

portion with the decay of its trade, if occasioned by the *irregularity* or *inefficiency* of its laws. It would not be difficult to apply to the laws and trade of the province, whose government and grievances we are about to investigate, the particular *illustrations* which have been brought in proof of this general assertion. The ancient dignity of Carthage, and the modern importance of Holland, whatever may be her present degradation or disgraces,—the former rising, not as a meteor, to dazzle and disappear, but, from rude and obscure materials, to a solid rivalry with the mistresses of the world; and the latter ascending from airy nothing, like one of her own exhalations, not only to “a local habitation and a name,” but to be an object of as great political magnitude as any in the map of the commercial world. The origin of both was mean and contemptible, and both are indebted for their distinction and elevation to the spirit
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