



TREES OF NORTH AMERICA.

occasion to use them, and where ministers were wanting (as there were wanting in many places) the people earnestly desired us to present their request to the honorable society to send ministers unto them; which accordingly I have done; and in answer to their request the society has sent to such places as seemed most to want a considerable number of missionaries.

"Besides the general success we had (praised be God for it) both in our preaching and much and frequent conference with people of Diverse Perswasions, many of which had been wholly strangers to the way of the Church of England; who, after they had observed it in the public prayers, and reading the lessons out of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, and the manner of the administration of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, were greatly affected with it, and some of which declared their great satisfaction and the esteem they had of the solemn and edifying manner of our worship and administration, far above whatever they could observe in other ways of worship known to them.

"To many, our ministry was as the sowing the seed and planting, who, probably, never so much as heard one orthodox sermon preached to them, before we came and preached among them, who received the Word with joy; and of whom we have good hope, that they will be as the good ground, that brought forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundredfold. And to many others it was a watering to what had been formerly sown and planted among them: some of the good fruit whereof we did observe, to the glory of God, and our great

comfort. Almost in all countries where we travelled and labored . . . by the blessing of God on our labors, there are good materials prepared for the building of churches, of living stones, as soon as, by the good providence of God, ministers shall be sent among them who have the discretion and due qualifications requisite to build with them."

In a letter (Feb. 24th, 1703) written during his mission, Keith said:

"There is a mighty cry and desire, almost in all places where we have travelled, to have ministers of the Church of England sent to them in these northern parts of America. . . If they come not timely the whole country will be overrun with Presbyterians and Baptists and Quakers."

Mr. Talbot also wrote (Sept. 1st, 1703):

"It is a sad thing to consider the years that are past, how some that were born of the English never heard of the name of Christ; how many others were baptized in His name, and (have) fallen away to heathenism, Quakerism, and atheism for want of confirmation. . . .

"The poor Church has nobody upon the spot to comfort or confirm her children; nobody to ordain several that are willing to serve, were they authorized, for the work of the ministry. Therefore they fall back again into the herd of dissenters, rather than they will be at the hazard and charge to go as far as England for orders; so that we have seen several countries, islands, and provinces which have hardly an orthodox minister amongst them, which might have been supplied had we been so happy as to see a bishop or suffragan *apud Americanos*."

Mr. Keith, for a man of his age, seems to have done, in the small space of a couple of years, a large amount of travelling and preaching. As a preacher, too, he seems to have been pre-eminently successful. His sermon at Annapolis, Maryland, was printed at the request of a worthy person who heard it, and "mostly at his charge," and copies of it were sent by him to many parts of the country. At Boston, also, which he visited in 1702, and where there were already two ministers of the Church of England, his sermon, preached in the Queen's Chapel, "before a large audience," was printed at the request of the ministers and vestry. This sermon, Mr. Keith quaintly tells us in his journal, contained six plain, brief rules which "did well agree to the Holy Scriptures, and which being well observed and put in practice would bring all to the Church of England who dissented from her." This, he tells us, "did greatly alarm the Independent preachers at Boston. Whereupon Mr. Increase Mather, one of the chief of them, was set on work to print against my sermon, as accordingly he did." To this Mr. Keith replied, but the printer at Boston "did not dare to print it, lest he should give offence to the Independent preach-