

were declared not to be eligible to any of the vacant congregations in this country. It was scarcely possible for the Synod to do more, in this matter, than they did."

We think they did rather too much, and that there was a hardship in thus obliging individuals to leave their country against their will; and an undue severity in punishing their refusal as they did. It was scarcely in keeping with that Christian liberty which the Gospel proclaims, and it was a stretch of ecclesiastical authority which we cannot think was warranted by any principle of religion or precept of Christ. But it proves the eager and honorable zeal of this Church to extend the cause of Christianity to the distant places of the earth.

We have already noticed that Mr. Mason and his companions were sent to America in 1761. Mr. Mason, afterwards the celebrated Dr. John Mason, was settled in New York, but was a member of the Pennsylvania Presbytery. He repeatedly corresponded with the Synod, stating their condition and prospects, and urgently requesting the aid of other missionaries. The Synod were exceedingly anxious to afford all the aid in their power, but found great difficulty in inducing preachers to embark to a foreign land. There were so many openings at home, that preachers were soon called, and preferred remaining. The laborious nature of the foreign mission, particularly at that period, seemed to deter many from setting their thoughts on it. It was considerations of this kind that led the Synod to make it imperative on preachers, when appointed, to submit to the authority of the Synod. This law could, however, seldom be enforced; and although in some instances the preachers appointed declined going, and were, in consequence, deprived of their licence; yet so many excuses could be adduced that, for the most part licence was restored, and the unwilling preachers allowed to remain and settle at home. Mr. William Jameson (grandfather to the late Jamaica and Calabar missionary of the same name) was appointed, in 1762, to go to Pennsylvania; but a call being given him by the congregation at Kilwinning, he was settled there. In the same manner, Mr. John France and Mr. James Ramsay were appointed to Pennsylvania; but were prevented from going by receiving calls, and being settled at home—the former at Bucklyvie, and the latter at Glasgow.

At this period, however, with great difficulty they succeeded in sending out two or three preachers to labour in Pennsylvania, by whom the Presbytery was re-enforced. In the meantime, negotiations had been proceeding with missionaries in Pennsylvania belonging to the other side of the Secession, and with these a union had been effected. But of this union the Synod at home highly disapproved; and, in consequence, refused to acknowledge any as their corresponding brethren who entered into it; and they recognized only such as stood out against it as belonging to them. We are surprised and disappointed to find at this period (twenty years after the unhappy rupture in the Original Associate Synod) that the keenness of prejudice had not diminished, and that the Burgher brethren were still looked upon as "heathen men and publicans."

The Rev. Mr. Telfer, who was afterwards settled at the Bridge of Teith, had been sent out on a mission to Pennsylvania, and having returned at this time, was entrusted to communicate to the Synod the fact of the union that had taken place in Pennsylvania. He did so, in a letter to the Moderator, as follows:—

"REV. AND DEAR SIR,—As the Presbytery of Pennsylvania lately sent a petition to your Synod, which was given in to your Committee of Bills, by Alexander Mowbray, merchant in Edinburgh, this morning, before I came to town, it is expected that it will meet with an agreeable reception. As I was a member of that Presbytery, I am better able to inform you of their affairs; and if you are disposed for peace and agreement in the Lord, I will be exceedingly fond to give you such information, by any number of members you may appoint, and prosecute the ends of agreement. And may the Lord grant us to see eye to eye, and to be perfectly united in the same mind. Please commu-