

personal Invectives ; if they shall forbear Writing in such a Manner, as if they thought the Clergy of *Virginia* answerable for the Conduct of *ROMISH INQUISITORS*, &c. because they may be comprised under the same common Name of *CLERGYMEN* ; which is just as if we should reproach particular Laymen, with the Cruelties and Oppression of other Laymen ; which is treating Men like Children ; and aiming to scare them with Bugbears, is merely combating the Air, and neither better nor worse than so much of *nothing to the Purpose* ; I say, if this Behaviour, and all other extraneous Reflections shall be avoided, it will cut the Business short, will probably save a great Deal of Ink-shed, and tend to lessen the Increase of Waste-Paper. But if the old Method of Reply shall be chosen, I cannot promise that something of the same Leaven will not diffuse itself through the Mass of the Rejoindre. For this seems necessary, if it be but out of pure Complaisance to the Patterns given by such genteel Opponents, such discreet Adversaries ; who understand so well where, in their Strength consists. To be plain and serious ; we desire not any Truth, or sound Argument, to be suppressed for our Convenience ; but only the trifling Arts of intemperate Declamation.

