

ing the respective Plantations : They had Power to make a common Seal ; to plead and be impleaded ; to call General Assemblies ; to make Laws, so as they were not repugnant to the Laws of *England* ; to assels the Freemen ; to constitute all Civil Officers ; to array the Inhabitants in warlike Posture, and use the Martial Law, when Occasion requir'd. And it was provided further, That in case any Doubts should arise, the Charters should have the most favourable Construction for the Benefit of the several Corporations.

INVITED and encourag'd by these Advantages, a considerable Number of Persons dissenting from the *Discipline* of the Establish'd Church, tho' agreeing with it in *Doctrine*, remov'd into those Remote Regions, upon no other View than to enjoy the Liberty of their Consciences without Hazard to themselves, or Offence to others. Thus the Colonies went on increasing and flourishing, in spite of all Difficulties, till the Year 1684, when the City of *London* lost its Charter, and most of the other Corporations in *England*, influenced by fear of Flattery, complimented King CHARLES with a Surrender of theirs. In this general Ruin of Charters at Home, it could not be expected that those in *America* should escape. It was then that a *Quo Warranto* was issu'd against the Governour and Company of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and soon after a Judgment was given against them in *Westminster Hall*. At the same Time Sir Edmund *Andros*, then the King's Governour of *New-England*, did by Order from Court repair to *Hartford*, the Capital of *Connecticut*, with arm'd Attendants, and forcibly seiz'd their Charter for the King. *Rhode-Island*, finding there was no Remedy to be had, made a Vertue of Necessity, and peaceably resign'd theirs. But as soon as the News arriv'd of the happy *Revolution* in *England*, these two last mention'd Governments re-assum'd their Charters, and put themselves under the old Form of Administration, in which they have continu'd ever since. The Government of the *Massachusetts*, cautious of offending their Superiours at Home, and considering there was a Judgment against them in the Court of *Chancery*, tho' most unfairly and illegally obtain'd, did not think it adviseable to make this Step ; but sent Agents to Court to supplicate, in a humble Manner the Restoration of their Charter. To what Mismanagement, or other Cause it was

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