

of Columbia, and it exceeds the revenue of all the custom-houses of the United States* before the year 1795, when that confederation had 4,500,000 inhabitants, while the island of Cuba contained only 715,000. The principal source of the public revenue of this fine colony is the custom-house, which alone produces above three-fifths, and amply suffices for all the wants of the internal administration and military defence. If in these latter years, the expense of the general treasury of the Havannah amounted to more than four millions of piastres, this increase of expense is solely owing to the obstinate struggle maintained between the mother country and her freed colonies. Two millions of piastres were employed to pay the land and sea forces, which poured back from the American continent, by the Havannah, on their way to the Peninsula. As long as Spain, unmindful of her real interests, refuses to recognize the independence of the New Republics, the island of Cuba, menaced by Columbia and the Mexican Confederation, must support a military force for its external defence, which ruins the colonial finances. The Spanish naval force stationed in the port of the Havannah, generally costs above 650,000 piastres. The land forces require nearly one million and a half of piastres. Such a state of things cannot last indefinitely, if the Peninsula do not relieve the burden that presses upon the colony.

From 1789 to 1797, the produce of the custom-house at the Havannah, never rose to more than 700,000 piastres. In 1814 it was 1,855,117. From 1815 to 1819, the royal taxes, in the port of the Havannah, amounted to 11,575,460 piastres; total 18,284,807 piastres; or, average year, 3,657,000 piastres, of which the municipal taxes formed 36.

The public revenue of the *Administracion general de Rentas* of the jurisdiction of the Havannah, amounted in

1820 to	3,631,273 piastres.
1821	3,277,639
1822	3,378,228

* The custom-houses of the United States, which yielded in 1801 to 1808, sixteen millions of dollars, produced in 1815 but 7,282,000.