

for the present, by the inhabitants of every town, hundred and settlement in the colony. The Assembly was to determine by the majority of the voices then present, and to enact general laws for the colony, reserving to the governor a negative voice. They were to imitate the laws and customs, and judicial proceedings used in England. "No acts were to be in force till confirmed by the General Court in England: on the other hand, no order of the General Court was to bind the colony till assented to by the Assembly." The company having offered territory to those who should either emigrate themselves, or engage to transport people to the colony, found this policy so successful, that upwards of three thousand five hundred persons emigrated to Virginia during this and the two preceding years.

This year, 1622, was remarkable for a massacre of the colonists by the Indians, which was executed with the utmost subtilty, and without any regard to age or sex. A well-concerted attack on all the settlements, destroyed, in one hour and almost at the same instant, three hundred and forty-seven persons, who were defenceless and incapable of making resistance. The emigrants, notwithstanding the orders they had received, had never been solicitous to cultivate the good-will of the natives, and had neither asked permission when they occupied their country, nor given a price for their valuable property, which was violently taken away. The miseries of famine were soon superadded to the horrors of massacre. Of eighty plantations, which were filling apace, only eight remained; and of the numbers which had been transported thither, no more than about one thousand eight hundred survived those manifold disasters.

Frequent complaints having been made to King James of the oppressions of the treasurer and company, and the before-mentioned calamities being attributed to their misconduct or neglect, it was determined, that a commission should issue to inquire into the affairs of Virginia and the Somer isles, from the earliest settlement of each. Upon the report of the commissioners, the king concluded on giving a new charter, and required of the company the surrender of former grants, which being refused, a writ of *quo warranto* issued in November, 1623, against the patents of the corporation: and judgment was given by the Court of King's Bench against the treasurer and company, in Trinity term, 1624. These proceedings "were so conformable to the general strain of the arbitrary administration of that reign, that they made little impression at the time, though  
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