

land hundreds of Prelatic conformists to Presbytery, belonging to a class who yielded to circumstances rather than principle in becoming the ministers of a Presbyterian establishment. They are described by an English bishop of the highest authority, as 'generally mean and despicable in all respects' as the worst preachers he had ever heard; 'ignorant to a reproach;' many of them being 'openly vicious' 'a disgrace to their orders, and the sacred functions' the dregs and refuse of the Northern parts.' Thus during the interval referred to, many a, 'root of bitterness' was planted in the church, which ere long sprung up and filled the land with troubles."

In that part of the country where Mr. John Heugh was settled, Episcopacy retained its ascendancy. It was after much hesitation that he agreed to enter on this charge. "On the day fixed for his ordination, no admission could be obtained into the church,—one of those edifices, which, constructed before the Reformation, had been successively devoted to Popish, Presbyterian, and Episcopal worship. The Episcopalians were resolved in the present instance, to yield possession only to force. As appears from the minutes of Presbytery, the person in charge of the keys had absconded himself, and the ordination took place in the church-yard. On the Sabbath after he was ordained, admission to the church was still denied; but under the direction of the Presbytery a warrant was obtained to force the doors, which was done accordingly, and in the minute narrative of the Presbyterial record, we are informed that 'new locks were put thereon.'"

The Episcopal party occasioned much annoyance to Mr. Heugh at the commencement of his ministry; but he soon produced an entire revolution of sentiment in that quarter. "Acting on the apostolic maxim, that 'the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves,' he gained a hearing without exciting irritation. By the great body of his parishioners, he was for some time much more seen than heard. Having few to preach to in the parish church, he might be seen lingering near the entrance of the Episcopal meeting-house, ready to 'warn every man, and teach every man,' willing to hear him."

"On one occasion, not long after his settlement, the Episcopal clergyman was not present to officiate. Mr. Heugh improved the opportunity by preaching to his adherents in the open air. The effects of the service were not soon forgotten. From that day he could count on a larger audience, and ere long, by the attractions of the pure gospel,—spoken in forcible, sententious, and plain language,—in contrast with a cold and negative theology, the Episcopalian audience soon all but emptied itself into the parish church. The minister, who had in this manner gathered the flock, earnestly set himself to feed them; and he did so with a success which made his name pass down as a venerated household word, among the most godly of the parishioners during a period of near a century, embracing the incumbencies of five successors."

This worthy minister died on the 23rd of December, 1731, immediately before the crisis of the origin of the Secession. The youngest of his six children, born only a few months before his father's death, was afterwards the Rev. John Heugh, minister of the Associate (Anti-burgher) Congrega-