

As the Revd. Mr. Willes⁴ is now in England, I doubt not should He return to Us but He will obtain and bring out with Him Your Lordships Licence. I shall be very cautious My Lord, in presenting any clergyman who does not produce your Testimonial, should any Accident bring Ministers here without such Permission, I may probably make Application on their behalf should their Conduct merit such recommendation; though I discourage (whenever opportunity presents itself) the Merchants sending to their Correspondents for any Clergy Men, I tell them I have the good Offices of both your Lordship and the Society to encourage and recommend Ministers who are properly qualified to come to this Country.

Mr. Cosgrave⁵ is gone to the Southern Colonies. I hope He will never return to us. He is a Scandal and a Disgrace to His Order. It is reported that Mr. Stephens⁶ has obtained Ordination Orders, and at present [is] Chaplain to a Man of War. Is this the Fruit of National Importunity.

I take the Liberty herewith to Transmit to Your Lordship a Sermon of Mr. Micklejohns, and a News Paper containing a Letter and Reports from the Presbyterian Ministers, all which had most salutary Effects on the Complexion of the Times—My speech to the Assembly inclosed will shew your Lordship how attentive I have been to carry his Majestys additional Instructions into execution, relative to the Clergy; The Bill that passed the Legislature in consequence thereof, a Copy of which I have the Honor to present to you, will testify the Success.⁷

I thank you, My Lord, for your good Wishes for the Prosperity of my Family, which has of late been much interrupted by the Anxiety I have felt on Account of the Disturbances and the affliction my family has experienced in the Death of My Only Son. I am My Lord with highest Esteem, your Lordship's Most Obedt. Servt.

Wm. Tryon

Lord Bishop of London

¹As indicated in a later letter (May 27, 1769) from Tryon to the Lord Bishop of London, the Reverend Mr. Cramp was assigned to the Parish of St. Philip in Brunswick County by Governor Tryon. The Vestry Act of 1754 had left the right of presentation of clergymen in the hands of the local vestries, but that provision had been disallowed in 1759. Paul Conkin explains the friction between Tryon and the parishioners in an article, "The Church Establishment, 1756-1776," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XXXII (January, 1955), 1-30. He points out that "In the absence of an American bishop, the governor was the supreme representative of both the Crown and the Church and was ready to claim his prerogative and induct ministers into parishes as he wished." The parishioners resented Tryon's presumption, since it had been the general practice for the local vestries to hire their own ministers. Cramp must not have been too unpopular, however, since he declined to accept an offer to go to the Parish of George Town, South Carolina, in 1770.

²John Barnett had been sent to Brunswick County in 1766. The vestry there had been particularly difficult. James McDowell, an earlier minister, had complained bitterly of his many difficulties before his death in 1763. Barnett was paid the regular salary by the vestry but was never officially inducted. In 1768 he removed to Northampton, not because the vestry or parishioners wished it—in fact, they wanted him to stay—but because they stubbornly denied Tryon's right of induction. Weis, *Colonial Clergy*, 58-59.

³Daniel Burton. The letter to him from Tryon is the document which immediately follows in this volume.

⁴John Wills.

⁵James Cosgrave (Cosgrove). Tryon had not been very enthusiastic about accepting him.

⁶This probably is the Stevens of whom John Barnett wrote in a letter of Feb. 1, 1766, to a Mr. Waring. Barnett thought the Scotch Presbyterian dressed in a disreputable fashion and said that "this Stevens has ill used the Governor affronted all the King's Council (but one Scotch gentleman) most villainously abused me & now comes to apply to the Bishop of London for orders without any recommendation to his Lordship. . . ." Saunders, *Colonial Records*, VII, 162.

⁷Tryon's reference is no doubt to actions reported in documents which have appeared earlier in this volume. See Tryon to the Earl of Hillsborough, January 10, 1769.

William Tryon to Dr. Daniel Burton

MH-TLB, 243-247
A&H-TLB, 224-228
CR-VIII, 12-16

The Reverend M^r Daniel Burton

Secretary to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

Brunswick 20 March 1769.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letters of the following Dates, Viz. 2^d March & 10 November 1767, 28 April and 17 December 1768. The Reverend M^r Morton whom You mention in the first has left this Province upwards of two Years and is settled in Virginia, I am told He is well married: His Conduct in Northampton County, where I had inducted Him was exemplary, and His Departure much lamented by His Parishoners.

The Grievances You inform Me M^r Stuart [Stewart] complains of, shall meet with every Redress in my Power.¹

I entertain the properest sense of the handsome Offers made me by the Society in Favor of the Reverend M^r Agar: They have been communicated to Him at Nottaway Parish in Virginia. By His undetermined Answer, I discover He does not think it an Object for Him to change His Situation while He remains in America, I must therefore desire the Society may extend the Salary to the Reverend M^r Willes, which they so generously intended for my Friend M^r Agar.

M^r Barnett has left Brunswick and gone to Northampton County into the Parish of which County I propose to induct Him on His waiting on Me again. I had in a former Letter mentioned my postponing M^r Barnetts presentation in Brunswick County, till S^t Philips Church was far enough advanced to have divine Service performed therein. Upon M^r Barnetts Consecration thereof last Summer I acquainted some Gentlemen of the County (as I had heard some Whispers of Discontent) that I should give M^r Barnett Letters of Presentation. The Church Wardens some Time after called a Vestry, and the Question being put

whether they were for a Minister being inducted, it was carried in the Negative. This Step I assured M^r Barnett should not divert Me from exercising the just right of the Crown delegated to Me, and that I was ready to induct Him into S^t Philips Parish, He well knew He said it was contrary to the Intentions and Desire of the Inhabitants in General to have an inducted Minister, and that was He to accept of the presentation He was conscious His, stay would be made uneasy, if not unhappy to Him, and consequently deprive Him of rendering the Duties of His Office beneficial to His Parishoners, for these Reasons He said if agreeable to Me, He would prefer Northampton County. I acquiesced and He accordingly set out for Northampton the end of December last. I desire His Mission may be continued to Him.

The Reverend M^r Cramp at present officiates at Brunswick, He has promised Me He will not stay in this Government on any other Terms than Induction from Me. I have urged Him to accept of Presentation to this Parish, His answer was "They will starve Me, for none like the Inducted Parson." I have offered to advance Him what Money He may want for His support, till the right of Presentation is determined in a Course of Law, and the Salary that is detained recovered from the Church Wardens, as I told Him I was sure, He would have every Support of the Society, on so important an undertaking. He is at present ill of the Gout, and I hear inclined to return to England.

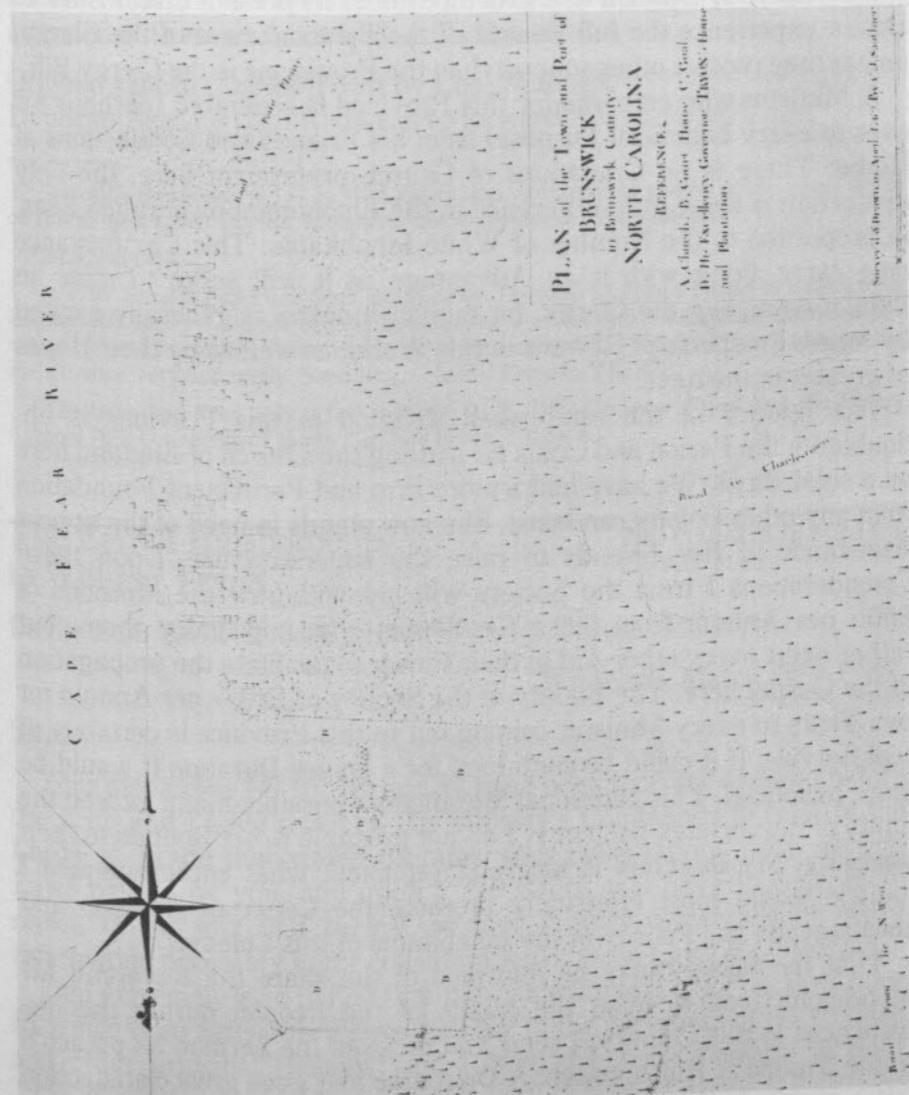
The Reverend M^r Hobart Briggs I have inducted into Duplin County having first recommended Him to the Vestry, To which recommendation they paid little Regard. It is yet a doubt if His residence will be made agreeable to Him. I have however obtained for Him a very warm Patron. The honble Col^o Sampson,² one of His Majestys Council for this Province, who lives in the County.

The Reverend M^r M^cCartney is not yet fixed to any Parish as He desired three or four Months Time before Presentation, in order to form a Judgment where He could live with most Satisfaction and Advantage to Himself and Family.

That You may be informed agreeable to Your Desire of the Circumstances of the Parishes in this Colony, I shall herewith Transmit to You a List of the Counties, the Names of these Parishes (each County forming but one Parish) and the Capacity of their supporting Ministers, agreeable to the Provision made for them in 1765.— The people of this Country from the variety of Sectaries on one part, and a too general neglect of Religion on the other, are uneasy under the Provisions of the Clergy Bill passed in 1765, and which I got further explained by the amendatory Act (I now inclose) passed last session of Assembly.

Some Vestries idly imagine the Power of Presentation is still vested, by implication in them, because say they, neither the Crown nor the Governor is in express Words declared to have the right of Presentation. I purpose to bring this Matter on some future Occasion to tryal, that

On Sauthier's map of Brunswick dated April, 1769, the site marked A was St. Philip's Church. Photograph from files of Division of Archives and History.



They may be convinced of the obstinacy and error of such a Notion, since I find in some Parishes, Candid Argument will not avail.

The inclosed Letter from the Reverend M^r Fiske³ will state the ungentee and cruel Treatment he has received from His Parisoners, I recommended Him to sue the Church Wardens and Vestry for His Salary; I am told His Parish is full of Quakers and Annabaptists, the first no Friend, the latter an avowed Enemy to the Mother Church. It is certain the Preeminence the Church of England has obtained over the Sectaries by Legislative Authority, has drawn upon Her their Jealousies— The Desturbances in this Province have inspired no Religious Sentiments among Us, and the difficulty of raising the Taxes for want of a Medium to pay them, makes many Parishes very slack to encourage Public Worship.

It is really my Opinion this Province under its present Circumstances cannot experience the full Benefit of the Establishment of the Clergy, unless they receive other support than the Provisions in the Clergy Bill.

A Minister who embarks for this Province is seperated (perhaps for ever to every beneficial Purpose) from his Friends and Connections at Home: There is no Gradations of Church preferment here, the only distinction is some little difference in the Emolument of Surplice Fees, in proportion to the Number of White Inhabitants: This Circumstance may carry along with it an Advantage as it will serve to raise an Emulation among the Clergy, for human Industry is generally excited by future Prospects of Reward in this World, as well as by their Hopes of greater in the next.

The Infancy of the established Religion in this Province is undoubtedly the Period and Crisis for settling the Church of England here on a solid Basis, We have laid a more firm and Permanent Foundation than any other Colony can boast, She now stands in need of the utmost Assistance of Her Friends to raise the superstructure. Upon these Considerations I trust the Society will not withdraw the Missions of £50.. per Annum from those Gentlemen who now enjoy them, but rather exert every other Aid in their Power to facilitate the propagation of the Gospel here. The Bounty of the Society of £20— per Annum for two Years to every Minister coming out to this Province is certainly of real Service: If it could be continued for a longer Duration it would be more beneficial, This additional Munificence possibly might exceed the limits of the societys Economy, I do not presume to set Bounds to their liberality. My Intention is singly to represent what encouragement I jud[g]e would most effectually promote the Cause of Religion and consequently the Felicity of the Inhabitants of this Colony.

That the Society may be informed of the share the Reverend M^r Micklejohn took to quiet the Minds of the People, during the disturbances in this Country, I send You inclosed the Sermon he preach'd to the Troops at Hillsborough: A Discourse that gave great Satisfaction

as it was well adapted to the then Situation of Public Affairs. I also Transmit You the Presbyterian Ministers Address to their Flock: The good Effects of the Principles they inculcated I had the happiness to experience; Services I shall ever gratefully remember

The Presbyterians and Quakers are the only tolerated Sectaries under any Order or Regulation, every other are Enemies to Society, & Scandal to common Sense.

I shall conclude this long Letter with requesting the Favor of You to present my Respects to the Society, with Assurance of the high Sense I entertain of their Indulgence to my Recommendations, and the great Attention with which they have always honored my Proposals: Testimonies I flatter myself will be continued to co-operate with my exertions in the Advancement of Religion— I shall only add the Desturbances in this Province and the Death of my only son⁴ have been attended with much Anxiety & Affliction to—

Original sent to Charles Town by Cap^t Mulford.

Duplicate sent by Cap^t Robinson to forward from Charles Town

¹Stewart's complaint had to do with salary and maintenance and he wrote a long letter on this subject to Dr. Burton. Saunders, *Colonial Records*, VII, 492-496.

²John Sampson.

³In 1767 Samuel Fiske had been assigned by Tryon to St. John's Parish in Pasquotank County. His salary could not be paid because the Quakers and Anabaptists elected to the vestry refused to qualify. Fiske in a letter of November 28, 1768, to Tryon had assessed the situation very succinctly. Saunders, *Colonial Records*, VII, 872.

⁴The baby had lived only a few months. A. T. Dill, *Governor Tryon and His Palace* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955), 8.

The Earl of Hillsborough
to William Tryon

PRO CO 5/312, ff. 142-142b
CR-VIII, 21-22

Letter from Earl Hillsborough to Governor Tryon.

Whitehall, March 24th 1769.

Sir,

Your dispatches N^o 15, 16, and 17 have been received and laid before the King and I have received His Majesty's Commands to refer to the Lords of Trade that which contains your observations upon several Laws passed by you, and upon a Bill which you have thought fit to reject, to the end that their Lordships may be possessed of every information necessary in the consideration of those Laws & of that Bill.

I am extremely glad to find that the establishment of a Post thro' your Province is so agreeable a circumstance to the Members of the Council and other principal Persons; and I have the more pleasure in their