

Printed at the expence of the  
Society for encouraging Industry - 1752

T H E  
R E P O R T  
O F T H E  
Committee

T O T H E

Society for *encouraging Industry, and employing the Poor,*  
at their Quarterly Meeting on the second  
Wednesday in *February, A. D. 1752.*

**B**Y the Report of your Committee at the last Quarterly Meeting, it appears, that there had then been delivered and were in the Looms, nine hundred and fifty Yards of Linen, of various Sorts, on Account of the Society, and of private Persons; since that Time, notwithstanding the Severity of the Winter, there have been delivered out of the Looms seventeen hundred and seventy two Yards, whereof twelve hundred and seventy six Yards are on Account of the Society, and four hundred and ninety six Yards on Account of private Persons. Mr. Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia being inform'd of the Design for which this Society was erected, has generously made us a Present of *Ten Pistoles*, which he desires may be disposed of in the following Manner, *viz.* That *Two Pistoles* be given to the Person that shall raise the greatest Quantity of Flax within this Province this Year, and *One Pistole* to the Person that shall raise the next greatest Quantity: *Tenn Pistoles* to the Person that shall weave the best and finest Piece of Cloth, and *One Pistole* to the Person that shall weave the next best and finest Piece; *Two Pistoles* to the Person that shall this Year spin the greatest Quantity and finest Linen Yarn, and *One Pistole* to the Person that shall spin the next greatest Quantity, and finest Linen Yarn, and *One Pistole* to be divided into small Sums to be given amongst the young Spinners, for the farther Encouragement of Spinning; or if the general Intention of the Society could be better answered by disposing of the Money in any other Manner, your Committee had Power to dispose of it accordingly. Your Committee, upon taking this into Consideration, were of Opinion, that Mr. Franklin's Donation could not be disposed of in a better Manner to answer the general Intention of the Society, than according to Mr. Franklin's own Proposal, and agreed to acquaint Mr. Franklin with it, and return him Thanks for his generous Benefaction, which they have accordingly done: But upon considering that the encouraging of the raising of Flax within this Province, was of the utmost Consequence to the Growth of the Linen Manufacture, and that Mr. Franklin's Premium was of itself not sufficient to answer the Design, the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Committee, have each of them given a *Pistole* for a farther Encouragement, which they propose to dispose of according to a printed Advertisement which they have distributed into the several Towns of this Province. The Society are at present in Debt *Five hundred Pounds*, old Tenor, two hundred of which the Committee have advanced for the purchasing of Flax, besides the Cloth they have in Stock: There is due from sundry Members, about *three hundred Pounds*, old Tenor, on Account of their Subscriptions. Upon the Whole, your Committee are of Opinion, that considering the infant State of this Manufacture, it is in a much more flourishing State than could have been expected; and considering the great Demand for Employment in spinning, and the much more favourable Season of the Year coming on, both for spinning and weaving, and the Disposition there is in a Number of Gentlemen to make large Quantities of Linen Cloth upon their own Account, it may reasonably be presumed, that it will grow very fast. All which is submitted by the Committee.