

Letter Bk. V acquainted him with the Annual Value as far as I knew of All that were vacant & left it to himself to take which he pleased ; His Ldp had indeed signified his Desire that in Case neither of the best Livings happened to be vacant M<sup>r</sup> Allen should hold two of the smaller but that I apprehended he could not do without the Consent of the Vestries under the Act of Assembly made in 1702 & if he could I must thereupon have deprived or ousted one of those who had for some time officiated as Curates for every Parish in the Province was then supplied with a Clergyman & even the Probationers except one or two had in Consequence of His Ldps Instructions been promised Inductions. That His Ldp was desirous M<sup>r</sup> Allen should be provided for & gratified before any one else was very evident to Me but I did not apprehend that His Ldp would have me in order to serve that Gentleman take any Step that should be likely to occasion Discontent & afford the Assembly even a Pretence for saying that the Law was dispensed with or violated & to that Effect am I confident they will remonstrate whenever two Parishes are bestowed on One Clergyman without the Consent of the Vestries previously obtained, nor have I any doubt but the Vestries will in such Case prevent his being paid in either Parish at least without a Law Suit, nevertheless if M<sup>r</sup> Allen is willing to make a Tryal & His Ldp pleases I will oust one of the Probationers whom I purposely have declined inducting & give M<sup>r</sup> Allen an Induction also to that Parish. By the List I shall herewith transmit you will see the present Annual Value of the several Livings in the Province, among them are some that are very good but neither of these hath happened to fall since the first Intimation was given Me of His Lordships Desire to provide for M<sup>r</sup> Allen, the best that became vacant was S<sup>t</sup> Lukes in Queen Annes County which I kept vacant a long time & at his Arrival made him an Offer of it, but when he declined accepting it & desired I would vacate this Parish for him I was under a necessity of presenting to S<sup>t</sup> Lukes the then Rector of this Parish. The Gentlemen that enjoy S<sup>t</sup> Johns Parish in Baltimore & Queen Annes in Prince Georges County both of them very healthy Parts of the Country are old & infirm as are also the Rectors of several other Parishes more valuable than this, M<sup>r</sup> Bacon too who holds the most valuable Living in the Province seems to be declining & is advanced in years, which ever of those Parishes becomes vacant will be at M<sup>r</sup> Allens Choice but if he would stand well with the people he will find it necessary to reside in his Parish else he may expect to hear things said that will give him Uneasiness tho I am apt to think he does not suspect that his continuing to reside here would be productive of any such Consequence.