

Carthaginian colonies and Roman colonies.

Carthage exacted large sums from her dependent allies; and in the Roman Empire, as was too much the case formerly under the rule of the Company in India, the ability of a governor was measured rather by the amount remitted by him for the use of his masters than by the equity displayed by him in the administration of his province.*

Royalties reserved, in case of colonies in America, a species of tribute.

The only approach in modern times to the levy of a tribute is the reservation of royalties on mines of gold and silver made by the various nations who colonized America. Columbus proposed that half the gold and silver found should belong to the Crown; the amount was afterwards reduced to a third, then to a fifth, and at last to a twentieth part.†

Royalties did not pay the expense of the government in the colony.

This tax, however, did not answer the expectations of the persons who imposed it. The Colonial government of Spain was very expensive, and the American colonies yielded very little surplus income to the mother-country.

First English settlers offered royalty.

The first English settlers in America offered a fifth part of all gold and silver to the Crown, as the price of their patents; but, as no mines of gold or silver worth the expense of working were found by the adventurers, the expected payment was never made.‡

It must be admitted, however, that the abstinence of the mother-country from a direct taxation of the Colonies arose from the want of the way, rather than of the will, to tax.

Attempt to make a profit of Colonies by the mercantile system.

What could not be done directly was attempted indirectly. An attempt was made to monopolize entirely the commerce of the Colonies, by enacting a series of statutes which prohibited the colonists from establishing

* Lewis on Dependencies, p. 102.

† Smith's "Wealth of Nations," by McCulloch, book iv., p. 252.

‡ *Ibid.*, book iv., chap. 7, p. 253.

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