

Charter of Virginia, 1606

JAMES, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, ...vouchsafe...our Licence, to make Habitation, Plantation, and to deduce a colony of sundry of our People into that part of America commonly called VIRGINIA, and other parts and Territories in America...which are not now actually possessed by any Christian Prince or People,...

...

We, greatly commending, and graciously accepting of, their Desires for the Furtherance of so noble a Work, which may, by the Providence of Almighty God, hereafter tend to the Glory of his Divine Majesty, in propagating of Christian Religion to such People, as yet live in Darkness and miserable Ignorance of the true Knowledge and Worship of God

...

And do therefore, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, GRANT and agree... they shall have all the Lands, Woods, Soil, Grounds, Havens, Ports, Rivers, Mines, Minerals, Marshes, Waters, Fishings, Commodities, and ... whatsoever, from the said first Seat of their Plantation and Habitation by the Space of fifty Miles of English Statute Measure,

...And shall and may inhabit and remain there; and shall and may also build and fortify within any the same,

...And we do also ordain, establish, and agree...that each of the said Colonies shall have a Council, which shall govern and order all Matters-and Causes, which shall arise, grow, or happen, to or within the same several

Colonies, according to such Laws, Ordinances, and Instructions, as shall be, in that behalf, given and signed with Our Hand or Sign Manual, and pass under the Privy Seal of our Realm of England;

...And moreover, we do GRANT and agree...the Colonies, shall... dig, mine, and search for...Gold, Silver, and Copper, as well within any Part of their said several Colonies, ...the fifth Part only of all the same Gold and Silver,...to be given or yielded to Us, our Heirs, or Successors, for or in Respect of the same:

...And we do likewise, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, by these Presents, give full Power and Authority to the said... to travel thitherward, and to abide and inhabit there

...And we do further, by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, GIVE AND GRANT unto the said ...that they, and every of them, by their Deputies, Ministers, and Factors, may transport the Goods, Chattels, Armour, Munition, and Furniture, needful to be used by them, for their said Apparel, Food, Defence, or otherwise in Respect of the said Plantations, out of our Realms of England and Ireland, and all other our Dominions, from time to time, for and during the Time of seven Years, next ensuing the Date hereof, for the better Relief of the said several Colonies and Plantations, without any Customs, Subsidy, or other Duty, unto Us, our Heirs, or Successors, to be yielded or payed for the same.

...Also we do, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, DECLARE...that all ... Persons being our Subjects, which inhabit any of the Colonies and Plantations, and every of their children, which shall happen to be born within any of the Limits and Precincts of the said several Colonies and Plantations, shall HAVE and enjoy all Liberties...within any of our other Dominions, ...as if they had been born, within this our Realm of England.