

detail of the early settlement of America; many circumstances gave rise to its rapid peopling from Europe, after the year 1610, when the English, French, Dutch, and Swedes formed colonies there.* Political tyranny, and religious disputes, aided by the speculative adventurers of the day,† contributed much to the migration of numerous brave, enterprising, and moral characters from Great Britain; and the refuse of English gaols helped to clear the forests of the New World; while such men as William Penn, by their conciliation of the Indians,‡ and their prudent policy, as regards the formation of incipient governments, gave security and solidity to the infant colonies.§

From this period the progress of the British colonies in America was exceedingly great in numbers, and in wealth: a natural spirit of commercial enterprise was fostered by the prudence of the mother country in leaving the colonists at full liberty to prosecute their trade (with very few exceptions)

* At Virginia, Canada, New York and the Delaware.

† It is a singular circumstance that Oliver Cromwell was prevented from embarking for America by Charles the First.

‡ The secret of William Penn's gaining the confidence of the Indians, was by purchasing their lands at what was then considered a fair remunerating price, thus—for 'all the land between two rivers as far as a man could ride in two days with a horse, Penn gave the Indians 20 guns, 20 fathoms match-coal, 20 fathoms stroud water, 20 blankets, 20 kettles, 20lbs. of powder, 100 bars of lead, 40 tomahawks, 100 knives, 40 pairs of stockings, 1 barrel of beer, 20lbs. of red lead, 100 fathoms of Wampum, 30 glass bottles, 30 pewter spoons, 100 awl blades, 300 tobacco pipes, 100lbs. of tobacco, 20 tobacco tongs, 20 steels, 300 flutes, 30 pairs of scissors, 30 combs, 60 looking glasses, 200 needles, 1 skepple of salt, 30lbs. of sugar, 5 gallons of molasses, 20 tobacco boxes, 100 Jews' harps, 20 hoes, 30 gimlets, 30 wooden screw boxes and 100 strings of beads.'

§ It was a favourite maxim of William Penn's that 'whatever be the form of a Government, the people always are free when they share in the legislative power, and are governed only by the laws.'