

pean States, which when the authority of Spain was no longer able to prevent it, sent out Colonies in all directions to America. It may be sufficient to observe that the Dutch, the Danes and the French, severally formed their Colonies under the management of exclusive companies, a system differing materially from any pursued in ancient times.

Let us now proceed to investigate the system adopted by that country, which for many ages was known to the world, only as a far distant Island whose dangerous coast was to be sought merely for the mines contained beneath its soil. The lofty position England now occupies in the world, the mighty and salutary influence, which, by her wise laws, her free institutions, and the active benevolence of her people, she exercises over mankind, might well claim our attention, apart from other more special considerations, which render her course of Colonization a matter of peculiar interest.

Although British Colonization had its origin in projects of traffic, and was for many years like that of other European states, under the control of chartered companies, the government at length assumed the administration, and the inhabitants of those distant settlements were admitted, as far as their circumstances were considered to allow, to all the privileges of British subjects, as much entitled to protection as if the widely extended ocean did not separate them from their father land. By their charters, the Sovereigns of England were from the first careful to provide for the liberties of the emigrants; and when those charters were withdrawn, the Colonies were declared to constitute a portion of the empire, subject to its jurisdiction, having their governors and councils appointed by the crown, their houses of assembly chosen by the colonists, and statutes were enacted by the Colonial Assemblies, in a manner analogous to the practice of the British Parliament.