

- I. I shall endeavour to show, that the Charter Governments have a good and undoubted Right to their respective Charters.
- II. That they have not forfeited them by any Misgovernment or Male Administration.
- III. That if they had, it would not be the Interest of the Crown to accept the Forfeitures. And,
- IV. I shall make some Observations upon the extraordinary Method of Proceeding against the Charters by a Bill in Parliament.

1st. Proposition, *That the Charter Governments have a good and undoubted Right to their respective Charters.*

As to the first Point there can be no Difficulty. The Charters were Granted by the Crown, and the King is acknowledg'd to be the Head and Fountain of all Corporations and Franchises.

For tho' my Lord *Coke* takes notice, That a Body Politick may be establish'd by Prescription, yet such Prescription is only valid upon a Presumption that there was an ancient Grant of the Crown, which by the Injury of Time was afterwards lost. I need not insist upon what no Body controverts; but it is material to observe, that the *American* Charters are of a higher Nature, and stand on a better Foot, than the Corporations in *England*. For these latter were granted upon Improvements already made, and therefore were Acts of meer Grace and Favour in the Crown; whereas the former were given as Præmiums for Services to be perform'd, and therefore are to be consider'd as Grants upon a *valuable Consideration*; which adds Weight and Strength to the Title.

To increase the Nation's Commerce and enlarge her Dominions, must be allow'd a Work of no little Merit, if we consider the Hardships to which the Adventurers were expos'd; or the Expence in making their Settlements; or lastly, the great Advantages thence accruing to the Crown and Nation. It would be an endless Task to recount all the Disappointments and Disasters that beset the first Planters in these Enterprizes. I shall therefore only say in General, that after many Dangers in their Voyages over the *Atlantick*, which was not such an easy Navigation a hundred Years ago as it is now, they

they
there
Life
score
seem
foun
that
by a
leavi

T
was
jetts
cost
cam
Till
Buil
and
192
wer
with
add
and
Deg

A
that
Adv
Bri
Sub
Ab
me
Son
by
per
Ki
and