

Another form in use was the Proprietary. Large tracts were sometimes granted to one or more individuals, who sold the lands, governed the inhabitants by whatever laws they pleased, and in fact exercised complete civil and political power under the inspection and control of the Crown. This was the method adopted in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the Carolinas.

Belkness, in speaking of the Royal governments, says, "had such a simple form of government been more generally adopted, and perseveringly adhered to, and administered only by the most delicate hands, it might have served better than any other, to perpetuate the dependance of the colonies upon the British Crown."

The result of the Charter governments was pure democracy. But here we must take into consideration the social condition of the inhabitants at the period of their emigration. They came to an uncultivated country with one common object in view—to avoid persecution. They brought with them their wives, their families, and their property. Their religious forms of worship were already established; and, at the moment of their landing on the cold and barren shore, which was to be their future home, they possessed political institutions and civil liberty. They were, either from their original condition, or from the necessity of their common interest, nearly on an equality with respect to property, being obliged to divide and parcel out the land, which was at first held in common. To bring his share into cultivation all the exertions of the owner were necessary, and "it may fairly be said," that this act of parcelling out the land "fixed the future form and frame of the government." By the laws, estates were rendered divisible among sons and daughters, the exclusive claim of any one heir being disregarded. In this manner the tendency of property to accumulate in the hands of individuals was destroyed. As there were no lands yielding rents, and no tenants, there could be no aristocracy: since "land is the basis of an aristocracy, which clings to the soil that supports it; for it is not by privileges alone, nor by birth, but by landed property