

for all it's Subjects, that they might not be oppress'd by arbitrary Power ; but in whatever distant part of the World they were settled, being still Subjects, they should have the Usage of *Englishmen*, be protected by the same mild Laws, and enjoy the same happy Government, as if they continued within the Realm. Consider the Expression in this Light, and the Colonies (which I am defending) are still safe, having in no respect impair'd, but many Ways improv'd the Liberty of the Subject, as I have before shewn under another Head. If hereafter so unaccountable a Thing should happen, that those Privileges which were design'd as Fences against Oppression and despotick Power prove the Means to introduce both, and the Body of the People should petition to be reliev'd from the Yoke of their Charters, for my part, I'll be no longer an Advocate for them. Only in the mean Time, I heartily wish they may not be disturb'd, but rest in Peace, 'till then.

A 5th Objection, That the Charter Colonies will grow great and formidable, answered.

THERE is one Thing more I have heard often urg'd against the Charter Colonies, and indeed 'tis what one meets with from People of all Conditions and Qualities, tho', with due

Respect to their better Judgments, I can see neither Reason nor Colour for it. 'Tis said, *That their encreasing Numbers and Wealth, join'd to their great Distance from Britain, will give them an Opportunity in the Course of some Years, to throw off their Dependance on the Nation, and declare themselves a free State, if not curb'd in Time, by being made entirely subject to the Crown.* Whereas, in Truth, there's no Body, tho' but little acquainted with these or any of the *Northern Plantations*, who does not know and confess, that their Poverty, and the declining State of their Trade, is so great at present, that there's far more Danger of their sinking, without some extraordinary Support from the Crown, than of their ever revolting from it. So that I may say, without being ludicrous, that it would not be more absurd to place two of His Majesty's Beef-Eaters to watch an Infant in the Cradle, that it don't rise and cut its Father's Throat, than to guard these weak infant Colonies, to prevent their shaking off the *British Yoke*. Besides, they are so distinct from one another in their Forms
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