

BAYS, in *Commerce*, a kind of coarse, open, woollen stuff, having a long knap ; sometimes frized on one side, and sometimes not frized, according to the uses for which it is intended.

This stuff is without wale, being wrought on a loom with two treddles like flannel.—It is chiefly manufactured about Colchester, and Bocking in Essex ; and in Flanders, about Lille and Tournay, &c.

This manufacture was first brought into England, together with that of fays, serges, &c. by the Flemings, who fled hither from the persecution of the duke of Alva, about the fifth year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, and had afterwards peculiar privileges granted them by the 12 Car. II. in 1660. The exportation of bays was formerly much more considerable than it is now, as the French manufacturers have learned to imitate them, and have set up manufactures of their own at Nîmes, Montpellier, &c. However, a considerable quantity of bays is still exported to Spain, Portugal, and Italy. Their chief use is for the religious, and for linings in the army ; the looking-glass makers also use them behind their glasses, to preserve the tin or quicksilver ; and the case-makers to line their cases.

The breadth of bays is commonly a yard and half, yard and three quarters, or two yards ; by forty-two, or forty-eight in length : those of a yard and three quarters are most proper for the Spanish trade.