

before which time they apprehended His Ldps might be able to consider  
it or take Advice thereon, if he disapproved thereof to declare it null  
& void nevertheless as it was a Bill of quite a new Nature, I knew not  
what may be His Ldps Sentiments with regard to regulating the Clergy  
by any Law whatever or establishing any Visitation Authority over them  
in the Province, I took the liberty to lay the Bill aside when it was pre-  
sented to me in the usual manner for my Fiat, which has been sometimes  
done by former Governors with respect to any Bill about the propriety of  
which they were in doubt, but as it will certainly be revived at the next  
Session I hope it will be thoroughly considered before that time, that His  
Ldps pleasure will be fully made known to me on the Subject. The Truth is  
that there are among the Clergy of this Province some very immoral Men  
in particular a Mr. McCullum in Dorchester County who by reason of his  
Sottishness has for many Years been absolutely unable to officiate in the Church  
or to discharge any part of his Duty: Another whose Name is Lendrum is  
said to be not only an habitual Drunkenard but also to live in Adultery, Another  
whose Name is Brown was lately accused of murdering One of his Slaves  
& actually fled thereupon to Virginia where he remained several Months  
till his Son who could be the only positive Witness against him could be  
shipt away thence to Scotland so that the Coroners Inquest the Circumstances  
were very strong against him wanted Proof sufficient to charge him with  
Murder, as this added to his Behaviour on many other Occasions made  
his Parishioners consider him as a very bad Man None of them will  
even yet attend Divine Service at his Church, about which indeed he is  
said to be extremely indifferent, These were all Rectors of Parishes they now  
hold before my Arrival in the Province, I hope there are no others so  
scandalous but there are I am afraid several that do not make a conscience  
of discharging their Duty & by that means the Presbyterians & other Dissenting  
Congregations increase in many parts of the Province notwithstanding  
they are subjected to a double Burthen viz the Payment of their own  
Ministers as well as of the Thirty  $\text{p}$  Poll for the Support of the Established