

and wealth, at a less expence of blood and treasure, than by their wars at home.

It is the interest and duty of all states to watch the increasing strength of their neighbours, and to make use of every just measure to enlarge their own, in the same or greater proportion. The Court of *Spain*, under whose authority the discovery of America was made, first began to colonize. The other powers saw the wealth and strength which she must acquire by her colonies. Her success in the settlement of *Mexico* and *Peru*, and the vast treasures she imported from thence, induced Portugal, England, France, &c. to follow the example; and if they did not find countries containing mines of gold and silver, they obtained others, better calculated for population, immensely fertile, and capable of producing almost all the articles of commerce which, at all times, would command those metals. In these countries they settled colonies, increased their number of subjects, and extended their commerce. In short, their commerce grew in proportion