lishman of that age, to attempt a Colony in new countries, without first obtaining a Grant of the region from the Crown.

By the mysterious fiction from the Roman Civil Law or practice: it was assumed that the Crown owned all the lands watered by a river or its affluents: whose main stream had been first ascended to tide water by any of its subjects: and an indefinite depth of the country, whose sea-coast had been alike first visited.

This rule yet subsists in International law, and was sucessfully applied by our Government as successor to the Crown, in our Oregon and St. Juan de Fuca controversies with Great Britain; was the basis of the French title to Canada, wrested from them by England; and of that of the Mississipi valley acquired by us through the purchase of Louisiana. This pretense of title in the Crown, had no regard to the settled ancient sovereignty of the natives, who were considered as the "heathen" given to us "the Lord's people for an inheritance" and without rights.

These Charters were not procured to assure Nationality and protection; for they always remained British subjects; but in almost all the Colonies they formed their only basis of title to their lands.

Our pioneer colonists voluntarily repaired their title by purchase and Warranty Deed from all the Indian claimants, in 1686; of their Colony of Salem, by a careful description. The Grantees named in the Patent of 1628 were all from the vicinity of Dorchester, in Dorsetshire, next to Devon, in south west England.

John Endicott, of their number, was named Governor for the new Plantation; and, sailing from Weymouth June 20th, he arrived out at Naumkeag on 6th Septenber, 1628.

In London the Company had then its official seat: Matthew Cradock being its Home Governor, with Thomas Goffe as Deputy.

But in 1630, the whole administration was transferred from London and its officers, to Salem and to Gov. Winthrop.

It became very efficient, with ample capital and influence. Much of its official correspondence has been preserved by a careful historian, the late Rev. Joseph B. Felt.

On Feb. 16th 1629, Matthew Cradock writes to Gov. Endicott: "that the Company had been enlarged recently," and proposed "to "send over Two or Three hundred emigrants, with Two Ministers, "and one hundred head of cattle: that they had bought one ship of "two hundred tons, and hired two more, each of two hundred tons: "one of ten and the other of nineteen guns."

He had before mentioned that Hugh Peters, who was then in Holland, was expected, but had not yet arrived: he came to Salem in 1636.