

Clergy. That something is necessary to be done cannot be denied but what
after what manner I really cannot tell so that both the Laity & Clergy
may be satisfied & His Ldps Charter Rights be effectually preserved. It seems
to have been the Opinion of the Framers of this Bill that while His Ldps
Lieutenant Governor was invested with the sole Power of Nominating the Mem-
bers of the New Court due Regard was paid to the latter, & that as Three of
them were to be taken from the Body of the Clergy, they might more readily
agree to the Regulation, but I am for my part far from being convinced, that
such would be the Case & indeed I perceive by a Letter I received Yesterday
from Mr Allen on his Return from Baltimore Town (where he called on
his Way from Frederick County to have a Piece printed of which I inclose
you a Copy) that he considers the Scheme proposed as a most audacious
Attempt on the Privileges of the Clergy & is for substituting instead thereof
Commiserial or Episcopal Jurisdiction, concerning which I observe, he
has already wrote to You, but how such Jurisdiction can be established
or introduced here so as to have the proper Effect otherwise than by a
Law of the Province or a Statute I do not know & I am apt to think
the Clergy in general within this Province will not of themselves apply
for either, tho many Individuals among them of the best sort have even
in my own Hearing expressed their Wishes that some Plan could be fallen
on to prevent the Scandal reflected on the whole Body by the flagitious
conduct of some of their Members.] During the Course of the Session, a Bill
was moved for & brought into the Lower House for raising a Sum of Money
for the better Support of a Chief Justice & two puisne Judges within this Province
the former to be allowed £500 each of the other £300 ftg a Year to be paid
out of the Ordinary Licence Fines, a Tax proposed to be laid on Wheel Carriages
&c but as the Bill was of a new & extraordinary Nature it was agreed to
refer it over to the Consideration of the next Session so that in the mean
time Peoples Sentiments on the Subject might be collected. After such
Reference a separate Bill was prepared for regulating the Ordinaries, the Fines