

Should even betray a wish to see the Clergy of it Lower, who are already unable to secure either their small Stipends or their Office from invasion, not to mention the illiberal Freedom with which their private Characters are Traduced, is a moderately striking Phœnomenon in *this* Region. It is to be sure happy for us to have Laymen, who are not only infallible Judges of a Clergyman's Duty and Merit, but can perform such eminent Parts of his Office as well as himself; because, where this is the Case, there is the less Occasion to provide a good Maintainance for the Clergy, or for being punctual in paying their appointment whether it be great or little; the Office being by the same Means preserv'd from that Contempt, which justly falls upon the Person of the Minister. Yet if a Parson was to go into a Muster-Field, and take upon him to Exercise the Colonel's Troop, in the Colonel's absence, I make no doubt but such an Impropriety would be loudly condemn'd as an heinous Offence and unseemly Usurpation.

Col. *Bland*, I think, speaks pretty plain in comparing the Prerogative of the Crown of *Great-Britain* to the King of *Babylon's* Decree, in that Topick of his Encomium on the Governour, where he judiciously extols him for not letting the People *feel the Weight* of the Prerogative; but chiefly with Respect to my present Subject in his maxim of *Salus Populi est Suprema Lex*, for I cannot bring it any other way to suit his Purpose than by construing it thus, *Salus Populi*, to take as much as shall be thought necessary, and as often as thought necessary from the Incomes of the Clergy, and dispose of it chiefly among the Rich and Wealthy and Successful, and not quite excluding all of the Poorer and Distressed sort from their share in the Booty, *est Suprema Lex*, is a Law of the first obligation,