

better by an Act they would make no complaints concerning encroachments on the Authority of the King. To make this Inference good, it should have appear'd in the Petition that the Clergy wanted a better Provision by an Act *without a suspending Clause*. But there is no such Thing in the Petition: And I believe it would be a difficult Matter, for Col. *Bland* to prove, that the Clergy, though willing enough to have a better Provision, would accept of it by means of an Act *without a suspending Clause*. However this way of Arguing is an Acknowledgment from Col. *Bland*, that in his Opinion the Clergy would not have complain'd of any Act, had their Condition not been made worse by it: Yet he says of the Assembly, *they did not attempt or even entertain a thought of abridging the Maintainance of the Clergy*. This Man knows every body's Thoughts; not only beyond, but even contrary to, their professions. For it cannot be forgot, that every body declared their expectations of Forty Shillings a Hundred for their Tobacco, at the Time when Sixteen Shillings and Eight pence a Hundred were prescribed to the Clergy; nor that several of the Members publickly threaten'd, that if the Clergy would not be content with Two pence a Pound, they should very soon be compell'd to take a penny a Pound, nor that a much less price than Sixteen Shillings and Eight pence a Hundred was put to Vote in the House of Burgeses; nor that some one of the Members cried out for Five Shillings a Hundred, whether this last Person was a Friend or a Foe it Matters little, since either way it shews his Opinion of what was then a doing.

I hope there is no Occasion to enter into any more particular refutations of what is affirmed by this Writer. If it was in Character for me to return his own civil and temperate
and