BAYS, in commerce, a sort of open woollen fluff, having a long nap, sometimes frizzed, and sometimes not. This fluff is without wale, and is wrought in a loom with two treddles, like flannel. It is chiefly manufactured at Colchester and Bockin in Essex, where there is a hall called the Dutch hay-hall or raw-hall. The exportation of bays was formerly much more considerable than at present that the French have learned to imitate them. However, the English bays are still sent in great quantities to Spain and Portugal, and even to Italy. Their chief use is for dressing the monks and nuns, and for linings, especially in the army. The looking-glaise makers also use them behind their gloves, to preserve the tin or quicksilver; and the candle-makers, to line their candles. The breadth of bays is commonly a yard and a half, a yard and three quarters, or two yards, by 42 to 48 in length. Those of a yard and three quarters are most proper for the Spanish trade.