CHARTER
OF THE
PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

CHARLES THE SECOND, BY THE GRACE of god,
King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of
the faith, &c., To all to whom these presents shall come
greeting. Whereas our Trustie and well beloved Subject,
William Penn, Esquire, sonn and heire of Sir William Penn,
deceased, out of a commendable desire to enlarge our Eng-
lish Empire, and promote such usefull commodities as may bee
of benefit to vs and our Dominions, as alsoe to reduce the
Savage Natives by gentle and just manners to the love of
civill Societie and Christian Religion hath humbly besought
leave of vs to transport an ample Coloniie vnto a certaine
Countrye hereinafter described in the partes of America not
yet cultivated and planted. And hath likewise humbly be-
sought our Royall Malestie to give, grant, and conforme all the
said Countrye with certeine priviledges and Jurisdiction re-
quiste for the good Government and safetie of the said Coun-
trey and Coloniie, to him and his heires forever. KNOWE
ye, therefore, that wee, favouring the petition and good pur-
pose of the said William Penn, and hauing regard to the
memorie and meritts of his late father, in divers services,
and particulerly to his Conduct, courage and discretion vnder
our dearest brother, James, Duke of yorke, in that signall
Battell and victorie, fought and obeyed against the Dutch
fleet, commended by the Herr Van Obdam, in the yeare One
thousand six hundred sixtie-five, In consideration thereof of
Our special grace, certeine knowledge and meere motion,
Have Given and granted, and by this Our present Charter,
for vs, Our heires and Successors, Doe give and grant vnto
the said William Penn, his heires and assignees All that Tract
or parte of land in America, with all the Islands therein con-
teyned, as the same is bounded on the East by Delaware
River, from twelwe miles distance, Northwarde of New Cas-
tle Towne vnto the three and fortieth degree of Northerne
Latitude if the said River doeth extend see farre North-

*See with this volume, in pocket, a Facsimile of this Charter, now
remaining on file in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth,
and see in Appendix proclamation declaring charter in force in Penns-
ylvania.
wards; But if the said River shall not extend soe farre Northward, then by the said River soe far as it doth extend, and from the head of the said River the Eastern Bounds are to bee determined by a Meridian Line, to bee drawne from the head of the said River vnto the said three and fortieeth degree. The said lands to extend westwards, five degrees in longitude, to bee computed from the said Eastern Bounds, and the said lands to bee bounded on the North, by the beginning of the three and fortieeth degree of Northern Latitude, and on the South, by a Circle drawne at twelve miles, distance from New Castle Northwards, and Westwards vnto the beginning of the fortieeth degree of Northern Latitude; and then by a straight Line westwards, to the Limit of Longitude above menconed. Wee doe also give and grant vnto the said William Penn, his heires and assignes, the free and undisturbed use, and continuance in and passage into and out of all and singular Ports, harbours, Bayes, waters, Rivers, Isles and Inlets, belonging vnto or leading to and from the Countrey, or Islands aforesaid; And all the soyle, lands, felds, woods, vnderwoods, Mountains, hills, fens, Isles, Lakes, Rivers, waters, Rivulets, Bayes and Inlets, situate or being within or belonging vnto the Limitts and Bounds aforesaid, together with the fishing of all sorts of fish, whales, Sturgeons, and all Royall and other fishes in the sea, Bayes, Inlets, waters or Rivers, within the premises, and the fish therein taken, And alsoe all veins, Mines and Quarries, as well discovered as not discovered, of Gold, Silver, Gems and precious Stones, and all other whatsoever, bee it stones, Metalls, or of any other thing or matter whatsoever, found or to bee found within the Countrey, Isles, or Limitts aforesaid; and him the said William Penn, his heires and Assignes. Wee do, by this our Royall Charter, for vs, our heires and Successors, make, Create and Constitute the true and absolute Proprietaryes of the Countrey aforesaid, and of all other, the premises, saving anywaies to vs, Our heires and Successors, the faith and allegiance of the said William Penn, his heires and assignes, and of all other, the proprietaries, Tenants and Inhabitants that are, or shall be within the Territories and Precincts aforesaid; and Saving also vnto vs, our heires and Successors, the Sovereignty of the aforesaid Countrey, TO HAVE, hold, possess and enjoy the said Tract of land, Countrey, Isles, Inlets and other the premises, vnto the said William Penn, his heires and assignes, To the only proper use and behoofe of the said William Penn, his heires and assignes forever. To bee holden of vs, our heires and Successors, Kings of England, as of our Castle of Windsor, in our County of Berke, in free and comon Socage by fealty only for all services, and not in Capite or by Knights service, Yeelding and paying therefore to vs, our heires and Successors, two beaver Skins to bee delivered at our said Castle of Windsor, on the first day of Januarie, in every yeare; and also the fifth parte of all Gold and Silver Oare, which shall from time to time happen to be found with in the Limitts aforesaid, cleare of all Charges, and of our further grace, certaine knowledge and meere mooue, wee have
thought fitt to Erect, and we doe hereby erect the aforesaid Country, and Islands, into a Province and Seigniorie, and doe call it Pennsylvania, and soe from henceforth we will have it called. And forasmuch as we have hereby made and ordyned the aforesaid William Penn, his heires and assignes, the true and absolute Proprietaries of all the Lands and Dominions aforesaid. I know yee therefore, that we reposing speciall trust and confidence in the fidelitie, wisdome, Justice, and provident circumspecon of the said William Penn, for vs, our heires and successors, Doe grant tree, full and absolute power, by vertue of these presents to him and his heires, and to his and their Deputies, and Lieutenants, for the good and happy government of the said Country, to ordynye, make, Enact and vnder his and their Scales to publish any Lawes whatsoever, for the raising of money for the publick use of the said province, or for any other End apperteyning either vnto the publick state, peace, or safety of the said Country, or vnto the private utility of particular persons, according vnto their best discretions, by and with the advice, assent and approbacon of the freemen of the said Country, or the greater parte of them, or of their Delegates or Deputies, whom for the Enacting of the said Lawes, when, and as often as need shall require. Wee will, that the said William Penn, and his heires, shall assemble in such sort and forme as to him and them shall seeme best, and the same Lawes duey to execute vnto, and vpon all people within the the said Country and limitts thereof; And wee doe likewise give and grant vnto the said William Penn, and his heires, and to his and their Deputies and Lieutenants, such power and authoritie to appoint and establish any Judges, and Justices, Magistrates and Officers whatsoever, for what Causes soever, for the probates of will and for the granting of Administracions within the precincts aforesaid, and with what power soever, and in such forme as to the said William Penn, or his heires, shall seeme most convenient. Alsoe, to remitt, release, pardon and abolish, whether before Judgement or after, all Crimes and Offences, whatsoever committed within the said Country, against the said Lawes, Treason and wilfull and malicious Murder onely excepted; and in those Cases, to Grant Reprieves vntill Our pleasure may bee knowne therein, and to doe all and every other thing and things which vnto the compleat establishment of Justice vnto Courts and Tribunals, forms of Judicature and manner of proceedings doe belong, altho' in these presents express no sentence be not made thereof; and by Judges by them delegated to award processe, hold pleasure and determine in all the said Courts and Tribunals, all acoons, Suits and Causes whatsoever, as well Criminall as Civill, personall, reall and mixt; which Lawes soe as aforesaid, to bee published, Our pleasure is, and soe wee enioyne, require and Command shall bee most absolute and available in law, and that all the Leige people and subjectts of vs, our heires and successors, doe observe and keepe the same inviolable in these partes, soe farr as they concerne them, vnder the paine therein expressed, or to bee expressed: Provided, Nevertheles, that the said
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To be consonant to reason, and bee not repugnant or contrarie, but as neare as conveniently may bee agreeable to the Lawes, Statutes and rights of this our Kingdome of England, And Saving and reserving to vs, Our heires and Successors, the receiving, heareing and determining of the Appeale and Appeales, of all or any person or persons, of, in or belonging to the Territories aforesaid, or touching any Judgement to bee there made or given. And forasmuch as in the Government of soe great a Countrey, sudden Accidents doe often happen, whereunto it will be necessarie to apply a remedy before the freeholders of the said Province, or their Delegates or Deputies can bee assembled to the making of Lawes, neither will it be conveniente that instantly vpon every such emergent occasion, soe greate a multitude should be called together. Therefore, for the better Government of the said Countrey, wee will, and Ordeyne, and by these presents for vs, our heires and successors, Doe grant vnto the said William Penn, and his heires, by themselves or by their Magistrates and Officers, in that behalfe, duey to bee ordeyned as aforesaid, to make and constitute, fit and wholesome Ordinances from time to time within the said Country, to bee kept and observed, as well for the preservation of the peace, as for the better government of the people there inhabiting, and publickly to notify the same, to all Persons whome the same doeth or any way may concerne, which Ordinances our will and pleasure is, shall be observed inviolably within the said Province, vnder paine therein to bee expressed, soe as the said ordinances bee consonant to reason and bee not repugnant nor contrary, but soe farre as conveniently may bee agreeable with the Lawes of our Kingdome of England, and soe as the said ordinances be not extended in any sort to bind, charge or take away the right or Interest of any person or persons, for or in their life, members, freehold, goods or Chattells; And our further will and pleasure is, that the Lawes for regulating and governing of Propertie, within the said Province, as well for the descent and enjoyment of lands, as likewise for the enjoyment and succession of goods and Chattells, and likewise as to felonies, shall be and continue the same as they shall bee for the time being, by the general course of the Law in our Kingdome of England, vntill the said Lawes shall be altered by the said William Penn, his heires or assigns, and by the freemen of the said Province, their Delegates or Deputies, or the greater part of them. And to the End the said William Penn, or heires, or other, the Planters, Owners or Inhabitants of the said Province, may not att any time hereafter, by misconstrucon of the powers aforesaid, through inadvertiencie or designe, depart from that faith and due allegiance which by the Lawes of this our Realme of England, they and all our subjects, in our Dominions and Territories, always owe vnto vs, Our heires and successors, by colour of any extent or largeness of powers hereby given, or pretended to bee given, or by force or colour of any lawes hereafter to bee made in the said Province, by vertue of any such powers. Our further will and pleasure is, that a transcript
or Duplicate of all lawes which shall bee soe as aforesaid, made and published within the said province, shall within five years after the making thereof, be transmitted and delived to the privy Counsell, for the time being, of vs, our heires and successors; And if any of the said Lawes within the space of six months, after that they shall be soe transmitted and delivered, bee declared by vs, our heires or successors, in our or their privy Counsell, inconsistent with the sovereignty or lawfull prerogative of vs, or heirs or successors, or contrary to the faith and allegiance due by the legall Government of this Realme, from the said William Penn, or his heires, or of the Planters and Inhabitants of the said province; and that thereupon any of the said Lawes shall bee adjudged and declared to bee void by vs, our heires or successors, under our or their Privy Seale, that then, and from thenceforth such Lawes concerning which such Judgement and declaracon shall be made, shall become void, otherwise the said lawes soe transmitted, shall remaine and stand in full force according to the true intent and meaning thereof. Furthermore, that this new Colony may the more happily increase, by the multitude of people resorting thither; therefore, wee, for vs, our heires and successors, do give and grant by these presents, power, licence and libertie vnto all the lige people and subjectes, both present and future of vs, our heires and successors, excepting those who shall bee specially forbidden, to transport themselves and families vnto the said Countrey, with such convenient shipping, as by the lawes of this, our kingdom of England, they ought to vse with fitting provisions paying only the customes therefore due, and there to settle themselves, dwell and inhabit and plant for the publick and their owne private advantage: and furthermore, that our subjectes may bee the rather encouraged to undertake this expidicion with ready and cheerful mindes. Know yee, that wee Our especial grace, certaine knowledge and meere mocon, Doe Give and Grant by vertue of these presents, as well vnto the said William Penn and his heires, as to all others who shall from time to time repairre vnto the said Countrey, with a purpose to inhabit there, or to trade with the Natiyes of the said Countrey, full license to lade and freight in any ports, whatsoever of vs, our heires and Successors, according to the Lawes, made, or to be made within ouer kingdom of England, and into the said Countrey, by them, their servants or assignes, to transport all and singuler theire Wares, goods and Merchandizes, as likewise, all sorts of graine whatsoever, and all other things whatsoever necessary for food or cloathing, not prohibted by the Lawes and Statutes of our kingdomes and Dominions, to be carried out of the said kingdomes without any Lett or Molestacon of vs, our heires and successors, or of any the officers of vs, our heires and successors, (saving) alwayes to vs, our heires and successors, the legall imposicions, customs, and other Duties and payments for the said Wares and Merchandize, by any law or statute due or to be due to vs, our heires and successors. AND WEE DOE further for vs, our heires and Successors, Give and grant
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unto the said William Penn, his heirs and assigns, free and absolute power to divide the said country, and islands, into townes, hundreds and counties, and to erect and incorporate townes into borroughs, and borroughs into citttes, and to make and constitute faires and markets therein, with all other convenient priviledges and immunities according to the merit of the inhabitants and the fitnesse of the places; and to doe all and every other thing and things touching the premises which to him or them shall seeme requisite, and meet, albeit they be such as of their owne nature might otherwise require a more especiall commandment and warrant, then in these presents is expressed. We will also, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, wee doe give and grant licence by this our charter, unto the said William Penn, his heirs and assigns, and to all the inhabitants and dwellers in the province aforesaid, both present, and to come, to import or vnlade by themselves or their servants, factors or assigns, all merchandizes and goods whatsoever, that shall arise of the frutes and commodities of the said province, either by land or sea, into any of the ports of us, our heirs and successors, in our kingdom of England, and not into any other countrey whatsoever. And wee give him full power to dispose of the said goods in the said ports, and if need bee, within one yeare next after the vnlading of the same, to lade the said merchandizes and goods againe into the same or other ships, and to export the same into any other countreys, either of our dominions or foraigne, according to law: Provided always, that they pay such duties as are imposed, subsidies and duties for the same to us, our heirs and successors, as the rest of our subjects of our kingdom of England, for the time being shall be bound to pay, and doe observe the acts of navigation and other laws in that behalfe made. And furthermore, of our more ample and especiall grace, cersaine knowledge and meer motion, wee doe, for vs, our heirs and successors, grant unto the said William Penn, his heirs and assigns, full and absolute power and authority, to make, erect and constitute within the said province, and the iles and islets aforesaid, such and soe many seaports, harbours, creeks, havens, keyes and other places, for discharge and vnlading of goods, & Merchandize out of the ships, boats and other vessells, and Ladeing them in such and soe many places, and with such rights, Jurisdictions, liberties and privileges unto the said ports belonging, as to him or them, shall seeme most expedient, and that all and singular the ships, boats and other vessells, which shall come for merchandize and trade, unto the said province, or out of the same shall depart, shall be laden or vnladen only at such ports as shall be erected and constituted by the said William Penn, his heirs and assigns, any vs, custome or other thing to the contrary notwithstanding: provided, that the said William Penn and his heirs, and the Lieutenants and Governors for the time being, shall admitt and retaine in and about all such ports, havens, creeks and keyes, all officers and their Deputies, who shall from time to
time be appointed for that purpose, by the farmers or Commissioners of our customs, for the time being. And We dose further appoint and ordaine, and by these presents for vs, our heires and successors, Wee doe grant vnto the said William penn, his heires and assignes, That he the said William penn, his heires and assignes, may from time to time forever, have and enjoy the Customs and Subsidies in the ports, harbours and other Creeks, and places aforesaid, within the prynces aforesaid, payable or due for merchandizes and wares, there to be Laded and unladed, the said Customs and Subsidies to be reasonably assessed, vpon any occasion by themselves, and the people there as aforesaid, to be assembled to whom wee Give power, by these presents for vs, our heires and Successors, vpon just cause, and in a due pporcon, to assessse and impose the same, Sveeing vnto vs, our heires and Successors, such imposicions and customs as by Act of parliament are and shall be appointed; And it is further our will and pleasure, that the said William penn, his heires and assignes, shall from time to time constitute and appoint an Attorney or Agent, to reside in or near our City of London, who shall make known the place where he shall dwell or may be found, vnto the Clerks of Our privy Counsell, for the time being, or one of them, and shall be ready to appear in any of our Courts att Westminster, to Answer for any misdemeanores that shall be comitted, or by any willfull default or neglect committted by the said William penn, his heires or assignes, against our Lawes of Trade or Navigation, and after it shall be ascertained in any of our said Courts, what damages wee or our heires or successors shall haue Sustained, by such default or neglect, the said William penn, his heires and assignes, shall pay the same within one yeare after such taxacon and demand thereof, from such Attorney, or in case there shall be noe such Attorney, by the space of one yeare, or such attorney shall not make payment of such damages, within the space of one yeare, and answer such other forfeitures and penalties within the said time, as by the Acts of parliament in England, are or shall be prived, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents: Then it shall be lawful for vs, our heires and Successors, to seize and Reserve the government of the said prince or Countrey, and the same to retain vntil payment shall be made thereof. But notwithstanding any such Seizure or resumption of the government, nothing concerning the propriety or ownership of any Lands, tenements or other hereditaments, or goods, or chattels of any of the Adventurers, planters or owners, other then the respective offenders there shall be anyway affected or molested thereby: provided alwayes, and our will and pleasure is that neither the said William penn, nor his heires, nor any other the inhabitants of the said prince, shall at any time hereafter have or maintain any correspondence with any other King, prince or State, or with any of their subiects, who shall then be in warr against vs, our heirs or Successors; Nor shall the said William penn, or his heires, or any other the inhabitants of the said prince, make warre or doe any act of hos-
tilltie against any other king, prince or State, or any of their
Subiects, who shall then be in league or amity with vs, our
heires or Successors. And because in soe remote a Coun-
trey, and situate neare many Barbarous Nations, the incursi-
sions as well of the Savages themselues, as of other enemies,
pirates and Robbers, may phably be feared. Therefore, wee
have Given and for vs, our heires and Successors, Doe give
power by these presents unto the said William penn, his
heires and assignes, by themselues or their Captaines or
other, their officers, to levy, muster and traine all sorts of
men, of what condicion, or wheresoever borne, in the said
 prince of Pensilvania, for the time being, and to make warr
and pursue the enemies and Robbers aforesaid, as well by Sea
as by Land, yea, even without the Limits of the said prince,
and by God's assistance to vanquish and take them, and
being taken, to put them to death by the law of Warr, or to
save them att their pleasure, and to doe all and every other
Act and thing, which to the charge and office of a Captaine
generall of an Army, belongeth or hath accustomed to be-
long, as fully and freely as any Captaine General of an
Army, hath ever had the same. And furthermore, of our
especiall grace and of our certaine knowledg and moere motion,
Wee have given and granted, and by these presents for vs,
our heires and successors, Doe give and Grant vnto the said
William penn, his heires and assignes, full and absolute
power, License and authoritie, That he the said William
penn, his heires and assignes, from time to time hereafter
forever, att his or their will and pleasure, may assigne,
alien, Grant, demise or infeoff of the premisses, soe many,
and such partes and parcels to him or them, that shall be
willing to purchase the same, as they shall thinke fitt. To
have and to hold to them, the said person and persons
willing to take or purchase, theirs heires and assignes, in ffeo
simple or ffeetaile, or for the termes of life, or lues, or yeares,
to be held of the said William penn, his heires or assignes
as of the said Seigniory of Windsor, by such services, cus-
tomes and rents, as shall seeme fitt to the said William
penn, his heires and assignes, and not immediatly of vs, our
heires and Successors, and to the same person or persons,
and to all and every of them, Wee doe give and grant by
these presents, for vs, our heires and successors, Licence,
authoritie and power, that such person or persons may take
the premisses or any parcelt thereof, of the aforesaid Wil-
liam penn, his heires or assignes, and the same hold to them-
selfes, their heires and assignes, in what estate of inheritance
soever, in ffeesimple or in ffeetaile or otherwise, as to him the
said William penn, his heires and assignes, shall seem expe-
dient. ; The Statute made in the parliament of Edward,
sonne of king henry, late king of England, our predecessor,
comonly called the Statute Quia emptores terrarum, lately
published in our kingdom of Englaud, in any wise with-
standing, And by these presents Wee give and Grant Li-
cence vnto the said William penn, and his heires, likewise
to all and every such person and persons to whom the said
William penn, or his heires shall att any time hereafter, grant
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any estate of inheritance as aforesaid, to erect any parcels of land within the prince aforesaid, into Mannors, by and with the License to be first had and obtained for that purpose under the hand and seal of the said William Penn, or his heirs, and in every of the said Mannors, to have and to hold a Court Baron, with all things whatsoever, which to a Court Baron do belong; and to have and to hold view of frankpledge, for the conservancy of the peace, and the better government of those parties by themselves or their Stewards, or by the Lords for the time being of other Mannors to be deputed when they shall be erected, and in the same to use all things belonging to view of frankpledge; And Wee doe further grant licence and authority that every such person and persons, who shall erect any such Mannor or Mannors as aforesaid, shall or may grant all or any part of his said lands to any person or persons, in free simple or any other estate of inheritance, to be held of the said Mannors respectively, so as no further tenures shall be created, but that upon all further and other alienations thereafter to be made, said lands so aliened, shall be held of the same lord and his heirs, of whom the Allenor did then before hold, and by the like rents and services, which were before due and accustomed. And further, our pleasure is and by these presents for us, our heirs and Successors, Wee do Covenant and grant to and with the said William Penn, and his heirs and assigns, That Wee, our heirs and Successors, shall att no time hereafter sett or make, or cause to be sett, any imposicion, custome or other taxacon, rate or contribucion whatsoever, in and upon the dwellers and inhabitants of the aforesaid prince, for their lands, tenements, goods or chattels, within the said province, or in and upon any goods or merchandize within the said prince, or to be laden or unladen within the ports or harbours of the said prince, unless the same be with the consent of the proprietary, or chief Governor and assembly, or by Act of parliament in England. And Our pleasure is, and for us our heirs and successors, Wee charge and Command, that this our Declaracon, shall from henceforward be received, and allowed from time to time in all our Courts, and before all the Judges of vs, our heirs and Successors, for a sufficient and lawful discharge, payment and acquittance, Commanding all and singular the Officers and Ministers of vs, our heirs and Successors, and enioyning them upon paine of our high displeasure, that they doe not presume att any time to attempt any thing to the contrary of the premisses, or that they doe in any sort withstand the same, but that they bee at all times aiding and assisting as is fitting unto the said William Penn, and his heirs, and to the inhabitants and merchants of the prince aforesaid, their Servants, Ministers, Factors and Assignes, in the full use and function of the benefit of this our Charter: And our further pleasure is, And Wee doe hereby, for us, our heirs and Successors, charge and require, that if any of the inhabitants of the said prince, to the number of Twenty, shall att any time hereafter be desirous, and shall by any writing or by any pson deputed for them, sig-
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nify such their desire to the Bishop of London, that any
preacher or preachers to be approved of by the said Bishop,
may be sent vnto them for their instruction, that then such
preacher or preachers, shall and may be and reside within
the said prynce, without any deniall or molestacon whatso-
ever; and if pehance it should happen hereafter, any doubts
or questions should arise concerning the true Sense & mean-
ing of any word, clause or Sentence, conteyned in this our
present Charter, Wee Will, ordaine and comand, that att all
times and in all things such interpretacon be made thereof,
and allowed in any of our Courts whatsoever, as shall be
adjudged most advantageous and favourable vnto the said
William penn, his heires and assignes: provided always
that no interpretacon be admitted thereof, by which the alle-
giance due vnto vs, our heires and Successors, may suffer
any prejudice or diminucon, although expres mencon be
not made in these presents, of the true yearly value or cer-
tainty of the premises, or of any parte thereof, or of other
Gifts and grants made by vs, our pgenitors or predecessors,
unto the said William penn, or any Statute, Act, ordinance,
provison, polamacon or restraint, heretofore had, made, pub-
lished, ordained or prived, or any other thing, cause or mat-
ter whatsoever to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwith-
standing. In WITNESS whereof wee have caused these
our Letters to be made patents. WITNESS our selves at West-
minster, the fourth day of March, in the Three and Thirtieth
years of our Reigne,

By Writ of privy Seale.

JOHN SHALER, chrier.

xxvij die Janry, 1682, Fir.