

CHAPTER III

COLONIAL REPRESENTATION

Sir
Thomas
Modyford,
1652.

THE first proposal of colonial representation in the British House was made a century before the Stamp Act was passed, and America demanded compensation. This is the one exception referred to above. Its origin is mysterious, for its author, Colonel Thomas Modyford, was a curious individual. It was advanced in 1652, in Barbadoes. He subscribed, with several other leading men of the Colony, to a denunciation of all who adhered to the new Commonwealth Government as superior to the royal régime, but a few days later he deserted to Sir George Ayscue, the commander of the fleet besieging the island. Whether he was moved by the new republican spirit, or by pique against Lord Willoughby, or by mere self-interest, is hard to ascertain. Lord Willoughby, of course, branded him as a traitor. Later, when raised to be Governor of Jamaica, Modyford maintained an incon-