

The militia of Rhode Island colony consisted principally of ten companies of foot. There were "nine towns or divisions" in the colony. The principal place of trade was Newport, where the buildings were generally of wood, and small. The principal exports were horses and provisions. The imports were chiefly the productions of Barbadoes.

The assembly of Virginia, "with a view to the speedy peopling of the colony, and to give all possible encouragement to persons of different nations to transport themselves, their families, and stock, to settle there," empowered the governor, by an instrument under the great seal, to declare any alien, on taking the oath of allegiance, to be completely naturalized.¹ An act of "free and general pardon and oblivion," in reference to the late rebellion, with the exception of the principal authors and promoters of it, was also passed by that assembly.² The half armed trainbands in Virginia amounted

¹ Chalmers, i. 282—284, where are Answers of the governor and council of Rhode Island to the same inquiries, as those mentioned in the last note. A few more articles are here subjoined. "The French, seated at Canada, and upon the bay of Fundy, are a considerable number; as we judge, about 2000: But as for the Indians that were inhabitants of this colony, they are generally cut off by the late war. We have several men, who deal in buying and selling, though they cannot be properly called merchants; and, for planters, we conceive there are above 500, and about 500 men besides. We have no shipping belonging to the colony, but only a few sloops. As for goods, exported or imported, there are very few; and there is no custom imposed. We have lately had few or no new-comers, either of English, Scotch, Irish, or foreigners; only a few blacks imported. There may be, of whites and blacks, about 200 born in a year. We have 50 marriages a year. The burials for the last 7 years, according to computation, amount to 455. Those people who go under the name of Baptists and Quakers are the most that congregate together; but there are others of divers persuasions and principles, all which, together with them, enjoy their liberty according to his majesty's gracious charter. We leave every man to walk as God shall persuade their hearts, and do actively or passively yield obedience to the civil magistrate. As for beggars and vagabonds, we have none among us."

² Chalmers, i. 316. This condition however was annexed; "that nothing shall be construed to give power to foreigners to execute any matter, which, by acts made in England concerning his majesty's plantations, they are disabled to do." Ibid. This was an act of the first assembly after the arrival of lord Culpeper as governor of Virginia.

³ Ibid. 341. The same act, reciting, that, during the licentiousness of late times, ill disposed persons had taken upon them to asperse the government, without which the inhabitants could not have been so easily led away, imposed severe penalties on those, who should maliciously excite the people to a dislike of the governor, or who should, by words or writing, defame the administration of the colony. Similar laws against "the propagation of false news" occur among the more early acts of assembly of all the colonies. *Thou shalt not raise a false report*, was a precept of Moses, acting