

From the Reverend Dr Chauncy's LETTER to
Mr Erskine, dated Boston, 29th October 1762.

IN addition to my sermon at Mr Bowman's ordination, I have to say, with reference to the *Indian* affair, that Mr Forbes, who is returned from his temporary Mission, informs us, that a church is gathered at *Othoquagie*, an *Indian* town on the banks of *Susquahanah* river, more than 400 miles from *Boston*. The church was constituted of 10 persons, 5 males and 5 females; and 3 have been added to them since. The Lord's Supper was once before he came away administered to them; and several of their children have been baptized. He thinks there is a hopeful prospect of doing service for Christ. Mr Bowman, after he had set out the week following his ordination for the *Indian* country, was seized with a violent fever, of which he was sick nigh unto death. But the Lord had mercy on him, and restored him to strength, so that he was able to proceed on his journey, after being detained at least six weeks. And I hope, before now, he has joined Mr Rice, his fellow worker in the kingdom and patience of Christ, to their mutual joy and satisfaction.

Mr Forbes is a gentleman excellently qualified for the *Indian* service. His natural powers are strong and lively, his acquired accomplishments very considerable. He has a good talent at knowing men, and adapting himself to their peculiar turns. He has, I believe, a truly pious soul: and is particularly filled with Christian compassion towards the poor *Indians*. And was he not related to one of our churches as their pastor, I have heard him say, he could, with all cheerfulness, devote himself to the service of the Saviour, among these unhappy people. I scarce know of a man like minded, and like spirited; and he is of a firm bodily make, fitting him to endure hardships of any kind. Was it the custom among us, as it is among you, to transfer the relation of a minister from one people to another, there would be no difficulty in taking him for the *Indian* service.

From Dr Chauncy's Letter to Mr Erskine, Nov. 2. 1762.

MR Forbes speaks highly of Peter, one of the chiefs at *Othoquagie*. He esteems him as eminent a christian as almost any he knows of among the *English*. And as this Peter can read and write, and has his heart much set upon the propagating Christian knowledge among the *Indians*, he thinks it would be an encouragement to him, and a service to the cause in general, if he might for the present be employed to teach the *Indian* children. 'Tis probable we shall fall in with this motion.