

or other of her colonies ; whence we may fairly argue their prodigious importance.

This colony, as a part of the king's dominions, is subject to the controul of the British parliament, but its more immediate government is vested in a governor, council, and general assembly.

The governors in chief, who are always appointed by the king's commission under the great seal of Great-Britain, enjoy a vast plenitude of power, as may be seen in their patents, which are nearly the same.

The instructions received with the commission, are explanatory of the patent, and regulate the governor's conduct on almost every common contingency.

The salary generally granted to the governor by the instructions is 1200 l. sterling out of the revenues here ; but that being an insufficient fund, the assembly, in lieu of it, give him annually 1560 l. currency. The perquisites perhaps amount to as much more.

This office was formerly very lucrative, but becomes daily less considerable, because almost all the valuable tracts of lands are already taken up.

The council, when full, consists of twelve members appointed by the king's mandamus and sign manual. All their privileges and powers are contained in the instructions. They are a privy council to the governor, in acts of civil government ; and take the same oath administered to the king's council in England. The tenure of their places is extremely precarious, and yet their influence upon the public measures very considerable. In the grant of all