

nity shall be given me I shall not I am sure wish to continue here a Moment longer in a Public Station but till His Ldp or yourself shall give me a Hint to the Contrary I shall hope his favourable opinion of me is in no respect diminish't nor shall I seem to give the least Credit to any Report that might have taken its Rise from the unguarded Conversation of M<sup>r</sup> Jordan or any one else. Tho I could not forbear writing thus much to you as a Friend I would not have you trouble His Ldp about the matter if you are persuaded that M<sup>r</sup> Jordan has not seriously entertained any thoughts of doing me ill Offices. I am &c.

Letter Bk. V

[Rev. Bennett Allen to Sharpe.]

Original.

Sir

I have but a strange Detail of Occurrences to transmit to your Excellency since my Arrival here. I found a Petition sign'd that Day viz. Tuesday at M<sup>r</sup> Bacons Funeral for a Division of the Parish. it was thought then had I come a few Hours sooner I might have prevented it & they began to capitulate if I would join in the Petition. I tried the Experiment by a third Person but it did not succeed. I should have been glad to have stop't the Petition as it might lay your Excellency under Difficulties. Things went on very quietly & I did not expect or surmise the least opposition till Saturday Morning, when Information was brought that Letters had arrived from Annapolis to one Murdoch a Vestryman with a Bag full of C D's last curious Performances, & that a Plan was laid to steal the Keys from the Sexton thereupon. There were private Letters recommending all kind of Violence even to Murder & that it was a shame I should have so good a Parish not worthy of a Tenth Part. I saw the Storm & anticipated it. On Saturday I got the Keys went into the Church read Prayers the 39 Articles & my Induction. On Sunday having heard that the Locks were taken off & the Door bolted within I got up at four oclock & by the Assistance of a Ladder unbolted them getting in at a Window & left them on the Jar. I went at 10 oclock & found all the Doors & Windows open. The Vestry came up to me & spoke to me of Breach of Privilege. I said I am not acquainted with Customs I act by the Letter of the Law. The moment the Gover<sup>r</sup> signs an Induction, Your Power ceases, I am sorry that any Dissention &c. I saw they drew to the Doors of the Church. I got a little Advantage leap't into the Desk & made my Apology & begun the Service. The Congregation was call'd out. I proceeded as if nothing had happened till the Second Lesson. I heard some Commotions from without which gave me a little Alarm & I provided luckily against it