

## INTRODUCTION.

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Though the colonies of Ancient Greece had their origin in causes widely different from those which led to the establishment of the outlying dependencies of Great Britain, yet the political constitutions now possessed by the more highly advanced of the latter, resemble in many important particulars the mode of Government which obtained among the former. The first English Colonies were founded by exiles, who sought in the wilds of America the freedom denied them in their native land. Notwithstanding the inauspicious causes which planted the English flag on American soil, and tho' it might not unnaturally have been anticipated that the religious outcasts from home would cherish bitter feelings against the land on which they had been conscience-forced to turn their backs, the colonists of America were long devotedly loyal to the Crown, while they voluntarily assumed such burdens as to relieve their loyalty of unworthy suspicion. The recollections of the wrongs they had suffered and the privations they had endured did not sour into feelings of estrangement, being buried in the present enjoyment of prosperity and freedom, and in that personal allegiance which they bore their sovereign, the passion of loyalty then being difficult to uproot, and exerting a strong and living force, whatever may be its influence in these latter days when more store is set by the utilities than by traditional symbols of power and dignity. But the statesmanship which raised Plymouth Rock a monument of its illiberality was not less shortsighted than the fatuous blundering which lost England a great portion of her Western Empire—the glories of which, present and prospective, Burke eloquently dwelt upon in his appeal for conciliation—and converted what might have been the noblest appanage of the British Crown into an alien Power, in the breasts of whose people, after the lapse of a hundred years, still rankle the memories of