prohibitions on technology diffusion at the end of the eighteenth century made the project a delicate maneuver in the affairs of states. Franklin's reputation as a scientist and mechanical innovator on the one hand, and a prophet of American nationalism on the other, made him a particularly effective spokesman for promoting scientific and mechanical development as a revolutionary measure aimed at ridding the young republic of its colonial economic dependence on Britain.[54]

Even before the official signing of the peace on September 3, 1783, the emigration of skilled artisans from England to the United States came to occupy an increasing share of Franklin's busy schedule. His correspondents in Europe and America reported about mass migration to North America. Richard Bache wrote from Philadelphia that "our numbers have increased in a most astonishing degree; such an influx of foreigners from every Country in Europe, exceeds every expectation." Thomas Pownall, former royal governor of Massachusetts, then living in England, asked Franklin to reply to a list of questions about migration to the new republic so that he could "state to my Countrymen *the real facts* of the Good and the Bad which must arise to those who seek New settlements." Pownall reported that a great number of British citizens planned to emigrate and that no action by the crown could prevent them. The Earl of Buchan reported from Edinburgh in February 1783 of "a spirit of Emigration" of which he was a part, and asked Franklin's advice. The many letters and petitions showed that artisans were crossing the Atlantic of their own accord and at their own expense. It was unnecessary to devote any resources to encouraging emigration. Thus, when Franklin was asked for material assistance he repeatedly replied that while immigrants were welcome, success in the New World depended "on a Man's own Industry and Virtue. . . . the Publick contributes nothing but Defence and Justice."[55]

News of the Anglo-American accord of 1783 stimulated further

interest in migration. During the war Franklin offered prospective immigrants information about America, letters of introduction, and, most importantly, passports to assure safe passage. Peace made the passports unnecessary. And while Franklin responded with encouraging platitudes and occasional letters of introduction but failed to deliver more concrete assistance, the stream of applications grew. Men continued to expect assistance in exchange for enriching America with their technical knowledge.[56] Better-informed immigrants knew that Franklin did not distribute any subsidies. Some simply asked for the customary letter of introduction, hoping that Franklin's reputation might open doors hitherto closed to foreigners. Others asked for support in getting other official agencies to cover the transportation of skilled immigrants.[57]

A prominent application was filed by James Milne, described by George Washington as "an English Gentleman, who has been many years introducing those [cotton] manufactures into France." In 1780 Milne approached Franklin to discuss "objects which concern America." Three years later Milne submitted three memoirs in which he claimed to have invented cotton machinery. He offered to establish textile manufacturing in North America and asked for transportation assistance and a patent monopoly for introducing his innovations to the republic. He campaigned simultaneously for an introducer monopoly in France and in America, and though Franklin was of no help, the French government capitalized on the offer and the Milne brothers became the leading textile industrialists in France.[58]

Some requests reached unprecedented heights of impudence. A man proposed to import black slaves to operate a textile factory in America and asked Franklin, who by then had come out strongly against slavery, to introduce him to wealthy men and congressmen who in turn would finance the initial costs of the operation. Most audaciously, Charles Grossett of Brunswick proposed in January