

be under Your Majesty's protection, might otherwise reasonably hope for, until it shall appear, that all the British Colonies in America hold immediately of one Lord, & have but one joint interest to pursue; for which reason, & many others, we shall first humbly propose, that all the proprietary governments should be re-assumed to the Crown, either by purchase, agreement, or otherwise, as conceiving this to be one of those essential points, without which your Majesty's colonies can never be put upon a right footing:

It might likewise be further observed upon this head, that some of the Proprietary and charter Governments have shewn too great an inclination to be independent of their Mother kingdom, & have carried on a trade destructive to that of Great Britain, wherein they might undoubtedly be more effectively restrained, if they were all of them under your Majesty's immediate government, & were by proper laws compelled to follow the commands sent them by your Majesty: & it hath ever been the wisdom, not only of Great Britain, but likewise of all other states to secure, by all possible means, the entire, absolute, & immediate dependency of their colonies.

On the other hand, it were but just to consider the planters, whatever Governments they may live under, as your Majesty's subjects; and that in all reasonable things, not prejudicial to the interest of Great Britain, they should be favoured & encouraged, more particularly in the raising of Naval Stores of all kinds, whereby they may greatly advantage themselves, & contribute to render their Mother Kingdom absolutely independent of all the Northern powers; & that their religion, liberties & properties should be inviolably preserved to them.

We have already had a very successful proof of what due encouragements produce, in the particulars of pitch & tar; which at present are made in as great perfection in your Majesty's plantations, as in any other part of the world, & in such plenty, as will enable us to supply foreign parts, since it hath reduced the common price of those Commodities one third of their former cost within the space of a very few years, whereby the importation of pitch & tar from the Baltick is greatly decreased, & much money saved in the balance of our trade. Nor is it to be doubted, but iron, flax, hemp, & all sorts of timber, might likewise be had from your Majesty's plantations, with the same success, upon sufficient encouragement whereby the trade & navigation of these realms would be highly advanced, & the plantations diverted from the thoughts of setting up manufactures of their own, interfering with those of Great Britain, & from carrying on an illicit trade with foreigners; but we shall have an opportunity of explaining ourselves more particularly upon this head, in a separate representation to your Majesty relating to such further premiums as we conceive necessary for promoting so useful a design.

Your majestys revenues, arising from the quit rents reserved upon grants of lands made by your Majesty & your Royal Predecessors, bear no proportion to the extent of your Majesty's territories in America; for such has been the improvident management in this particular, that whole provinces have been granted without any, or upon very small reservations to the crown; & the Governors of your Majesty's colonies, who are by their Commissions & Instructions usually impowered to make grants of lands, have frequently abused their authority herein, by making exorbitant grants to private persons, & the small quit rents, that have been reserved, have not been so punctually collected & accounted for, as they ought to have been: The registers of such Grants being very imperfectly kept & no due obedience paid to your Majesty's Auditor of the plantations. There are likewise other abuses practised in the manner of taking up lands, whereby the grantees preserve their claim, whilst your Majesty is defrauded of your quit-rents, the lands remain uncultivated, & the industry of the fair planter is discouraged.