

same increase was seen in the cattle. Spain carried on a trade of its own commodities and in its own ships into Italy, France, England, Flanders, and the north; had in all places Spanish merchants and factors, as may be seen in the ordinances of the consulado, or court of merchants at Burgos: likewise vast cargoes for the Indies; and these chiefly consisted of its own products and manufactures, the staple of which was Toledo, where they were laid up as in a general magazine; consequently the profits of commerce, the money, and other amazing riches of the Indies remained within the nation, without, or at least, very little of it being dissipated among strangers, by a detrimental commerce. Even then subsisted in their full vigour, the wise regulations of the catholic kings in favour of the domestic and foreign active commerce and navigation of Spain; which were in substance the same as those to which other nations owe their commerce and naval power. Such were the erecting of new docks, the encouragement of all naval arts, the appointing of rewards for ship building; procuring timber and cordage; giving privileges to those of great burthen, and stowing the cargoes with admirable order; abolishing the abuses and vexations of the customs and port fees; issuing equitable ordinances concerning