

Church Wardens or Guardiani Ecclesie are certain officers Parochial annually elected or Chosen by and with the Consent of the Minister and a select number of the chief Parishioners, According to the Custom of the Place, to look to the Church and Church yard, and to Take Care of Concernments thereof and of such Things as appertain thereto; And also to observe and have an Inspection into the Behavior Lives and Conversation of their Parishioners touching such faults and Disorders as are within the Cognizance and Censure of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. Godolph Report. C. 13.

Sidesmen or Synodsmen from their Assistance to the Synod, otherwise Questmen from their making Inquiry into Disorders, otherwise Vestrymen from their Meeting in the Vestry Room (i e in the Place where the Holy Vestments are kept) are to Assist the Church Wardens in levying their Church Rates in directing due Repairs in Examining into and passing their Accounts and in Presentments. A Vestry may Consist of all the Parishioners as in Case of the Building a new Church or of a select number for Common Business According to the Laws of the Place or the Custom of the Parish. And this is the whole Business of which they are directed to take Cognizance, either by the ancient Laws of the Church or the particular Laws of the province. If a Vestry then Cannot be Considered as Patron, Incumbent or Ordinary, their Consent or Dissent with Respect to an Union or Consolidation of Churches Authorized by the Canon & Statute Law can have no Effects, and even to ask it is a Derogation from Lord Baltimore's Supremacy who as patron and Ordinary may do what he pleases in this Respect, either upon a Vacancy, or With the Consent of the present Incumbent. This Attempt shows at Least that the Living of S<sup>t</sup> Ann was Look'd upon as too Scanty a Pittance Long before I came into the Province and that it was not for a friend of Lord Baltimores but of other persons that this Attempt was made and which in all Probability would be made again as soon as I am thrust out of the Parish, and yet I think a friend of his Lordships who never has in the Church yet Provided for one Might Reasonably expect a Preference; at least his Lordships Partiality to me after an intimate Acquaintance of Six years is too flattering tamely to give up the good Effects of it.

Thus Sir have I endeavoured to prove to your Excellency's satisfaction The Propositions laid down in the Beginning of my Letter that the Instructions which my Lord honored me with and which I have Submitted To your Excellency are perfectly Conformable to the Ecclesiastical Laws of England, and in no Respect dissonant or Contrary to the Laws of Maryland. I think I have proved (for if any proof be wanting I am ready