

## The loyal address of the clergy of Virginia. Williamsburgh

---

214

THE LOYAL ADDRESS OF THE Clergy of Virginia.

MAY it please you dread Sir, we the Clerks of *Virginia*, Who pray for Tobacco, and Preach for a Guinea, Patroon'd to Contempt, and by favour made Elves, For Troopers are Lifted and pay Tythes to our Seives. The meanest Brigade of Your Majesties *Grubstreets*, Tho' Late; not least Loyal of Your Clerical Subjects, Among Crouds of *True Hearts* that of late do Address You, In our humble Phrase do Crave Leave to Carress You To shew for Your Safety how with Zeal we burn all, Under the Reverend *James Blare* our Collonel. And here we cann't choose but proclaim our Resentment, That we mar'I what the Devil the Politick *French* meant: In Affront to Your Person, and the Throne that You sit on, To Dub the Young *Bricklair* the King of *Great Britain*. Tho' we are not with some so high pufft with the Ptysick, As to say 'tis a Breach of the Treaty of *Reswick*; Yet we boldly averr, and by Words do assure it To be such a Contempt, we can never indure it: Wherefore if Your Foes do persist for to slight You, We will all of us Pray, nay and some of us Fight too: For like *Hogans* half drunk, Your Polemicks I fancy Can Club prety well when Inspir'd with *Nantsy*, Among all the Black Guard You Cann't miss of an Hector, Unless You chance light on the *Williamburg* Rector: Yet we'll favour the *French* if we find they'l be Civil, For be it known that we fear 'em no more than the Devil: However we chan huff it, if they never come near us, If they should I am afraid they would damnably scare us: Then to save our own Skins, and to silence Gainsaiers, We'll leave of our bouncing and fall to our Prayers. May kind Heavens preserve long Your Majesties good Soul, And bring *Lewis* to beg a loath'd life at Your Footstool: May *Mantanoon* Pox his Black Soul to the Devil, And *Burgundy* Rot with his putred Kings Evil: May young D' *Anjoy* be trust at the arm of the Main-yard, And *Austria* possess the Command of the *Spaniard*: May all Factious Distinctions henceforth be forgotten, Nor Your Spiritual Pedlers be Contrould by a *Scotch* one: May your Health in your College go Loyally Round, And all your Leige People have Twelve-pence a Pound.

LC

*WILLIAMSBURGH:*

Printed for *Fr. Maggot*, at the Sign of the *Hickery-Tree* in *Queen-Street*. 1702

Virginia State Library RICHMOND, VA.

ALL LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE LIBRARIAN

April 6, 1910.

Mr. J. H. Parr, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:—

I thank you very much for the copy (photograph) of "The Loyal Address of the Clergy of Virginia". The address is a very interesting production, though I do not believe at all that it was written by the clergy of Virginia or that it was published at Williamsburg. My idea is that it is something in the nature of a hoax. It was probably written by some one who had been sent from England to Virginia as a clergyman and sent back by Commissary Blair on account of his unfitness. I mean by this, of course, that Commissary Blair found means to prevent his being employed as a clergyman in Virginia, thus necessitating his return to England. Commissary Blair did not have the right, of course, actually to send him home. The animus of the writer is apparent. Certainly the whole body of the clergy would not have exhibited this spirit toward the Rev. Mr. Blair. Certainly, too, the a literary production of the clergy of Virginia would even in 1702 have been a much more finished production than is this broadside, which is, in fact, the merest doggerel in form and full of bad taste. There seems to be in it not the faintest pretension to either wit or wisdom. Evans, in his American Bibliography, Vol. 1, p.446, applies the term "Ironym" to the imprint, and I think that the

same term should be applied to the authorship.

I have not had time to puzzle out the allusions in every case. The meaning, since the doggerel was written by an uneducated man who makes use of various local allusions, it is frequently obscure. It evidently was written to William the t T hird just before his death, when Louis the f F ourteenth had on the death of James the s S econd acknowledged the young son of James the s S econd (here referred to as the as the Young Bricklair) to be the de jure king of England. William, no doubt, received many such loyal addresses from all over the kingdom. In fact, Louis's acknowledgement of the "Young Bricklair" solidified British sentiment for war against France, which William the third was always anxious for. Sometime when I have a chance to study the production line by line, I shall be glad to comment upon it more minutely.

I am,

Very truly yours, H. R. M Ilwaine State Librarian.