

Tryon and others happily escaped their fury through a back window.

Mr. Rivington, the King's printer, was one of the sufferers by loss of property. They plundered his house of all his printing materials—since employed in the service of their congress. The King's statute maintained its ground in New York until Washington took possession of the city, when it was indicted for high treason against America, found guilty and received sentence that the lead of it should be run into bullets for the destruction of the English.

Mr. Washington thought proper to notice in his General Order next day he was sorry his soldiers should in a riotous manner pull down the statue of the King, yet he could not but commend them for defaming every monument of British tyranny.

Meanwhile, in Connecticut organized mobs continued their acts of violence and outrage, breaking windows in the houses of loyalists and crying out, "No Bishops, Kings, Lords or Tyrants!" The New Englanders felt that the authority of the government of England and the National church must be crushed or their Puritanism be overthrown. It was this spirit largely which originated the late rebellion in America.

Throughout this unhappy war, the Episcopal church, in some places veiled in obscurity, still continued to exist in America, notwithstanding the utmost persecution evil men could bring upon it, and at length I have happily lived to see what so long I vainly hoped for—Dr. Seabury, the persecuted priest from the city of New York, return the first consecrated Diocesan Bishop of Connecticut—my native land.*

* Dr. Samuel Seabury was consecrated Bishop at Aberdeen, Scotland, November 14th, 1784, by Bishops Kilgour, Petrie and Skinner.

As long ago as 1716 the Rev. John Talbot had expressed the desire felt in America for a resident Bishop in the following emphatic words: "The poor church here in the wilderness, there is none to guide her among all the sons she has brought forth. When the apostles heard that Samaria had received the word of God, immediately they sent out two of the chief, Peter and John, to lay hands on them, and pray that they might receive the Holy Ghost. And when Paul did but dream that a man of Macedonia called him, he set sail all so fast, and went over himself to help them. But we have been here these twenty years calling till our hearts ache, and yet own 'tis the cause and call of God, and yet ye have not heard, or have not answered, and that's all one."

More than thirty years later (A. D. 1748) Rev. Dr. Johnson writes "twenty-five men have gone a

In July, 1776, Congress declared Independence, and ordered the Commonwealth to be prayed for instead of the King and Royal family. All the loyal churches were thereupon shut up, except one at Newton, Connecticut, of which the Rev. John Beach was rector. His gray hairs adorned with loyal and Christian virtues overcame the madness of his enemies. This faithful disciple entered his church, saying: "If I am to credit the surmises kindly whispered to me, that unless I forbear from praying for the King I shall never pray or preach more, I can only say, whilst no intimation could well be more distressing, it admits not one moment's delay: with all due respect for my ordination oaths, I am firm in my resolution while I pray at all to conform with the unamutilated liturgy of the church, and pray for the King and all in authority under him."

Upon this the rebels seized him, resolved to cut out his tongue. He said, "If my blood must be shed, let it not be done in the house of God." The pious mob then dragged him out of the church. "Now, you old devil," said they, "say your last prayer!" Whereupon he devoutly kneeled down, saying, "O Lord and Father of mercies, look upon these mine enemies and forgive them. They know not what they do; they are blindly misled; O God, in mercy open their eyes."

By the Providence of God, the council of his enemies was brought to naught and his life spared.†

In September, 1776, Washington was compelled to evacuate New York, by General Howe, to the great relief of loyalists in New York. He penetrated into the country

thousand leagues for Episcopal orders, of whom no less than five have lost their lives and several others suffered the most dangerous sicknesses, and all at the expense of more than we could well afford."

† In his last letter to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, written from Newton, Conn., Oct. 31, 1781, Mr. Beach, after referring to the difficulties of conveyance of letters, says: "A narrative of my troubles I dare not now give. Newton and part of Reading are (I believe) the only parts of New-England that have refused to comply with the doings of Congress, and for that reason have been the butt of general hatred; but God has delivered us from entire destruction. I am now in the year of my age, yet do constantly, alternately, perform service and preach at Newton and Reading; my congregation being commonly about 300 at Reading and at Newton about 600. I have been sixty years a public preacher, and after conviction in the Church of England fifty years." Six months later Mr. Beach died, fairly worn out, but feeling assured that he had conscientiously tried during his long life to "Fear God; honor the king."