

constitutional inference, but by the co-operation of Parliament itself in the assent which it has given to these charters, as above explained. And to this natural construction of the charters as they stand expressed, I add the contemporary and continual construction which they have received from the conduct of Parliament, which best knew its own intentions, and which did not tax them: inasmuch that the non-user may be better argued to be a tacit renunciation of taxation as to Pennsylvania, where the power was reserved; than as leaving a doubt but that there is no such right where it was not reserved. And shall any man say that such rights, purchased originally by what was relinquished here, purchased since by labour and service in America, and ratified by time, the arbiter of Governments—Shall any man say that such rights are to be blown away by the breath of the first idle disputant? Or that they are alterable or revocable every