
To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

The Petition of the *Freeholders and other Inhabitants* of the Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, &c. &c. &c.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT the inhabitants of these colonies, unanimously devoted with the warmest sentiments of duty and affection to your Majesty's sacred person and government, inviolably attached to the present happy establishment of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, and deeply sensible of your royal attention to their prosperity and happiness, humbly beg leave to approach the throne by representing to your Majesty, That these colonies were originally planted by subjects of the British crown; who, animated with the spirit of liberty, encouraged by your Majesty's royal predecessors, and confiding in the publick faith, for the enjoyment of all the rights and liberties essential to freedom, emigrated from their native country to this continent, and by their successful perseverance in the midst of innumerable dangers and difficulties, together with a profusion of their blood and treasure, have happily added these vast and valuable dominions to the empire of Great Britain.

That for the enjoyment of these rights and liberties, several governments were early formed in the said colonies with full power of legislation, agreeable to the principles of the English constitution.

That