

Congress could afford the charge and could confide in my judgment of the Persons and knowledge of the Arts wanted among us, I am persuaded I could send you over many People who would be valuable acquisitions to our Country." However, since Congress endowed him with neither funding nor authority, his effectiveness as a recruiter of forbidden technologies was obviously limited.<sup>40</sup>

During his tenure in France Franklin was besieged by artisans and inventors who claimed their skills and invention were of great potential value to the young nation and offered to migrate. In his diary he noted that the "number of wild Schemes propos'd to me is so great, and they have heretofore taken so much of my time, that I begin to reject all, tho' possibly *some* of them may be worth Notice." Men from various walks of life told of their plans to move to North America. They were leaving Europe for reasons ranging from ill success in love, marriage fatigue, religious persecution, and ideological conversion to the republican promise. Most of the applicants were men who believed that they had something special to offer the colonies—their industrial know-how.<sup>41</sup>

European artisans approached Franklin in his official capacity, expecting that he would recognize the tremendous contributions they could make to the fledgling republic, and use his position, resources, and reputation to assist them. They told of plans to start Old World—modeled enterprises in North America and claimed to have knowledge and access to secret skills hitherto unknown in the New World. Richard White, for example, wrote that he had made a unique discovery "of what has been the Attempt of Europe for Century's but has Never Succeeded with any person myself excluded." A couple of months later White boasted that he could "Color Cotton Wool yarn of manufactur'd goods of the Cotton Kind from a pink to a Scarlet or Crimson." Two Frenchmen claimed that their unique knowledge of modern silk technology was in such demand that the Dutch East India Company wanted to subsidize their operation. They neverthe-

less preferred the United States and planned to emigrate to America accompanied by their skilled family members, and promised that other skilled workers would soon follow them. Another Frenchman claimed to have invented a dyeing and bleaching machine and proposed to build a factory for the process in America.<sup>42</sup>

European artisans assumed that America's industrial infancy would propel its politicians to offer a variety of inducements to introducers of new technologies. Some expected official positions. A printer looked to run the government-sponsored press; a pharmacist demanded a position with the military; a physician asked Franklin to find him a job. Others conditioned their migration on some form of assistance. White wrote that he preferred America, but had other options: "England, France [and] Spain has offer'd Ten Thousand pound Each." White threatened that unless Franklin came through with a travel subsidy he would take his know-how back to England. A tapestry manufacturer and dyer wrote: "We are determined to emigrate to the colonies, either as a teacher or director of dyeing or as a master dyer, provided that we can find support on arrival." A master glassmaker offered to migrate if the United States government or private citizens helped him build a glass factory. A playing card maker conditioned his migration on a Congressional subsidy for establishing a factory. An engineer/miner requested a travel subsidy and Franklin's recommendation to Congress. And a German printer demanded a travel subsidy so he could open a press in America, which would serve the large number of German settlers.<sup>43</sup>

In both London and Paris, Franklin consistently turned down requests for direct financial subsidy. "[O]btaining Money from our poor Treasury to forward such Schemes," he wrote in 1772, "is out of all expectation."<sup>44</sup> But Franklin was not averse to helping industrial immigrants in other ways. He had heard of massive Irish immigration to America from Sir Edward Newenham, a prominent Irish politician who was highly sympathetic to the American cause. In