

which were quoted for him, and especially the famous author, Blackstone, he must have seen that corporations are constituted principally in two ways, either by act of Parliament, or by royal charter, and that they may come to an end by a forfeiture legally incurred.

"In England, says Blackstoue, the King's consent is absolutely necessary to the erection of any corporation, either impliedly or expressly given, and that consent is given either by act of Parliament, or by charter."

"The King, according to the same author, has also the prerogative of erecting corporations, whereby a number of private persons are united and knit together, and enjoy many liberties, powers and immunities in their politic capacity, which they were utterly incapable of in their natural." [1 B. p. 497.]

"All the other methods, therefore, whereby corporations exist, by common law, by prescription, and by act of Parliament, are of the most part reducible to this of the King's letters patent, or charter of incorporation." [2 B. p. 275.]

These principles being laid down, Blackstone says that the general duties of all politic bodies considered as corporations may be reduced to this only point, i.e., that they are bound to act in conformity with the end, whatever it may be, for which they have been erected or instituted by their founder.

This being the case, it may happen and it does happen sometimes that those corporations violate their charter and make a bad use of the power conferred upon them, which is not astonishing, since they are made up of individuals subject to human frailties, and liable as well as private persons, to deviate from the end of their institution. For this reason the law has appointed suitable persons to visit them, to inquire into and to correct all irregularities that arise in corporations.

"I know it is generally said, that civil corporations are subject to no visitations, but merely to the common law of the land; and this shall be presently explained. But first, as I have laid it down as a