

C O N T E N T S.

Fundamental maxims on which the Spanish system of colonization is founded—Condition of different orders of men in their colonies—Chapetones—Creoles—Negroes—Indians—Ecclesiastical state and policy—Character of secular and regular clergy—Small progress of Christianity among the natives—Mines chief object of their attention—Mode of working these—their produce—Effects of encouraging this species of industry—Other commodities of Spanish America—First effects of this new commerce on Spain—Why the Spanish colonies have not been as beneficial to the parent-state as those of other nations—Errors in her system of regulating this commerce—confined to one port—carried on by annual fleets—Contraband trade—Decline of Spain both in population and wealth—Remedies proposed—View of the wise regulations of the Bourbon Princes—A new and more liberal system introduced—Beneficial effects of this—Probable consequences—Trade between Mexico and the Philippines—Revenue of Spain from America—whence it arises—to what it amounts.

T H E