

power was exercised, the severe restrictions imposed on the trade of the Colonies, the destructive duties and enormous taxes they were compelled to pay, the complete despotism of the administration in which the Colonists were allowed no share, the vicious character of their system will be clearly apparent, and also the causes, which in the end, lost to Spain her extensive possessions in America.

It is true, that from the time when the Sovereigns of Spain assumed the right, which they were so well prepared to maintain, of holding the Colonies in complete subjection to their will, in this respect their system somewhat resembled that of the Romans. And as the Roman Colonies conveyed to the countries in which they were planted the superior advantages of their civilization and their laws, so the Spaniards, together with their civil principles and habits, carried with them to America the profession of the Christian faith; and however we may deplore the errors of their religion, as well as of their polity, and the superstition they mingled with the purity of the Gospel, we cannot but admire that part of their system, by which the establishment of that profession was strictly enjoined, and the Colonial Government were bound to maintain it. And as, whatever may have been the defects of the Roman system, the Colonies willingly submitted to the parent State; so Spain, for a long course of years held rule over a country exceeding Europe in extent: although now at length, from the vices inherent in the whole body, of all that vast Empire, only two Islands remain her own.

The system adopted by Portugal towards her Colonists in Brazil, seems so much to resemble that of Spain, and produced results so similar, that it were unnecessary to dwell on the subject. Equally unprofitable would it be to consider at length the system of the different Euro-