

tience, this very Case is cited as one Allegation among others to support the general Charge against the Charter Governments, that they carry on an illegal Commerce.

*Thirdly*, IF IT were true that some Persons did now and then concern themselves in an illegal Trade, can it be thought just or reasonable that the whole Community should suffer for their private Fault? No Body will say, that the Acts of Trade are perfectly observed in the Provinces immediately under the Crown, or in *Great Britain* it self. I believe there is no Corporation in the Kingdom, being a Sea-Port, wherein there are not at some Time or other contraband Goods imported, or other Goods clandestinely run, to the Prejudice of the King's Duties. In this Port of *London* great Abuses are daily committed, in spite of the utmost Vigilance to prevent them. The Fraud of re-landing Callicoos after a pretended Exportation, only to receive the Drawback, is a most flagrant Instance, if one either considers the Perjuries that attend it, or the immense Sums that are thereby rob'd from the Publick, or the vast Injuries that are done by it to the honest Linnen-Draper. And yet, whoever us'd this, or any other Cheat of the like Kind, as an Argument to disfranchise this ancient Corporation? The Rule of Law is, *Noxa Caput sequitur*; and it is agreeable to natural Justice that every Man should suffer for his own Transgression. On the other Part, if a corporate Body were to forfeit their Privileges for every private Person's Offence, they would be of no Value. A Charter so limited could not stand a Week, nor would be worth the Expence of the Great Seal.

*Fourthly*, I might still make a further Remark. If the Grievances complain'd of were not antiquated Stories, but subsisting at this Time; if they were fairly represented; and lastly, if it were equitable that the Crimes of Persons in a private Capacity should be expiated by the Publick, yet no Conclusion could be drawn from these Premises prejudicial to the Charters, because the dissolving them would be no Remedy in any Sort. The Reason is plain, that putting this Case, not only the Inspection of Trade, but the Prosecution, Trial, and Punishment of every Offender would rest in the same Hands, and be carry'd on in the same Manner as before.

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