

" rule, that the founder, his heirs, or assigns, are the
 " visitors of all lay corporations, let us inquire what is
 " meant by the *founder*. The founder of all corporations,
 " in the strictest and original sense, is the King alone,
 " for he only can incorporate a society ; and in civil
 " incorporations such as a mayor and commonalty,
 " etc., where there are no possession or endowments
 " given to the body, there is no other founder but the
 " King. The King being thus constituted by law
 " visitor of all civil corporations, the law has also
 " appointed the place wherein he shall exercise this
 " jurisdiction : which is the court of King's Bench :
 " where and where only, all misbehaviours of this
 " kind of corporations are inquired into and redressed,
 " and all their controversies decided. And this is
 " what I understand to be the meaning of our lawyers
 " when they say that these civil corporations are
 " liable to no visitation ; that is that the law having
 " by immemorial usage appointed them to be visited
 " and inspected by the King, their founder, in his
 " majesty's court of King's bench, according to the
 " rules of common law, they ought not to be visited
 " elsewhere, or by any other authority."

It is then most evident from these quotations that
 civil corporations are subject to be visited by their
 founder who is the King or his delegates, and that
 those visitations are made through the medium of
 tribunals, upon the information of the attorney-general
 of the King or in his name.

The american law is similar to the English law in
 this respect.

" To render the charters or constitutions, ordinances
 " and by-laws of corporation of perfect obligation and
 " generally to maintain their peace and good govern-
 " ment, the bodies are subject to *visitation* ; or, in
 " other words, to the inspection and control of tribu-
 " nals recognized by the laws of the land. Civil cor-
 " porations are visited by the Government itself,
 " through the medium of the courts of justice.

" Civil corporations, whether public or private, being
 " created for public use and advantage, properly fall