

**ESSAY ON THE ELEMENTS OF BRITISH
INDUSTRY; COMPRISING REMARKS ON THE
CAUSE OF OUR PRESENT DEPRESSED STATE,
AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, &
MANUFACTURING, ENGLISH,
SCOTCH, AND IRISH; TOGETHER WITH
SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS REMOVAL**

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Essay on the elements of British industry; comprising remarks on the cause of our present depressed state, agricultural, commercial, & manufacturing, English, Scotch, and Irish; together with suggestions for its removal by W. Burness

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C. A. Curry

ESSAY

ON THE

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Agricultural, Commercial, & Manufacturing,

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SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS REMOVAL.

BY

W. BURNES,

LATE LAND STEWARD TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER.

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PREFACE.

THE following Essay is intended to present a brief outline of the present depressed state of British Industry, and the necessary steps which must be taken, in order to effect an improvement. The object which the author has in view in laying it before the public is, to turn attention into the proper channel, especially the attention of that class of the community for whose benefit his pen is more particularly engaged, viz. *Farmers' sons*. Reference is made in the concluding paragraph to a larger work which now occupies his attention, where the requisite information on the different subjects which the present small one embraces will be given in detail.

W. BURNES.

41. Upper Albany Street, Regent's Park.

London, August 18. 1848.



ESSAY
ON THE
ELEMENTS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY,
&c.

BRITAIN, on the arrival of the first emigrants from the Continent, exhibited no evidence of human art—all was wild and solitary. She presents a very different appearance in 1848. The value of property, added to her soil by the industry of her people, is great. For the first period of her history, the principal, if not the only, branches of industry pursued by our ancestors were, the tending their flocks and herds, hunting, and the manufacture of warlike implements. On the landing of the Romans agriculture had made some progress, and before they finally left our shores, large quantities of corn were exported. The progress of industry since that period has been very various. Sometimes the arts and sciences flourished rapidly,

while at other times again almost no advance was made. During the last two centuries, from the science of labour being better understood in some parts of the kingdom than in others, the march of improvement has been much more diversified than at any previous period. In England and the greater part of Scotland, civilisation has proceeded at an accelerated speed, while in some parts of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland matters have rather gone in a retrograde way. At present, industry is not in a *healthy state* in any province of the kingdom.

Political economists have differed widely in opinion, and, in endeavouring to erect their several theories, have adopted different branches of industry as the basis on which to build them. Some have adopted the agricultural—some the manufacturing—and some the commercial; but the impropriety of thus laying the all but entire stress upon one element is daily becoming more apparent. Those several branches of national industry are visibly but the subdivision of labour applied to the soil and its productions, in order to render them both beneficial to man.

In agriculture, for instance, the farmer cul-

tivates the soil, whether foreign or domestic; but in this he were immensely restricted without the assistance of the merchant and the manufacturer. He may resolve by his industry to raise much more farm produce, such as corn, cattle, flax, cotton, sugar-cane, &c. &c., than he can require for his own use and immediate wants; but, before doing so, he must make up his mind for either becoming commercial and manufacturing in his own operations, or else to be indebted to the others engaged in those two branches of industry.

Or again, as to commerce:—On visiting the extensive shops of this great metropolis (London), we witness the agricultural produce of every clime in the world manufactured into a thousand forms, and exhibited in the most inviting manner that the mercer can imagine: but all the anxiety, exquisite skill, and taste thus manifested are simply, when viewed in their most comprehensive light, so many aids to the farmer in procuring from the soil its produce in a shape that can meet the wants, luxuries, and refinement of society.

The industry of the manufacturing world might easily be shown to be a similar subsidiary,