

might prevent your good Intentions to serve us, under this Consideration we thought it more advisable & safe that we should Imediately set out in serch for a Gentleman who would answer the purpose of suplying the Vacancy as an Incumbent and at the same time determining to procure none but such as from a general character both as to Abilitys and Morals would render him undeniable agreeable both to your Excellency and the Parishioners, and as we had not been altogether thoughtless on this occasion prior to Whitakers death we had been forming in our minds a Gentleman that should answer this purpose so that we should not be altogether to seak when Whitaker should leave us, this being the case we Imedeately upon the receipt of your first letter made application for the purpose above related and on receiving your second Letter, it some measure put us under a restraint to know how to act so as not to give your Excellency the least room of offence, your favourable promisses in that joined with what went before could leave no room to doubt but you remained fixed in your resolutions of oblidging us, and duty bound us to comply with your requisition, but as we aprehedned your Excellency might not expect that we had been so diligent in our preparations towards obtaining a Gentleman to fill the Vacancy and also that you did not then reflect on the consequence of a delay which prior to this you had been kind enough to give the hint might prove dangerous We therefore concluded it could not be disagreeable to your Excellency to pursue our Scheem, but at the same time to advise your Excellency thereof as also M^r Read the Gentleman proposed to us by you as a Reader, so that it might answer the Good purposes of informing you our designs, and also that M^r Read might not be put to any unnecessary expence in moving and for that purpose we wrote to M^r Ridout an answer to the two Letters before received from him, that in consequence of our former resolutions accordingly two Gentlemen (being agreed on by the people and Vestry) for the purpose af^d went on the formed design of obtaining the Consent of the Gentleman we had before Solicitted, and to convince your Excellency that we did not depend on our strength, (as was falsly affirmed to you) they took with them M^r Ridouts two letters to shew the Gentleman they were to apply to, as the foundation of our assurance from your Excellency, and they had nothing more from the Vestry then a Certificate of their concurring in such choice of the man, and also the amount of the Salary, but as soon as some ill disposed persons understood the arrand these Gentlemen were gone on, we could hear nothing else but false reports constantly propagating and spreading to our disadvantage, but being fixed in our resolutions, never said more then