

[Rev. Bennet Allen to Sharpe.]

Original.

Nov. 25. 1767

Sir

Inclos'd I send your Excellency the Agreement of the vestry of S^t James's to my holding that parish together with S^t Ann's upon my entering into articles to officiate duly there by myself or a regular curate. Upon sounding the vestry of this parish yesterday I found so much opposition from M^r Brice Worthington alone that I thought it prudent to postpone the question without putting it to a vote. M^r Walter Dulany (tho' not personally present) had started an objection to the Legality of the thing by a wretched quibble upon the word *adjacent* in Sect. 16. of the act of 1701. He said, he would be determin'd by the opinion of council; I brought him the inclos'd opinion of M^r Paca, which he treated with great contempt. He referr'd me to M^r Johnson, because, as I may well presume M^r Johnson had been heard to say, if it were possible to start any objection or give any turn to the words of the Act so as to prevent a Parson's holding two livings he should be glad to do it. M^r Brice Worthington (as hard as Iron) being one of the vestry, had I believe met with his Colleague M^r Johnson, & tho' he seem'd to take the proposal in a favorable light when I mention'd it a few days ago to him, he came fraught with all the cavil that Sophistry and malice could invent. M^r Walter Dulany took up the affair from a Self-interested view; that of getting M^r Addison's Friend M^r Boucher here & annexing the School to the living, tho' M^r Daken came here by his particular Solicitations couch'd in the strongest terms of encouragement, who has been always very assiduous in his attendance on the duty of the School.

M^r W. Dulany seems to murmur that your promise to M^r Addison's friend should not have taken place of my Lord's Recommendation of me. I observ'd this was making a direct attack upon my Lord's right of Patronage. He went farther & said that my Lord might provide for a friend without breaking the laws of the province. Such an aspersion, & from M^r Walter Dulany too! & was by his Lordship's particular favour in Possession of two of the most lucrative places in the province. How unjust, how cruel, how ungrateful! To break the laws of the Province was never my Lord's intention, your Excellency's, or mine. I believe in my conscience, & it is the opinion of every un-prejudic'd Gentleman I have spoke to, that the spirit of the Law, & the intention of the Legislature is strictly complied with in the present case in point of convenient nearness; the boundaries of the parishes being within four miles of each other, & the churches not only nearer together than those of many contiguous parishes, but even