

on this Occasion I will not determine. No more than two Clergymen were privy to this Petition; and one of them had scarce Time to Read it over, it having been only shewn him in the Lobby immediately before it was presented. Be all this as it will, the Petition must be Argued upon, as if it had been the Petition of the Body; tho' at other Times such of the Clergy, as think proper to attend the regular Summons of the Bishop's Commissary, must not expect to pass with Col. *Bland* for that Body; no not when almost all the absent Members send excuses for the want of their Appearance, together with their Concurrence in the Measures proposed by their Brethren. It is Matter of pleasantry to observe concerning this vilified Petition, that the Author of it did not prefer it from any Imagination that there was Room to expect Success in it, but to evince the contrary by Experiment, to such as might be weak enough to entertain a Notion of Success in this way at that Time. This is a Piece of secret History, a Stratagem, a Machination, which it seems Col. *Bland*, with all his Sagacity and Insight into every body's Affairs has not been able to penetrate. And though it may seem not altogether fair and quite contrary to the known Openness and Sincerity of the Person I am speaking of: Yet, if it was proper to dwell any longer on this Circumstance, a very good Account might be given of it. But thus much Col. *Bland* might have known, if he pleased, that it was not the Petition of the Clergy; for most of the Assembly knew this a Day or two after it's Presentation; and were first offended at such a Petition from the Clergy, and afterwards chagrin'd to find that it did not come from the Clergy. Part of the charge on this Petition is a generous Inference drawn from it, that if the Provision for the Clergy was to be made better