

*Annapolis*, have seldom paid any; in the mean time, they have on all Occasions manifested a Contempt of the *British* Government when they could do it with Impunity, or were too remote from that *Garrison* to send their Resentment.

It therefore highly concerns this Kingdom, that some seasonable Steps be taken to prevent their future Growth, and Defection; but it is very difficult to attempt, and almost impossible to effect their Removal, without Bloodshed, and if they were dispossessed, they would be a very great additional Strength to *Canada* and *Cape Breton*, as we could not prevent their settling in those Places.

It seems then more eligible to continue them in the Country, to permit them to hold such Lands as are under actual Improvement, and to which they can make out a clear Title, for 'tis beyond Dispute but they claim much larger Tracts than they have any Right to.

Their Estates are held by Patent from the *French King*, for which they pay a very small Acknowledgment, their Right was reserved to them by the Articles of Capitulation at the Reduction of *Annapolis*, and was finally ratified by the Treaty of *Utrecht*; but as no civil Government has ever been established there, they have no more to do with their new Masters than to pay their Quit-Rent, which in the whole Province does not amount to *forty Pounds* a Year.

When the Form of Government was established, which is now exercised there, the Instructions to the Governor and Council were copied from those of *Virginia*, whereby the Power of granting Lands is vested in them, and is restricted to such Conditions, as have hitherto proved a great Discouragement to his Majesty's Subjects; for the Patentee is not only obliged to pay a Penny *Sterling per Acre* for the whole, but is subject to a Penny more whenever the Government shall demand it, and unless he has built a House, and brought Part of his Lands under Improvement within three Years from the Date of his Grant, he forfeits his Title: This attended with the constant Ob-