

cious metals. Our colonists engaged in their enterprizes with the same view ; and, when they were disappointed, they changed their object for others more lucrative to themselves, and to the mother-country. Discontent with the various forms of government, civil or ecclesiastical, that prevailed in their turns at home, during the last century, led many afterwards to seek for more peaceful abodes in that distant region. But, whatever were the objects of the first settlers of our American dominions, separation from the government of Britain was none of them ; for, to preserve their connection with their native land, they went all under charters granted by the sovereign of this country, with certain rights to the lands where they settled, and with the grant of certain powers defined by the charters, and to be administered in such manner as they prescribe. As corporations, they had rights given them to make bye-laws for themselves ; and, as corporations derived from, and subsisting by higher authority, they continued subject to the controul of that authority. It is impossible, indeed,