

der the name of tribute, have been taken off, and likewise the tax on playing cards and snow, not to mention the duties derived from *bulls*, the fifth of gold and silver, the half of the secular annats, the two per cent. on tobacco, and various other imposts which have been diminished, or exchanged. By reason of these reductions the public treasury became so empty, that the government was constrained to contract in London for a loan of seven millions and a half of dollars, by the assistance of which sum it will gain time to re-establish by gradual process some branches of the public revenue, and be enabled to undertake at the same time many works advantageous to the state.

The revenue destined for the general expenses of the republic has, for some time past, been derived solely from imposts on powder, postage, tobacco, and clearances from the maritime custom-house. We cannot say whether the produce of these four objects of taxation are sufficient to maintain the general expenses of the republic, which, according to Señor del Valle, rarely exceed 500,000 dollars. But, should there be a slight deficiency in the revenue to meet the expenditure, this will be but a momentary evil, inasmuch as the government, besides daily adopting economical experiments, is proceeding slowly with the augmentation of the taxes, in quotas which will fall lightly on the people, and be a mere nothing, when compared with the sums which were exacted from them in times past. The fact is that the inhabitants of Guatemala pay less taxes than any other people of the present day in Europe or America. Señor del Valle having compared the contributions of Mexico with those of Guatemala, proves, that in Mexico each person pays eleven reals, or one dollar and thirty-seven and a half cents, and in his country but two and a half, or thirty-one cents.

In respect to *foreigners*, Guatemala has exhibited the most liberal policy. By the 12th article of the constitution, "the republic" is declared to be "a sacred asylum for any foreigner, and the country of any one who desires to inhabit its territory." Aware of the necessity of inviting foreign industry to establish itself in the republic, the government, by a decree of the 12th of January, 1824, offered the most liberal advantages to foreigners who colonize there. Land is easily obtained, and its possession is accompanied with exemption of taxes for twenty years, and the right of citizenship after three; besides which, the most careful protection is given to every foreign agriculturist.