

with the most beneficial effects; and I cannot but think that this example, seconded, as it is, by the wishes of all the better-informed Mexicans, both in the Capital, and in the States, will, very speedily, produce such a change in the feelings of the community at large, upon this subject, as will enable the Legislature by a national Act, to dispense with restrictions, which are completely at variance with the spirit of all the other institutions of the country.

No. I.

General Table of the Secular Clergy in the different Bishopricks of Mexico in the year 1827.

BISHOPRICS.	Number of Secular Clergy.	Number of Parishes.
Mexico	482	245
Guadalaxara	611	135
Puebla	907	241
Oaxaca	364	124
Valladolid	500	122
Yucaten	357	99
Monterrey	145	57
Durango	184	64
Sonora	54	65
Chiapa	73	42
Total...	3,677	1,194

No. II.

Spain.	Churches.	Canons, &c.	Mexico.	Churches.	Canons, &c.
Cathedral	63	2709	Cathedral	10	168
Collegiate	117	1750	Collegiate	1	17
Total	180	4459		11	185

<p>The whole secular Clergy of Mexico, including Canons and Prebends 3463</p> <p>Excess of Canons and Prebends alone in Spain 996</p>	<p>The Church of Saragossa in Spain has Canons, &c. 149 } 253</p> <p>That of Toledo 104</p> <p>Mexican Canons, &c. in all 185</p> <p>Excess of two Churches alone in Spain 68</p>
---	---

TABLE No. III.

General Table of the Provinces and Orders of the Regular Clergy of Mexico; the number of Convents, and of individuals in each, distinguishing those who have professed during the last five years; the Curacies and Missions served by them, with their Property in Land, Money, and annual charitable Contributions.

Provinces.	Situation of convents.	Num-ber of vidu-als in con-vents each.	Have taken the habit in five years.	Have pro-posed in same time.	Now in novitiate.	Curacies.	Mis-sions.	Pro-perty in land-estates.	Its pro-duce.	Pro-erty in towns.	Its annual produce.	Floating capitals.	Annual returns.	Conso-lidated fund.	Charita-ble contri-butions.
DOMINICANS.															
Santiago de Predicadores . . .	Mexico	16	123	15	8	6	2	18	16855	321	35741	66010	3451	74825	6755
S. Miguel de los Stos. Angeles	Puebla	6	42	4	4	0	2	0	4060	112	12907	34204	1710	13079	400
S. Hipólito Marrir . . .	Oaxaca	5	50	13	11	2	9	0	9692	137	11811	96107	4655	153366	14400
S. Jose de las Chiapas . . .	Ciudad Real	4	44	7	7	0	9	0	9898	1	72	11320	566	00000	1684
FRANCISCANS.															
Santo Evangelio . . .	Mexico	20	320	64	47	7	2	30	0000	1	2724	188736	3136	48315	48800
San Diego . . .	Id.	14	212	52	17	13	0	3	0000	1	100	110625	5531	60115	20737
San Pedro y San Pablo . . .	Queretaro	15	162	86	33	9	3	8	0000	0	000	269259	13462	53384	17297
S. Francisco de los Zacatecas	Potosi	11	125	20	12	8	4	19	0000	0	000	225646	11363	59774	23972
Santiago Ialisco . . .	Guadalajara	7	128	28	17	1	2	23	0000	87	1659	34587	1711	30539	36371
San José de Campeche . . .	Merida	1	61	00	00	0	3	00	0000	00	000	33763	1688	8963	9930
AUGUSTINS.															
Dulce Nombre de Jesus . . .	Mexico	11	143	49	18	12	2	00	8106	239	63231	179234	8644	0140	13795
S. Nicolas de Michoacan	Salamanca	11	92	34	28	4	2	00	34702	216	15144	162165	7768	49720	12021
CARMELITES.															
San Alverto . . .	Mexico	16	224	50	19	11	0	00	43655	237	35960	272555	13553	63420	6214
MERCEDARIANS.															
San Pedro Nolasco . . .	Mexico	19	192	40	26	14	0	00	2755	427	36586	134426	5801	29095	2228
		150	1918	462	247	87	40	106	139723	1719	216002	1819231	83039	649735	304604

No. IV.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE SIX MEXICAN COLLEGES DE PROPAGANDA FIDE.

COLLEGES.	Number of religions.	Took the habit in five years.	Professed in that time.	Now serving novitiate.	Number of Missions.	Where.
San Fernando of Mexico	66	7	6	00	21	Alta California.
Santa Cruz, Queretaro	56	0	0	0	9	Sonora.
San Francisco, Páchucá	42	10	9	1	9	Cóhahuilla y Tāmáulipás.
San José, Orizava	35	7	7	0	0	Las Táráhumarás y Texas
Nuestra Señora de Guädälüpé, Zacatecas	83	18	11	0	22	
Nuestra Señora de Zápöpan . . .	25	23	14	0	0	
		307	65	47	61	

SECTION IV.

REVENUE OF MEXICO — ITS SOURCES AND
AMOUNT BEFORE THE REVOLUTION — PRE-
SENT STATE AND PROSPECTS.

MY object, throughout the preceding Sections, having been to avoid all theories as much as possible, and to give what *has been*, as the best criterion of what may again be, I shall not depart from this rule in treating so important a branch of my subject as the revenue of the country; and shall accordingly commence my view of its present state and prospects, by a succinct account of what they were before the Revolution of 1810.

For this I must, as usual, recur to Baron Humboldt, who has investigated the subject with his wonted accuracy, in Book VI. of his most valuable work.

According to his statements, the revenue of Mexico, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, (1712), did not exceed three millions of dollars:—

	Dollars.
In 1763 it was	5,705,876
1767	6,561,316
1776	12,000,000

Dollars.

1780	15,010,974
1784	19,605,574
1802	20,200,000

This extraordinary increase was due, in part, to the establishment of the monopoly of tobacco, which took place in 1764; but infinitely more, to that relaxation in the Colonial Policy of the Mother country, to which I have alluded in the Fourth Section of the First Book, and to the encouragement given to the mining interests by the reduction of the price of quicksilver, from eighty-four to sixty-four dollars the quintal. The revenue rose as the price of this important article fell, and, as an impulse was given to the Colonies, by the removal of some of the earlier restrictions upon their trade. Had Spain profited by the lesson, and extended her concessions, in proportion as she found less reason to regard them as incompatible with her own interests, her position, at the present day, might have been very different from what it is.

The principal sources of the revenue of Mexico at that time were:—

Dollars.

Duties derived from the Mines, (<i>derechos de oro y plata</i>) profits on sale of quicksilver, Coinage	5,500,000
Monopoly of Tobacco (<i>estanco de tabaco</i>)	4,500,000
Alcavalas	3,000,000
	<hr/>
Carried forward	13,000,000

	Dollars.
Brought forward	13,000,000
Indian Capitation tax	1,300,000
Duty on Pulque	800,000
Importation and Exportation duties	500,000
Cruzada, (sale of Bulls, &c.)	270,000
Post-office (<i>renta de correos</i>)	250,000
Gunpowder (<i>estanco de polvora</i>)	150,000
Media Anata and Mesada, (both ecclesiastical contributions)	100,000
Cards (<i>estanco de naypes</i>)	120,000
Stamps (<i>papel sellado</i>)	80,000
Licenses for Cockpits (<i>estanco de gallos</i>)	45,000
Snow (<i>estanco de nieve</i>)	30,000

Net annual produce in 1803 16,645,000

Gross amount of receipts, according to tables formed by Count Revillagigedo, in 1790, and by the Viceroy Iturrigaray, in 1803, *Twenty millions* of dollars: viz:

	Dollars.
Produce of Alcavalas, Indian Capitation-tax, and Duties on the precious metals	10,747,878
Produce of the Monopolies of Tobacco, Cards, Powder, Quicksilver, &c.	6,899,830
Cruzada, Tithes, Medias anatas, &c.	530,425
Revenues of Lands, &c. under the inspection of the Government.— <i>obras pias</i>	1,897,128
Total	20,075,261

These receipts were employed in the following manner:—

1. Ten millions and a half of dollars in the interior of the country, which covered all the expences of the Colonial Administration.

2. Three millions and a half, in remittances to other Colonies, as Cuba, La Florida, Portorico, the Philippine Islands, Louisiana, Trinidad, and St. Domingo, all of which were, in some measure, supported by Mexico.

3. Six millions of dollars, in remittances to Spain, called the *Sobrante liquido remisible*, which was lodged annually in the Royal Treasury at Madrid.

The expense of collecting the revenue, was calculated, by Humboldt, at *Eighteen* per cent.

	Dollars.
The military establishment, and the <i>Guarda costas</i> upon the Eastern and Western coasts, with annual repairs of fortifications, &c., were estimated, in 1802, at	3,800,000
<i>Sueldos de Hacienda</i> , including salaries of Viceroy, and all inferior Government officers	2,000,000
Expences of all the Royal Monopolies, and transmission of specie from one Province to another	3,250,000
Administration of Justice, Audiencias, &c.	250,000
Pension list	200,000
Hospitals, and repairs of Royal buildings, &c.	400,000
Total	9,900,000

Humboldt gives an increase of 600,000 dollars on the expenditure of the following year; adding 200,000 dollars to the expense of the Army, 50,000 dollars to the Pension list; 50,000 to the charges for the administration of justice, and 300,000 to the general charges of collection and administration, thus making the whole amount to 10,500,000 dollars.

This estimate I believe to have been exceedingly correct, and it may be taken as the fairest possible average for the years, which immediately preceded the Revolution of 1810, up to which period Mexico had no public debt of any kind.

The deficit in the Revenue, which the Revolution occasioned, was supplied by *forced* loans, (which were called voluntary,) and by the establishment of the *Derechos de guerra, y convoy*, (Duties of War and Convoy) the *Derecho de patriotas*, (a tax raised to support the Royalist volunteers, who assumed the strange appellation of *Patriots*), and a tax, of ten per cent., upon houses, which, as all the great towns were in possession of the Spaniards, was very productive.

The total amount of these different taxes, is supposed to have been from four to five millions of dollars, which afforded, however, but a poor compensation for the loss of the Mining duties, and the Monopoly of Tobacco; both of which were reduced to a mere fraction of their former importance, by the Civil war.

All these War taxes were abolished by Iturbide, on the declaration of the Independence, in 1821; but the distress to which the Imperial Government was afterwards reduced, compelled him again to have recourse to the tax upon houses, which was not definitively suppressed until 1823. Forced loans were likewise resorted to during his reign, and an attempt made to bring paper money into circulation, which completely failed, as the paper only obtained a partial currency by the sacrifice of two-thirds of its nominal value.

Nothing can be more melancholy than the account given by the two first Mexican Ministers of Finance, (Don Antonio Medina, and Don Francisco Arillaga,) of the state to which the Revenue was reduced in the years 1822 and 1823. In the confusion which ensued upon the dissolution of the Viceregal Government, the Government Archives were plundered as the best mode of concealing former dilapidations; the trustees of the funds of *Obras pias*, and those charged with judicial deposits, left the country with whatever money they could secure: the Provinces seized upon their own revenues, of which they refused to give any account; and the Government officers, fattening upon the public distress, either would not, or could not, make the smallest remittances.

In October, 1822, Medina stated in his Report to Congress, that, "not only was the pay of the troops in arrear in the Capital, but on the point of being

suspended altogether; and that, in the Provinces, it must be reduced from the total want of resources."

In a defence of his conduct before the Congress, (3d September, 1823,) the same Minister added: "That his orders for the collection of the necessary data for the formation of a new plan of Finance, had not been complied with; and that he regarded it as extremely difficult to enforce obedience to them, because their execution depended upon a multitude of men, some too ignorant to give the information required,—others interested in suppressing it, in order to perpetuate abuses; and all full of that languor, to which they had been accustomed by the routine of the old system."

This statement was fully confirmed by Mr. Arillaga, who succeeded Medina, in the Ministry, in 1823, and who characterized, as "*frightful*," the abuses which prevailed in the administration of the Revenue; and affirmed, "that there was nothing but plunder and corruption in all its branches." As late as November, 1823, he added, in his Report of that date, that "no ordinary measures, or threats, were sufficient to awaken the inferior officers of Government from their culpable apathy: others of a more serious nature must be resorted to."

It is probable that these menaces, however strong, would have produced but little effect, had they not derived importance from the conclusion of the loan

with the house of Goldschmidt, which gave the Government at once, the means of enforcing obedience to its orders, and of organizing anew, some of the most important branches of the Revenue. It is generally admitted, that Mr. Arillaga availed himself with great judgment of these advantages, and did much towards preparing the way for a better order of things. He, however, only retained the ministry for nine months after the date of his second Report, when he gave place to Mr. Esteva, who entered upon office the 9th of August, 1824.

In speaking of this gentleman, whose name is so identified with the new system of Finance in Mexico, that it is impossible for me to avoid introducing it frequently in the course of this Section, I shall neither allow myself to be influenced by that party spirit, which has but too much prevailed with regard to his measures in his own country, nor by those personal considerations, which my long acquaintance with him might not unnaturally inspire: I shall endeavour simply to judge him by his works, as laid before the Congress by himself, in his official Reports of 1825, 1826, and 1827, with which those interested in Mexican affairs in this country, are already partially acquainted.

The reorganization of the Revenue of Mexico, after the period of distress and confusion described in the preceding pages, may be dated from the establishment of the Federal Constitution, and the pub-

lication of the Decree of the 4th of August, 1824, called the law for the Classification of rents.*

By this Decree:—

1. All Importation and Exportation duties of every kind, whether in the ports, or on the frontiers of the Republic;

2. The monopolies of Tobacco and Gunpowder,

3. The Post-office,

4. The Lottery,

5. The natural deposits of Salt, (Salinas.)

6. The revenues of the Territories of the Federation,

7. The produce of all National Property, (such as estates formerly belonging to the Inquisition, or to convents suppressed while Mexico was under the dominion of Spain,)

8. And all Buildings, Fortresses, Public Offices, and lands annexed to them, formerly considered as the property of the Crown, were declared to belong exclusively to the Federation, and to be consequently placed under the immediate control of the Supreme Government.

All other branches of revenue were made over to the States, which were left at liberty to regulate their own expenditure, according to their several resources.

A contribution, or *Contingent* of 3,136,875 dollars was established by the same Decree, to be levied in

* *Vide* Decree of Congress, No. 70.—“*Clasificacion de Rentas.*”—*Guia de Hacienda*, p. 1.

fixed proportions upon the States, in order to cover the deficit, which it was supposed might result, during the first years, at least, from the dilapidated state of many of the branches of the Revenue assigned to the Federation; and regular statistical returns were ordered to be made to the General Congress, from every part of the country, in order to enable the Chambers to form a new scale of Contingent, better adapted to the resources of the States, than that adopted in the first instance.

This Decree was followed by a second, dated the 21st of the same month, (September, 1824,) abolishing all the complicated offices, which, under the denomination of Intendencias, Direcciones, Contadurias, Cajas, &c. &c., had so much impeded the action of the machine under the Vice-regal government; and creating in their place a single *Commissary-General* in each of the principal States, who, assisted by a moderate number of clerks, and under the immediate orders of the Minister of Finance, was directed to take charge in person of every thing connected with the revenues of the Federation in his district; to receive the Contingent of the States, and the Custom-house duties; to pay the troops, and to superintend the Post-office, and all inferior departments.

This wise regulation may be considered as the first step towards the cleansing of that Augean Stable, in which the abuses of three centuries had accumulated. It simplified the whole system of Finance;

and as, on the 16th of the following month, (October, 1824,) the States entered into possession of all their rights, as such, (in virtue of the Decree of the General Congress, No. 82,) and consequently took charge of their own revenues, the attention of the Supreme Government was thenceforward directed exclusively to the improvement of those branches, which had been set apart to cover the expenses of the Federation. Such were the circumstances under which Mr. Esteva took possession of the Ministry. In some respects, he was well qualified for the situation which he was called upon to fill; for he possessed great bodily and mental activity, and was animated by a sincere desire to introduce order, and regularity, into the chaos by which he was surrounded. But here his recommendations ceased: accustomed to business upon a small scale, he had no great or comprehensive views;—no power of appreciating the effects to be produced upon the internal resources of the country by the political change which it had undergone; or of adapting the new system of Finance to the wants which so different an order of things was calculated to create. He saw nothing at first but a Deficit, the amount of which filled him with apprehensions; and he discovered no means of avoiding this Deficit, but by a return to the old system of monopolies, high duties, and a strict limitation of trade.

A short analysis of the Report of January, 1825,

will place Mr. Esteva's views in the clearest possible light.

The first and second parts of this Report, contained an estimate of the gross receipts of the twelvemonth which was about to commence, calculated upon those of the two preceding years.

These were rated at 10,690,608 dollars, from which, however, were to be deducted 1,317,543 dollars, being the available amount then remaining of Goldschmidt's Loan; so that the whole produce of the Mexican Revenue, in 1825, was not supposed to exceed 9,373,065 dollars.

Against this, an expenditure of nearly *Eighteen millions of dollars*, (without including the interest upon the Foreign Loans,) was set by the third part of the Report, viz:—

	Dollars.
Expense of collecting Revenue, Salaries, &c.	920,235 7 9
Ministry of Interior, and Foreign Affairs	105,737
Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs	77,220
Ministry of War	12,000,000
Ministry of the Navy	2,934,533 4
Ministry of Finance	1,083,143 1
Credits against Government, payable in 1825	865,804 7 8
Total	17,986,674 4 8

	Dollars.
Receipts	10,690,608 2 9
Expenditure	17,986,674 4 8
	<hr/>
Deficit	7,296,066 1 1
	<hr/>
	or 8,613,609,

if the amount to be received on the Loan account be deducted, (as it undoubtedly should be,) from the receipts.

The fourth and last part of Mr. Esteva's Report, (page 37 to 52) explains the means by which, in his opinion, this deficit might be covered. They were:—

1st. The re-establishment of the Monopoly of Tobacco on the same footing as in 1809, the Supreme Government being invested with powers similar to those exercised by the Viceroys, for the prevention of Smuggling. (Page 43.)

2dly. The closing of most of the ports recently opened to Foreign Trade, which are stated, "greatly to exceed in number the wants of the country, and to serve only to facilitate Smuggling." (Page 46.) And,

3dly. The raising of the Duties on gold and silver to the standard of 1799, which is recommended as expedient, both "because it would not be a great hardship to the miner to pay, in 1825, the duties which he could so well afford to pay in 1801, and because, at all events, the loss would fall, princi-

pally, upon *Strangers*, who had taken into account, in all their calculations, the late reduction of Mining duties." (Pages 46 and 49.)

Mr. Esteva calculated the produce of these branches of the Revenue upon that of the years of 1795 and 1799, and assured the Congress that, "if his suggestions were adopted, an addition of 6,649,563 dollars might be reckoned upon in the year, 1825, by which means the Deficit would be covered, and time left for the Government to reflect upon those reductions, which it so anxiously desired to effect." (Page 51.)

Fortunately for Mexico, the fallacy of this calculation, (by which the produce of the most flourishing period of the Vice-regal government was taken as the standard of that of a period of comparative disorder and distress,) and the narrow policy by which a return to the beaten path (*la senda ya trillada*) of the old Spanish Prohibitive System was recommended as the only road to salvation, did not escape the penetration of the Congress. The Committee appointed to analyze the Minister's Report, animadverted with great severity upon his confined and antisocial views, (*proyectos mezquinos y antisociales*;) they demonstrated the absurdity of supposing that the Contraband trade could be reduced by reducing the number of ports; (as if harbours did not remain harbours, whether the Government kept up an establishment there or not;) and the illiberality of recommending an increase in the Mining duties, (which

even the Government of Spain had found it necessary to reduce,) "merely *because* the disadvantages of the change would fall principally upon Foreigners, who had engaged in Mining speculations, upon the faith of a public act of the Legislature." Finally, they observed upon the omission of any mention of the Public Debt, and pointed out the mode in which, by proper reductions in the Army, and a due attention to those branches of the Revenue, which were likely to reap most immediate benefit from the new-born liberty of the country, the Receipts might be made to cover the Expenditure, without crippling for ever the resources of the State, by striking, as Mr. Esteva proposed to do, at the very roots of its prosperity.

This Analysis, the argumentative parts of which Mr. Esteva in vain attempted to refute, was adopted almost *in toto* by the Congress. The Chambers refused to make any change in the revenue of Tobacco, or to close a single port, or to increase in any way the duties payable upon the precious metals, a proposal to which effect was brought forward by Mr. Esteva, and thrown out by a large majority, although supported by all his influence.

This check was of the greatest utility both to the country, and to himself: he renounced, from that moment, all idea of legislating, and confined himself to the organization of his Department, and to the observance of that system which was traced out for him by the Chambers. The activity and perse-

verance which he has displayed in this harassing task cannot be too highly spoken of: they gave new life to the system, and their effects were felt in the most distant parts. By a series of regulations, very severe, but very necessary where confusion had so long prevailed, subordination was established in every branch of the Finance department: the Commissaries were made strictly responsible for the conduct of all the inferior *employés*; absence from their posts, even for a day, without permission, was punished by the loss of employment; monthly, weekly, and even daily returns of receipts and expenditure, were ordered to be transmitted to the Treasury of the Capital; and thus data were obtained for the Estimates of subsequent years, the minuteness of which is the more curious, from its contrast to the total want of authentic information before Mr. Esteva's time.

It is upon these data that I shall form a general view of the Financial resources of Mexico, commencing with an account of the principal sources of its Revenue, and ending with a comparative table of the Receipts and Expenditure during the two last years.

I have already enumerated the particular branches assigned by the Law of the 4th of August, 1824, for the support of the Federal Government, most of which require no explanation. With respect to their relative importance, and to the probability of increase in each, the following observations may be of use.

The Monopoly of Tobacco, from the time of its establishment in 1764 till the Revolution of 1810, was proved by experience to be one of the most productive, and least oppressive taxes possible. On a term of nearly thirty years it yielded a net annual profit of four millions of dollars;* and although this was reduced to about *half a million* during the first part of the Civil war, the facility with which the disorder into which the establishment had fallen was remedied in 1817, and the importance which it regained in the short interval of tranquillity that afterwards occurred, (from 1818 to 1820), not unnaturally attracted the attention of the new Government after the establishment of the Independence.

After much discussion it was resolved, that the old Royal Monopoly should be kept up under certain modifications, which the change of system seemed to require. The cultivation of Tobacco was, therefore, prohibited throughout the Federation, with the exception of the district in the immediate vicinity of Orizaba and Cordova, where a certain quantity is

* Humboldt gives the annexed table for the years 1801 and 1802:—

Tobacco made up	1801.	1802.
Value of Tobacco made up at retail price	7,825,913	7,686,834
Expenses	- 1,299,411	- 1,285,199
Pensions and Salaries	- 798,482	- 794,586
Price of Tobacco	- 626,319	- 592,229
Net profit	- 3,993,834	- 4,092,629

raised annually, which the proprietors contract to deliver to the Government agents at three reals per pound.

The Tobacco thus purchased is remitted in leaf, (*en rama*) to Mexico, where there is an enormous manufactory of segars, in different shapes (*puros y cigarros*), on the account of the Supreme Government. The States have the option of either purchasing their supply in leaf, and working it up themselves, in which case they pay for their tobacco at *eight* reals (one dollar) per pound, (deducting all expenses of carriage, &c. which are defrayed by the Federation,) or of taking a stock of segars at once from the manufactory in the Capital, in which case the expense of labour and paper is added to the eight reals originally charged.

The retail price in the States is fixed at eleven reals per pound of wrought tobacco.

The profits of the Supreme Government are sufficiently evident from the preceding statement, as it sells for eight and eleven reals per pound, tobacco (wrought, or unwrought) which it purchases for three. Those of the States, which establish a segar manufactory (*fabrica de tabacos*) upon their own account, (purchasing tobacco in leaf of the Supreme Government at eight reals the pound,) will appear by the following table of the difference between the retail price of the box of *Puros*, (made up in the usual shape), and the expense of the labour and materials employed upon it.