

To prevent these abuses, it may be necessary for your Majesty's service, that the Governors of your Majesty's Colonies on the continent should for the future be restrained from making grants, without reservation of the usual quit-rents to your Majesty; & from making any grants exceeding 1000 acres to any person in his own, or any other name in trust for him; and that all grants, hereafter to be made, should be void, unless the land granted, or at least two thirds thereof, be cultivated within a certain term of years to be fixed for that purpose.

That no person should be allowed to hold any lands, for which a patent hath not been actually passed, either under the seal of the respective plantation, or the great Seal of this Kingdom, & that all persons petitioning for the future, to take up lands, should be obliged, upon allowance of such petition to pass a patent for the same within the space of six years, & pay the usual duties due thereon to your Majesty; in default whereof, the said allowance to be void, & the land to be grantable to any other person.

That an exact register be kept of all grants already made or to be made; that the quit-rents arising therefrom be duly accounted for to your Majesty's Auditor of the plantations; And that likewise all money whatsoever levied in your Majesty's name, in any of your Majesty's Colonies be accounted for to the said Auditor; which we the rather mention, because some of the Northern provinces (particularly that of New York, have of late refused to account with your Majesty's Auditor, for monies raised by their Assemblies; which is a practice detrimental to your Majesty's authority, & tends to the shaking off that dependency, which they owe to your Majesty & to their mother Kingdom.

The preservation of the woods in America, which hath hitherto been much neglected, is another particular of very great consequence to your Majesty's service; inasmuch as the same might prove an inexhaustible store for the Royal Navy of Great Britain. And although several Parliaments have been so sensible of the importance of this Article, that laws have been made in England for this purpose, yet the daily complaints from America are a proof how ill these laws are executed, & how little regard is paid to your Majesty's Commission & Instructions to your Surveyor General of the Woods; which is not so much to be wondered at, considering the present Surveyor only acts by Deputy, no ways qualified for that employment, although so extensive a trust would require the constant attendance of a capable & well experienced officer, & ought not to be left to the management of a Deputy.

But the many inconveniencies, that arise from the granting of Offices in the plantations to persons acting by Deputy there, may deserve your Majesty's animadversion; and we would humbly propose, that no offices in the plantations may be granted for the future, without an express clause in each patent, obliging the grantee to attend & discharge the duty of his office in person.

We beg leave further to observe, that the laws at present in force for the preservation of your Majesty's woods, are very defective, for the exception therein made, whereby liberty is given for the cutting of timber growing upon the lands of several persons, hath given rise to many pretensions for destroying timber fit for the service of the Royal Navy; wherefore we would humbly propose, that further provision should be made, by Act of Parliament in Great Britain, for ascertaining your Majesty's right to the woods, & the boundaries thereof.

But the most effectual way to put in execution what we have already offered upon this subject to your Majesty's consideration, & to render the several provinces on the Continent of America, from Nova Scotia to South Carolina, mutually subservient to each others support, will be to put the whole under the Government of one Lord Lieutenant, or Captain General,