

Y^r L^{ty} should be pleased to give permission for their being inducted. One of these vacant Parishes called Coventry was in the Year 1766 vacated by the Death of M^r Whitaker who by his Sottishness & immoral Behaviour had long been considered as an intollerable Burthen by the Parishioners. After his Decease I gave Licence to a M^r Reade to officiate there as a Curate till Your L^{ty} should permit Me to induct him either into that or some other Parish; but being told some time last Winter that the Vestry or at least some of them had taken up a Notion that the Parishioners as Founders of the Church had a Right to elect & present their Rector as is the Practice in Virginia I thought it my Duty to issue immediately an Induction for Coventry to a M^r Ross Rector of All-Hallows the next Parish which is not quite so lucrative intending to appoint M^r Reade to officiate there in his stead; but when M^r Ross was preparing to remove into Coventry such Threats were thrown out as deterred him, & he desired Me to let him remain where he was not choosing to leave a Parish where he was on good Terms with the People for one where he was not very likely to be very kindly received or to live in harmony with his Parishioners. Upon this I gave an Induction for Coventry to the Rev^d M^r Hughs who officiated in a Neighbouring Parish as Your L^{ty} would see by my List. This Gentleman having been Chaplain to the 84th Regiment during the late War & being desirous to settle in America was sometime ago recommended to Me in a particular Manner by General Gage & other Gentlemen of Rank in the Army whereupon I appointed him to officiate in Worcester Parish which soon afterwards became vacant & I have understood that the People there were well pleased with his Behaviour. Imagining that a Clergyman of his Character who had made several Campaigns distinguished himself by his Fortitude would not be frightened by a few Threats I have taken the Liberty & flatter myself Your L^{ty} will excuse Me for doing so to induct him into Coventry without waiting for Your L^{ty}s special Order for it thought the delaying at all to exercise the Right of Patronage after the Parishioners had set up such a Claim or Pretence might seem to countenance it.