NATIONAL UTILITY,
IN OPPOSITION TO
Political Controversy.

ADDRESS TO THE FRIENDS OF AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

To the Friends of American Manufactures,

You are aware that the present crisis is one of the most important periods in the history of the United States. The question at issue is whether we shall continue to produce our own manufactures, or whether we shall depend for our supply on foreign nations. The decision of this question will determine the future prosperity of our country, and the welfare of our citizens. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we should be thoroughly informed on the subject, and that we should not be misled by the specious arguments of those who would have us abandon our own industry.

The friends of foreign manufactures are fond of representing the advantages of foreign products. They tell us that we can obtain everything we need from abroad, and that we cannot hope to compete with the nations of Europe in the production of manufactured goods. But this is a fallacious argument. The nations of Europe have the advantage of many natural advantages which we do not possess. They have a larger population, a greater extent of territory, and a superior climate. They have also a greater capital to invest in manufactures, and a more skilled labor to work them. But these are not the only reasons why they are able to produce more and better manufactures than we can.

The true reason why foreign nations are able to produce more manufactures than we can is because they have a larger market. They have a greater population to furnish a demand for their products, and they are able to sell their manufactures at a lower price than we can. But this is not a reason why we should cease to produce our own manufactures. We have a larger market than they do. We have a greater number of inhabitants, and we have a greater extent of territory. We have also a greater capital to invest in manufactures, and we have a more skilled labor to work them. But these are not the only reasons why we are able to produce more manufactures than they can.

The true reason why we are able to produce more manufactures than they can is because we have a greater allowance of time. The nations of Europe are obliged to produce manufactures with a view to profit, and they are not able to produce them with the same care and attention that we can. But we have a greater allowance of time, and we are able to produce our manufactures with the same care and attention that they can. We have also a greater allowance of time, and we are able to produce our manufactures with the same care and attention that they can.

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