

than the different places of worship oftentimes in the same parish. It is the opinion of Gentlemen of the Law that my Induction in this parish without the consent of the vestry, & my appointment in the other with the consent of that vestry will entitle me to the 30 p poll in each parish, & I hope your Excellency will let them remain upon this footing (the parish of S<sup>t</sup> James's only being voidable, not void & the vestry having expressly given me the whole 30 p poll) till Easter, or 'till I hear from my Lord. I should never indeed have Attempted the consent of this vestry but upon intimation from you, that probably the lower house of Assembly would catch hold of it, but this I may venture to say, that my Lord's sense of the thing must be such that He will not only dissent to any law that farther abridges his right of patronage, but that seeing the people so obstinately & unreasonably tenacious of their powers He will steadily maintain his own, & dissent to any future law for the division of parishes, which I shall endeavour to inforce by arguments drawn from the expediency of the thing, that of keeping up Salaries of different value, to hold the clergy expectant as well as to reward merit, as it will reflect a credit on the ruling power, as well as on the clergy, & as a Parish will be better provided for by a Rector & two assistants, than by three Rectors, who being more independant would be less bound to good behaviour. But nothing indeed can make a Clergyman at all respected in this country but his income, & even that sometimes fails.

I have receiv'd encouragement from home to apply to your Excellency for some establishment in his Lordship's Revenue, in which, as it is design'd to be put under new regulations, it is apprehended an opening may be made for his Lordship to provide for a friend of his own, & as it would give me great satisfaction to have the thing carried into execution under your Excellency's Direction, if you would be so kind to favour me, in writing, with any propositions upon the subject, I should have an opportunity of sending them home in a day or two. There is a recent instance of a Clergyman bearing a Secular Employ in the province in the late M<sup>r</sup> Sterling, who was Collector of his Majesty's customs at Chester. Indisposition has prevented my stirring out of my bed-chamber to day, & will do the same I fear to-morrow.

I am with great respect, Sir,  
Your Excellency's most oblig'd & obedient  
humble Servant Bennet Allen

P. S. I beg your excellency would not determine a cause concerning the election of a new Inspector for S<sup>t</sup> James's till the 1<sup>st</sup> of next, if it can conveniently be put off, the adjourn'd