

to possess and enjoy them, and likewise to enact laws for the government thereof, as conformable to the laws of England as the nature of circumstances would admit ; under which regulations it was expected that all adventurers who might arrive at future times, either to dwell within the place, or to maintain a traffic with the inhabitants, should quietly submit to be governed. The customary ceremony of delivering a rod and a turf from the soil to the new proprietor was then performed in the presence of the assembly.

Sir Humphrey, having thus taken possession, proceeded to the exercise of his legislative authority by publishing some regulations concerning the public exercise of religion and the civil government of the place, to which the whole assembly promised obedience. The meeting was then dissolved ; and, on the same spot, the general erected a wooden pillar, to which the arms of England engraved on lead were affixed. He then granted several parcels of land, the tenants being under covenant to pay a certain rent and service to Sir Humphrey, his heirs, and assigns, for ever, and yearly to maintain possession of the lands by themselves or their assigns ; and having done this, he next issued orders for the collection of the tax on provisions from the ships and vessels in the harbour of Saint John's and on the adjoining coast. Doctor Forster says, that on this occasion the General received also valuable presents from all the captains of the ships that lay off that island.

While some of the English were engaged in this service, and others in repairing the vessels, Sir Humphrey sent several parties to explore the coast and to make excursions through the country, in order to inquire into the different productions of the island. The result of their observations was that the suthern parts seemed destitute of inhabitants, a circumstance, says Hakluyt, which probably was owing to the frequent appearance of the Europeans, whose presence might have intimidated the natives, and induced them to