

the charters or letters patent was solicited from that Assembly, as is usual in England with regard to grants and franchises of much less importance.

My Lord Bacon's sentiments on this subject ought to have great weight with us. His immense genius, his universal learning, his deep insight into the laws and constitution of England are well known and much admired. Besides, he lived at that time when settling and improving the American Plantations began seriously to be attended to, and successfully to be carried into execution. § Plans for the government and regulation of the Colonies were then forming; and it is only from the first general idea of these plans that we can unfold, with precision and accuracy, all the more minute and intricate parts, of which they now consist. "The settlement of Colonies, says he, must proceed from the option of those, who will settle them, else it sounds like an exile: They must be raised by the *leave*, and not by the *command* of the *King*. At their setting out, they must have their commission, or letters patents from the *King*, that so they may acknowledge their DEPENDENCY UPON THE CROWN of England, and under his protection." In another place he says, "that they still must be *subjects* of the realm." † "In order to regulate all the inconveniencies, which will insensibly grow upon them," he proposes, "that the King should erect a subordinate council in England, whose care and charge shall be, to advise, and put in execution, all things which shall be found fit for the good of those new Plantations; who, upon all occasions, shall give an account of their proceedings to the *King* or to the *Council-Board*, and from THEM receive such directions, as may best agree

§ During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, America was chiefly valued on account of its mines. It was not till the reign of James I. that any vigorous attempts were made to clear and improve the soil.

† The Parliament have no subjects. My Lord Bacon gives in this expression, an instance of the trope of speech beforementioned. He says, the subjects of the *realm*, when he means the subjects of the *King* of the realm.