

and though every Churchman in that Colony pays his rate for the building and repairing their meeting-houses, yet they are so set against us, that they deny us the use of them though on week days. —All the Churchmen in this Colony request, is, that they may not be oppressed and insulted over; that they may obtain a liberty of conscience, and call a Minister of their own; that they may be freed from paying to their ministers, and thereby be enabled to maintain their own; this is all these good men desire." This hath been the grievance of the Church of England people from the beginning, and continues so still. Mr. Muirson however continued his labors, and would in all probability have brought great numbers to entire conformity with the Church, but he died soon after in 1709. Colonel Heathcote gave this character of him a little before he died. "He is truly very well qualified for the service, having a very happy way of preaching, and considering his years, wonderfully good at argument, and his conversation is without blemish." Notwithstanding his death, many considerable towns in New England were zealous to have Ministers of the Church of England; particularly Marblehead, the second town in the whole country, Braintree, Newbury, Narragansett, and several others.

3. The Church Wardens of Rhode Island wrote to the Bishop of London, and to the Society, in the year 1702, declaring their early zeal, that though they had not assembled themselves, to worship God after the manner of the Church of England, above four years, they had built a handsome Church. The Society resolved to send a missionary hither, both on account of their being the first, and also a numerous people, settled on a flourishing island. The Reverend Mr. Honeyman was appointed in 1704. He discharged the duties of his mission with great diligence. Though the island was full of persons of many persuasions, especially Quakers, the governor himself being such, yet by his prudent behavior he gave offence to none, and gained many to the Church. He continued there till the year 1708, and then came to England upon his own private affairs, but returned soon to his cure again. There were three little towns on the continent, Freetown, Tiverton, and Little Compton, which had requested a missionary of the Society; Mr. Honeyman was directed to visit them by turns on week-days, till they could be supplied with a minister. Mr. Honeyman frequently crossed over to them, and preached to them in a meeting-house, which he obtained the use of, and which was commodiously situated in the center of three towns. He said, the people at first, though very ignorant and rude in religious matters, were yet very grave and attentive at divine worship. He performed this laborious duty several years. In the year 1712, a missionary was sent to these three towns. Mr. Honeyman began to have a little more leisure; but he was zealous to promote the work he had engaged in, and set up a lecture, and preached once a fortnight at Portsmouth, a town at the farthest end of the island, and soon found very great encouragement to continue it, not any reward, but an unexpected and surprising large audience of people of many persuasions.

About this time he represented also very earnestly to the Society,