

cupied by small tenants, 1200 or 1500 males and females, above eight year old, might be spared for fishing and other manufactures. For which purpose, wherever the situation admits of it, every farm, especially those from 30 to 200 inhabitants, should be subdivided and inclosed to one, or at most four tenants each division. These few would be more disposed to improve their farms than now, in common with many, whose main study is to plough all they can, though but ill prepared for a good crop. Numerous inhabitants are agreeable, and have their uses. Here they may be made still more numerous; but when with a view to serve them all, lands in common are divided into very small portions, such families can never thrive. If the superfluous number of tenants were converted into manufacturers, the remaining ones would be more easily enabled to pay their rents, even if augmented, live better, educate their children, and sell more to support the manufacturers. who in return would enrich the country from a variety of sources. As this parish, when improved, might support a village in most of the necessities of life, besides the above divisions, for the encouragement of tradesmen, a convenient situation should be chosen for inclosures of a few acres, for greens, roots, grass seeds, &c. which, though some of them could not afford to keep a horse, they might improve like a garden with the spade, or by occasionally hiring a horse or plough. Lands, in common with others, would ruin a tradesmen, whereas such separate possessions would cause a great emulation for improvements, and would be equally to the advantage of proprietors and tenants.

The ingredients with which any country abounds, point out the manufactures proper to begin with. Accordingly, as part of this soil could produce good flax, the culture of, and preparation of it should be studied, as none of these are well understood here. The abundance of a superior quality of clay,

clay, points out another source of manufactures. Applying kelp might be applied to several uses, salt so convenient to the western fisheries, might be made here. Several other manufactures, of which the materials are easily imported, might be tried, such as working of nets, stockings, &c. The marble also might employ many hands. Above all, fishing should never be neglected in Tiry and Coll, one of the best stations in all the western isles. The attempts that have been made, and the several fishing banks daily discovered confirm this. The country being flat, the seas near it will not naturally be deep. Some of the banks are close to the shore. Experienced fishers observe that, of all the places they know, this is nearest to the fishing grounds. In summer 1787, there were several companies of natives employed, and, though of little experience, they caught at one setting of 200 or 300 hooks, from 30 to 80 cod and ling, besides a variety of skate, eels, dol-fish, &c. and those who had harpoons and lines caught at the same time sail-fish, each yielding from 5 to 8 barrels oil. Herrings frequent the bay of Gort, yet there are no nets on the island. There are yearly companies from Barra, who prefer this to their own island, especially as less fatiguing. These having more experience, are more successful than our men. There have been also adventurers from Ireland and the east of Scotland successful. In one sloop particularly, though they concealed their success, they fished, from their heaps upon the shore, to have caught in 2 months, from 12000 to 16000 cod and ling. There are, this year, some companies from Barra, one from Ayr, and one only of the natives. They commonly catch from 100 to 240 *per* day, so that sometimes they do not raise their whole lines at once; their boats not being able to carry the fish ashore. Notwithstanding such a promising prospect, of their having, with a great number of fishing yawls, 10 boats in the parish, partly decked, which carry