

and from Europe to America. Colonization follows the same line. From the best accounts of transactions so remote, it appears, that the Asiatics first became conspicuous by their settlements on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean sea; that they planted colonies in the greater part of the islands, and on many of the coasts of that sea; and that they peopled, or, at least, introduced cultivation into Greece itself. From Greece we trace the direction of colonization to Italy and Sicily; and, from Italy, it extended, under the Romans, to the western boundaries of their empire. From the subversion of the Roman empire in Europe, to the discovery of America and the Indies, the practice of colonization seems to have been suspended. The barbarity and ignorance which universally prevailed during that time, and the dominion usurped by superstition and folly over the minds of men, repressed every enterprise which might contribute to polish and improve mankind.

The discovery of America and the Indies presented a great field for adventures. The greater part of the nations of Europe attempted to obtain a share of the new countries, and sent out colonies for that purpose. The maritime powers, however, possessed advantages superior to the other states. They monopolized, in a great measure, the American and Indian establishments, so that most of them have become the property of England, Holland, France, Portugal, and Spain.

A practice so general, it is natural to expect, should be the result of some common principles of human nature, or the constitution  
of