

We persuade ourselves from the assurances we have heretofore had the Honour to receive from your Excellency and which we do and shall ever gratefully remember, that you will not withhold it. One Instance there is in which we conceive it is much in your Power to promote the Cause, and that is by co-operating with us in our Application to our Brethren of the Clergy in Virginia, by recommending it strongly to the Attention and Countenance of Lord Bottetourt.

Lib. C. B.  
No. 20

We are not so sanguine as to flatter ourselves with the Hope either of immediate or certain Success from this our Application, but should we after all finally fail, which we pray Heaven to avert! We shall comfort ourselves with the reflection that even to fail is less reproachful than never to attempt it at all.

We are Sir, with infinite Respect  
Your Excellency's most Obedient  
and faithful humble Servants  
Signed by Order  
Robert Read, Secretary

My Lord

Bound as we are by every tie of Gratitude to promote your Lordship's interest and the Welfare of this Province which we have ever considered as inseparable, and in which our own is involved, we cannot with indifference behold Measures pursued, which we apprehend to have a manifest tendency to endanger interests so deservedly dear to us. Upon a proper degree of Influence and Authority with the People will the usefulness of the Clergy of any Country depend. When that Authority and Influence fail either thro' their own Misconduct or the want of due countenance and support from the Civil Government, from that instant will the usefulness of the Clergy proportionably fail, and more especially so, and in the End totally Cease, if Laws shall happen at any time to be so injudiciously framed as even to tempt the People committed to their guidance and instruction, instead of encouragement to shew them every possible discouragement, On the other hand still more destructive of their usefulness will their own misconduct and a disregard of the Duties of their Functions prove. Happy is it for that People where a due regard to their own Character in the Clergy and a Judicious discipline unite to render them respectable and consequently useful. Such we trust your Lordship will be led both by Education and Judgment to consider the Episcopal Jurisdiction in the Church of England to be. Without some discipline no Church hath or can Subsist, and such is the Crisis at which Affairs have here arrived that according to our Judgment that venerable discipline which hath prevailed in all Christian Nations and coeval

p. 120