

1: The Foundation of this Govern^t is the Kinges Ltres Patents: this gaue them their Forme & beinge, in disposinge a certaine number of persons into a bodye politike; whereby they became then (in suche a politike respecte) as one single person, consisting of severall members: & appointinge to eache its proper place: it regulates their power & motions as might best conduce to the preservation & good of the wholl bodye:

The parties or members of this bodye politike are reduced under 2: kinds, Gouvernor & Companye, or Freemen: to the Governor it adds a Deputye, & 18: Assistants: in these is the power of Authority placed, vnder thé name of the Governor (not as a person, but as a State) & in the other (which is named the Company) is placed the power of Liberty;—which is not a bare passive capacitye of freedom, or immunitye, but suche a Lib^{tye}, as hathe power to Acte vpon the chiefest meanes of its owne wellfare (yet in a way of Lib^{tye}, not of Authoritye) & that under 2: generall heads, election, & counsell: 1: they have libtye to electe yearly (or oftener if occasion require) all their Governors, & other their generall officers, viz: suche as should haue influence (either Juditiell or ministeriell) into all partes of the Jurisdiction. 2: They haue lib^{tye} of Counsell in all the gen^l Assemblies, so as wthout their counsell & consent, no Lawes, decrees, or orders, of any publike nature or concernment, nor any Taxes, impositious, impresses, or other burdens of what kinde soeuer, can be imposed upon them, their families or estates, by any Authoritye in the Government: which notwithstanding remaines still a distinct member, euen in those generall Assemblies: other wise our state should be a meer Democratie, if all were Gouvernors, or magistrates, & none lefte to be an obiecte of Governm^t which cant fall out in any kinde of Aristocratie.

To make this cleare, we will sett downe the verye words of the Patent.

1: The words of Constitution of this bodye politike are these A: B: C: & all such others as shall hereafter be admitted & made free of the Company & society hereafter mentioned shalbe &c: one Bodye politike & Corporate, in fact & name, by the name of the Governor & Company of the Mattachusetts Baye in N: E: And that from henceforth for euer there shalbe one Governor, one Deputye Governor, & 18: Assistants of the same Company, to be from tyme to tyme, constituted, elected, & chosen, out of the Freemen of the sayd Company for the tyme beinge; In such mañer & forme, as hereafter in these