

are productive of the greatest advantage to mankind. Hence, for instance, has arisen an art, the art of dyeing, which not only opens a wide field of employment to a numerous class of workmen, in every large city; but gives a degree of activity to general commerce, which cannot but surprise the mind of any one previously ignorant of the circumstance. Thus the quantity of indigo, accumulated in the extensive repositories of the East-India company, is frequently so great as to make the occasional observer wonder that it should ever find a market: and the following statement will shew how important this single substance is as an article of commerce. During the last five years, the quantity of indigo imported into London amounts to at least one hundred and twenty thousand chests; the average weight of the contents of each chest equalling 270lbs, and the average price of each pound being five shillings. The estimated value therefore of the indigo contained in the 120,000 chests would be rather more than eight millions sterling.

If I am correct in supposing that *blue*, *red*, and *yellow*, are the colours most abundantly supplied by vegetables, it cannot fail to strike a mind of the least reflexion, that these are precisely the elementary colours which a dyer would have antecedently selected, in order to be enabled to practise his art to the greatest ad-