

laws, know well how great a part of it respects the colonies. Their affairs of government and commerce are so thoroughly incorporated with that code, that they could not be erased from it, without almost destroying the whole. This of itself sufficiently shews how much their interest and ours have been blended together, and strongly marks their dependence on the legislature of Great Britain.

On this subject, indeed, till of late years, there has been no dispute. The colonists acknowledged the authority of the King and parliament, and submitted to them on all occasions. In return for their obedience, they claimed the protection of the state, which was given them, with every mark of partiality and indulgence. And thus, with all the advantage of distant settlements for the improvement of their fortunes, they and their posterity remained denizens of Great Britain, with the power of returning when prompted by inclination or wealth, and of enjoying the most ample privileges of native subjects. Antient right then furnishes no ground for this revolt.

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