Excerpts from the Virginia Charter of 1606

"And more over wee doe grannte and agree for us, our heires and successors, that the saide severall Counsells of and for the saide severall Colonies shall and lawfully may by vertue hereof, from time to time, without interuption of us, our heires or successors, give and take order to digg, mine and searche for all manner of mines of goulde, silver and copper, as well within anie parte of theire saide severall Colonies as of the saide maine landes on the backside of the same Colonies; and to have and enjoy the goulde, silver and copper to be gotten there of to the use and behoofe of the same Colonies and the plantacions thereof; yeilding therefore yerelie to us, our heires and successors, the fifte parte onelie of all the same goulde and silver and the fifteenth parte of all the same copper soe to be gotten or had, as is aforesaid, and without anie other manner of profitt or accompte to be given or yeilded to us, our heires or successors, for or in respecke of the same."

"And more over we do grant and agree for us, our heirs, and successors, that the Councils will lawfuilly, from time to time, give the order to dig, mine, and search for all manner of mines of gold, silver, and copper, within the colonies and the lands backing up to the colonies. The colonies and the plantations shall enjoy the use of the gold, silver, and copper to be found. They shall give 1/5 of the gold and silver, and 1/15 of the copper to us, our heirs and successors, as well as any profit from this."

"...that they shall have all the landes, woods, soile, groundes, havens, ports, rivers, mines, mineralls, marshes, waters, fishinges, commodities and hereditamentes whatsoever..."

"...the colonists shall have all the lands, woods, soil, grounds, havens, ports, mines, minerals, marshes, waters, fishing, commodities, and inheritable property whatsoever..."

"...that theie and everie of them by theire deputies, ministers and factors may transport the goods, chattells, armor, munition and furniture, needfull to be used by them for theire saide apparrell, defence or otherwise in respecste of the saide plantacions, out of our realmes of Englande and Irelande and all other our dominions from time to time..."

"...that the colonists and their deputies, ministers, and traders may transport goods, property, armor, ammunition, and furniture that is needed for their dress
and defense in respect of the plantations, out of England and Ireland and all other British holding from time to time...

"Alsoe wee doe, for us, our heires and successors, declare by theise presentes that all and everie the parsons being our subjects which shall dwell and inhabit within everie or anie of the saide severall Colonies and plantacions and everie of their children which shall happen to be borne within the limitts and precincts of the said severall Colonies and plantacions shall have and enjoy all liberties, franchises and immunites within anie of our other dominions to all intents and purposes as if they had been abiding and borne within this our realme of Englannde or anie other of our saide dominions."

"We and our heirs and successors declare that all people born within and inhabit the colonies and plantations shall enjoy all the liberties, franchises, and immunities within any of Britain's other dominions."

..."that if anie parson or parsons which shall hereafter be of anie of the said severall Colonies and plantacions, or anie other, by his, theire, or anie of theire licence or appointment, shall at anie time or times hereafter robb or spoile by sea or by lande or doe anie acte of unjust and unlawfull hostilitie to anie the subjects of us, our heires or successors, or anie of the subjects of anie king, prince, ruler, governor or state being then in league or amite with us, our heires or successors, and that upon suche injurie or upon juste complainte of such prince, ruler, governor or state or their subjects, wee, our heires or successors, shall make open proclamation within anie the ports of our realme of Englannde, commodious for that purpose, that the saide parson or parsons having committed anie such robberie or spoile shall, within the terme to be limited by suche proclamations, make full restitucion or satisfaction of all suche injuries done..."

"If any person from now on within the Colonies and plantations be robbed or spoiled by land or sea by anyone hostile to us within any of the ports within the realm of England, that person shall be allowed to make full restitution for those damages..."