

Patents for Virginia, Bermudas & the Weste Indies, to keepe the chiefe Governm^t in the hands of the Company residinge in England (& so this was intended & with much difficulty we gott it absconded) this clause is inserted in this & all other Patents wherby the Company in England might establish a Governm^t & Officers here in any forme vsed in England, as Gov^r & Counsell, Iustices of Peace, Maior, Baylyfs &c, & accordingly Mr. Endicott & others with him, were established a Gov^r & Councell heer, before the Governm^t was transferred hither: & that clause is expressed in these words:—

It shall & may be lawfull, to & for the Gouvernor &c: & such of the Freemen of the said Company for the tyme beinge, as shalbe assembled in any of their Generall Courts aforesaid, or in any other Courts to be specially summoned & assembled for that purpose, or the greater part of them, whereof the Gouvernor or Dep^{ty} Gov^r, & 6: of the Assistants to be alwayes 7: from tyme to tyme, to make, ordaine, & establish all maner of wholesome & reasonable orders Lawes statutes & ordinances directions & instructions, not contrarye to the Lawes of this our Realme of England: as well for settinge of the formes & Ceremonies of Governm^t & Magistracie, fitt & necessarye for the said Plantation, & Inhabitants there, & for naminge & stilinge of all sorts of Officers, both Superio^r & inferio^r, which they shall finde needfull for that Governm^t & Plantation; & the distinguishinge & settinge forth of the severall duties, powers & limitts of every such office &c. for disposinge & orderinge the Elections of such of the said Officers as shalbe annuall &c: & for settinge downe formes of Oathes & for ministeringe of them &c: & for the directinge Rulinge & disposinge all other matters & thinges, whereby our said people inhabitants there, may be so religiously, peaceably & civily governed, &c:

Thus it appeares that this Governm^t is not Arbitrary in the foundation of it, but Regulated in all the partes of it.

2: It wilbe yet further found by the positive Lawes thereof:

And first by that of (3) 14-1634: where it is declared, that The generall Court only may make ffreemen: make Lawes: choose Generall officers, as Governor, Dep^{ty}, Assistants, treasurer, &c: remove suche: sett out their power & dutye: rayse monyes: dispose of lands in proprietyes: not to be dissolved but by consent of the maior parte. The ffreemen of the severall Townes may send their dep^{ty} to euery generall Court who may doe all that the bodye of ffreemen might doe, except in Election of magistrates & officers.