

see what the next treaty of peace will do in the distribution of the territory of the two nations there.

C H A P. XXX.

The royal, proprietary, and charter governments. Laws of the colonies. Paper currency. Abuses in it. Another sort of money proposed.

THE settlement of our colonies was never pursued upon any regular plan ; but they were formed, grew, and flourished, as accidents, the nature of the climate, or the dispositions of private men, happened to operate. We ought not therefore to be surprized to find, in the several constitutions and governments of our colonies, so little of any thing like uniformity. It has been said that there is scarce any form of government known, that does not prevail in some of our plantations ; the variety is certainly great and vicious ; but the latitude of the observation must be somewhat restrained ; for some forms they are certainly strangers to. To pass over several, nothing like a pure hereditary aristocracy has ever appeared in any of them.

The first colony which we settled, was that of Virginia. It was governed for some time by a president and a council, appointed by the crown ;