

Conquest, where there was no preceeding Injury or Provocation, could create a Right. Nor did it arise by *Purchase*, there being no Money or other valuable Consideration paid. Nor could she claim by the *prior Discovery or Pre-occupancy*, as the Civilians speak, because that gives a Right only to *derelict Lands*, which these were not, being full of Inhabitants, who undoubtedly had as good a Title to their own Country, as the *Europeans* have to theirs. And sure no Body will say in plain Terms, that we have any Claim upon the Foot that we were *Christians*, and they *Heathen*; which yet I know some Persons of no obscure Fame have tacitly suggested. *Rome* it self, as imperious as she is, never carry'd her Pretences to this Height: For though some of her Doctors have taught, absurdly enough, that *Dominion* is founded in Grace, none of 'em ever said that *Property* was. There remains then no other Right than what was deriv'd from the native Lords of the Soil, and that is what the honest *New-England* Planters rely on, having purchas'd it with their Money. The *Indian Title* therefore, as it is decry'd and undervalu'd here, seems the only fair and just one; and neither Queen ELISABETH by her Patents, or King JAMES by his afterwards, could give any more than a bare *Right of Pre-emption*.

AND yet admitting that the Crown granted the Soil, to how little must the Value of such Grants amount, all Circumstances consider'd? The Patentees were not only oblig'd to travel a thousand Leagues beyond Sea, but to purchase their Grants over again of the Natives, before they could be put into Possession. The Land it self was of a rough Savage Nature, incumber'd with unprofitable Woods, and of no Use 'till by vast Labour and Expence subdu'd and cultivated. For to speak the Truth, those Parts were but *bare Creation* to the first Planters, and their Labour *like the Beginning the World*.

So that which Way soever we take it, I think it's plain, if the Crown resumes the Charters, it will take away the Whole it gave, and deprive the Patentees of the only Recompence they were to have for all their Toils and Fatigues, which they thought to have conveyed safe to their Posterity. Could they have imagin'd this, could they have foreseen that their Privileges were such *transitory Things*, as to  
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