

It hath been truly said, that “ it will be no easy Talk to persuade the *Americans* to forsake the Culture of their Lands, to leave the Ways their Fathers trod, and in which Themselves were trained, to drop a Business they already understand, in which they have had long Experience, and by which their Families have thriven, to change all their Habits of Thinking, and their Manner of Life, in order to apply to Arts which they do not know, or know but imperfectly, and that where Estates may be easily raised by mere Tillage, the Temptations to Manufacture are wanting, and Men, who can depend upon their Industry alone, will not have Recourse to Arts for Subsistence.” But that which Persuasion might not effect, and to which peculiar Circumstances might be adverse, Necessity, and an Alteration of those Circumstances, may accomplish. When the Alternative is proposed, and the one Part of it assures Success, and a comfortable Support by a moderate Application of Industry, familiarized by Use, and rendered easy by Practice; and the other affording only an Experiment of precarious Issue, calling for an Application unexperienced and dreaded, attended with Perplexity, and productive of irksome Anxiety, the Generality of Mankind would not hesitate in chusing the former. But, though it would gain the Preference of Choice, yet, if the Alternative is taken away, and Choice yields to Necessity, the Enterprizing will form Projects, the Judicious improve, the Industrious execute them. Success, in one Instance, will animate the timid to make Trial of the Means which have succeeded under the Direction of others, stimulate the Phlegmatic, and rouse the Indolent—Should the Necessity after a little Time, cease, new Habits may become as strong as the old, and the Alternative would therefore be altered, the Choice be an Act of Deliberation, rather than of blind Impulse; old Prejudices would be greatly abated, if not extinguish’d, new Attachments, perhaps, be formed. From this Change, different Consequences may be conjectured or foretold, and perhaps the most Confident might be disappointed by the Event. It is not so difficult for Men to strike into new Employments and Methods of Life, when impelled by the Urgency of Distress, nor so easy to call them back to their old Manner of Life, and divert them from new Pursuits experienced to be profitable, and *productive of the best Security against Oppression*, as some seem to apprehend.

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It is not contended that the Colonies ought to be indulged in a general Liberty of Exporting and Importing every Thing in what Manner they please, but, since they are hindered from making all the Advantages they might do, and what Advantages might they not make, if under no Checks? They have a good Plea against all Rigour and Severity, not absolutely necessary. That *British* Manufactures come dearer, and not so good in Quality to *America*, as formerly, is a very general Complaint, and what Effect