

Mexican laws, (particularly those of revenue) minister much to their own interests. In fact, Mexico might justly boast, if she so listed, of having (what England has not yet been able to organize) a strictly self-supporting colony.

Having had considerable intercourse with the civil and military authorities of this province, I can speak with confidence of their shameless venality, and of the oppressive system which they administer. The revenue laws are nominally all but prohibitive of the importation of any other than Mexican manufactures ; subjects of other States are liable to expulsion unless they take the oath of Mexican citizenship ; the marriage of such with the fascinating daughters of the country, is still prohibited, unless in addition, they abjure protestantism and submit to baptism at the hands of a catholic priest, the rites of the Protestant Church are prohibited —(an almost unnecessary prohibition, for I never could discover any religion at all among the Anglo-Saxons there).

The people who are of a mixed Spanish-Indian race, are superstitious, ignorant, and priest-ridden ; yet their leaders, under covert of Mexican law, have confiscated and seized for themselves, the numerous — and because well-cultivated, valuable—missionary stations, which pious and