of the line, two of 50 guns, six frigates, five sloops, two cutters.

Chatham.—Thirty-six ships of the line, seven of 50 guns, 44 frigates, from 54 to 28 guns, six sloops.

Portsmouth.—Forty-six ships of the line, one of 50 guns, 26 frigates, 11 sloops, and two cutters.

Plymouth.—Thirty-seven ships of the line, one of 50 guns, 11 frigates, five sloops, and one cutter.

Total.—One hundred and twenty-nine ships of the line, twelve of 50 guns 100 frigates, and 45 sloops and cutters.

Increased in the Ordinary since last post, two ships of the line, viz. Royal George, of 100 guns, launched at Chatham; Powerful of 75 guns, paid off at Plymouth.

WEST-INDIES.

KINGSTON, November 8.

The Consolidated Slave Law now preparing by the House of Assembly, has, it is said, clauses to the following purport:—That one day in every fortnight, exclusive of Sundays, and crop time excepted, shall be allowed the negroes to work their grounds—That those who have no ground shall have an allowance equivalent—That no negroes be worked before five in the morning, or after seven in the evening—The carrying of grass and hogmeat after dark entirely forbid—Overseers not to punish for any offence whatever with more than 39 lashes—Book-keepers encouraged by reward to inform against any infraction of the law—Overseers allowed 20s. for every child reared from the birth to one year; to be allowed by the Collecting Constable from the annual taxes of the proprietor—All negroes for capital crimes to be tried by Jury at a Quarter Session—None to be executed but by special warrant under the Commander in Chief—and no other mode of execution to be in future allowed but that of the halter—Every Jury condemning a slave to value him, and that value to be paid the proprietor.

AMERICA.

BOSTON, December 18.

WE hear from the North Parish in Bridgwater, that last Saturday, an apprentice of Mr. James Perkins a lad about 14 years of age, named Ephraim Groves, being under the spindle of a grindstone which was going by water, had the hair of his head caught by the spindle, wound around