FIGURE 1. Benjamin Rush (1745–1813). Portrait by Charles Willson Peale, 1783. Rush was a physician, a professor of chemistry at the College of Philadelphia, a spokesman for the revolutionary cause, and an activist for various humanitarian causes, from antislavery to education and prison reform. In the second half of the eighteenth century even Americans of Rush's standing, reputation and virtue openly advocated technology piracy. Courtesy of the Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

of toiling in the field, and becoming poor, that we may enrich the manufacturers of other countries, we shall prosper by our own labour, and enrich our own citizens."[32]

In the early days of the Revolution, proponents of manufactures had hoped that the self-evident advantages of life in the New World would attract many skilled immigrants. Robert Styrettel Jones believed that immigrants would flock to America because "Empire and the arts have been long taking their western tour, and in all their progress have yet found no shore so suitable as this, upon which to fix their lasting residence." Thomas Paine declared in *Common Sense* that "our knowledge is hourly improving." Travelers' accounts of the high standard of living and economic possibilities in the New World encouraged European migration. One of the most widely read texts of this genre was Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. Crèvecoeur came to North America in 1765 and after the Revolution became the French consul in New York. The New World, he declared in 1782, "has so many charms, and presents to Europeans so many temptations to remain in it." An immigrant never felt like a foreigner because he could find in the United States all the varieties of European climate and culture. A skilled artisan who chose to immigrate could "expect to be immediately hired, well fed at the table of his employer, and paid four or five times more than he can get in Europe."[33]

During the war, revolutionary leaders naturally recognized that acquiring technology could speed up the attainment of economic independence. Many of the states subsidized iron factories and urged a speed-up in the production of linens and woolens. Fortunately for the war effort, women in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states had by the 1770s mastered homespun techniques to prevent severe shortages. The British seemed equally aware of this dimension of the conflict. When John Hewson, America's first calico printer, escaped from English custody after he was taken prisoner in