

support, as the attacks have been very weak, and very few. From the earliest times, down to the present, the disposition of foreign territory belonging to Great-Britain, has always been vested in the Executive. It is a power which the Restoration and the Revolution have left unshaken. From the cession of Tangier, to that of Guadaloupe, how frequently has it been exercised? If then the Crown, at the time when it granted the charters, could have ceded the territory (1) of America, to a foreign power, could it not have fixed the terms, on which its present and future inhabitants should continue the subjects of Great-Britain? Where it could have relinquished *all* the authority possessed by Great-Britain, certainly it could relinquish a *part* of that authority. Where it could make a *total alienation*, to enemies even, surely it could make a *modified grant*, to subjects. But suppose that the Crown had not been legally possessed of that power, is there not a term, after which uninterrupted possession confers a right? Have not the Colonists possessed their charters, much longer than

(1) At present it is unalienable from Great-Britain, the charters having annexed it inseparably.