

of Henry the 8th & the Canon Law must extend to & have their full Effect
in this Province as well as in England, that His Ldp of course is vested
with the same Powers & Prerogatives in all Ecclesiastical Matters here
as the Thing is within the Realm & consequently is not restrained by that
part of the Act of Assembly which was made against Pluralities. As I was
convinced on a perusal of this Piece that some particular Parts of it would
in case of its being published raise a loud Clamour, & was ignorant how
far His Ldp might choose to support the Doctrine contained therein, I
desired Mr Allen to forbear printing it till it could be submitted to His
Ldp & your Consideration, & as he soon afterwards desired me to return
the Letter, I have not heard any thing of it since, I presume he has
followed my Advice & sent You a Copy or at least the Substance of it. Should
His Ldp upon considering the Arguments therein advanced by Mr Allen
be convinced & choose to exercise the Prerogative there will always be an
Opportunity of doing so, as not a Year passes without some Parish
becoming vacant. but in the meantime in consequence of what You told
me in your Letter of the 10th of Nov: & in order if possible to let the
Matter dye away before the Meeting of the Assembly I have on Mr
Allens having made choice of St James's inducted into this Parish a
Mr Edmiston whom His Ldp by a Letter he favoured me with in April
last directed me to provide for as soon as I should have an Opportunity
about the time that the affair of Pluralities began to make a Noise in this
part of the Province the Vestry of Coventry Parish lying in Somerset &
Worcester Counties which had become vacant in the Year 1766 & in which
One Mr Reade had since officiated as a Curate adopted an Opinion
that the Parishioners as Founders of the Church had the Right of
Patronage & gave out that they would not admit any Rector unless of the
Parishioners Election; Thinking it my Duty to check such Pretensions
at the Beginning I immediately ordered an Induction for Coventry to
be made out for One Mr Ross the Rector of a Neighbouring Parish of
liverative who had the Character of a Deserving Man, but when
upon his preparing to remove & take possession of it some threatening Paper