

customs by proper laws, such an accession might have been added to the power of the king of Spain, as would have made him by far the greatest monarch that ever yet ruled on the globe ; but the opportunity was lost by foolishness and cruelty, and can never be recovered.

The rude progress of victory ought to be followed by adopting such wholesome measures as may render the conquered country happy and flourishing ; to attain an end so desirable, so politic and so virtuous, not any means are so well adapted as the promotion of public credit by the medium of free and public commerce, under the sanction of patronizing and protecting laws—laws not loose, temporary, and accidental, but suited to the nature of the dependence—which, after being shaped to the genius, temper and character of the people whom they are to govern, should not be tortured abruptly from one