

54.

Acted by them done (this their condition considered) might
be as firme as any patent; and in some respects more sure.
The forme was as followeth.

In y^e name of god Amen. We whose names are underwriten,
the loyall subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James,
by y^e graco of god, of great Britaine, France, & Ireland King,
defondor of y^e faith, &c.

Haueing vnderfakn, for y^e glorio of god, and aduancem^{ts}
of y^e christian^{saith} and honour of our king & countrie, a voyagd to
plant y^e firstst colonie in y^e Northern parts of Virginia. Doo
by these presents solemnly & mutuably in y^e presence of god, and
one of another, Couenant, & combine our selues together into a
Ciuilt body politick; for ^{our} better ordering, & preservation & fur-
therance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte,
constitute, and frame such just & equal lawes, ordinances,
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought
most meeke & conuenient for y^e generall good of y^e Colonie: vnto
which we promise all due submission and obedienc. In witness
whereof we haue herevnder subscribed our names at Cap-
Codd y^e .11. of Nouember, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our soueraigne
Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland y^e eighteenth,
and of Scotland y^e fifth fourth. An. Dom. 1620.]

After this they chose, or rather confirmed in John caruer (a man
godly & well approued amongst them) their gouernour for that
year. And after they had provided a place for their goods, or
comons store, (which were long in unlading for want of boats,
foulnes of y^e winter weather, and sicknes of diuers) and begun
some small cottages for their habitation; as time would admit
they met and consulted of lawes, & ordors, both for their
ciuilt, & military gouernments, as y^e necessitie of their condi-
tion did require, still adding therunto as vrgent occasion
in severall times, and ^{as} cases did require.

In these hard & difficult beginings they found some discontents
& murmurings ^{arise} amongst some, and mutinous speeches & cariages
in other; but they were soone quellod, & ouercome, by y^e wis-
dome, patience, and just & equal carrage of things, by y^e gou:
and better part with claud faithfully together in y^e maine.
But that which was most sadd, & lamentable, was, that in 2.
or 3. moneths time halfe of their company dyed, espotialy
in Jan: & february, being y^e depth of winter, and wanting
houses & other comforts; being infected with y^e Scuerid &