

to Presbyterianism, but it is evident it was a Congregational Church from the fact that after Mr. Cheevers had ministered to the people a short time, he was invited to settle, an invitation which he accepted, and that then he was sent with letters to Congregational ministers in Massachusetts, who convened a Council at Rochester, Mass., and installed him as Pastor of the Liverpool church in accordance with its request on the 19th September, 1761. Mr. Cheevers returned to Liverpool, and preached in private dwellings, in the school house, or wherever opportunity offered. Several times town meetings were held, in accordance with New England custom, for the purpose of devising ways and means to secure the erection of a meeting house; but not until 1774, was anything definite agreed upon. At a town meeting in that year it was resolved to erect a place of worship to be owned by proprietaries, who should take shares. It was agreed that the dimensions of the building should be 56 x 42, and the work was proceeded with. In 1776, the building, now known as "Old Zion," was opened for Divine worship, as the record of the Town Commissioners further states that a town meeting was convened and held therein November 18, 1777. The cost of the building is stated to have been £804.

At a subsequent period exciting meetings were held by the Rev. Mr. Black, a Methodist minister, and some of the proprietaries of "Old Zion" became Methodists, and claimed an interest as such in the building, which appears to have been recognised. After a time the Congregationalists withdrew on account of some difficulty, and held their services in a separate place, some years since occupied by a daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Smith, one of the early settlers. An arrangement was at length arrived at, and the shares in "Old Zion" were purchased from the Methodists, since which time, till now, "Old Zion" has been held for *bona fide* Congregational purposes.

Mr. Cheevers was not the man, however, to establish firmly a Puritan or Congregational Church, for although sufficiently orthodox in his belief, it is to be feared that he laid more stress on orthodox opinions than orthodox life; and it is stated that he was somewhat lax himself in his course. Under his preaching the church became petrified and cold, and the people got into a frame of mind which would cause many among them to jump to the opposite extreme. There was not the same opportunity then to get news as at present, and the word passed from one to another that a great preacher was at work in the settlements, stirring up the people's hearts. Henry Alline was passing from place to place, and by his fervid appeals created great excitement. He was a good young man, a zealous preacher, but injudicious, and his popularity warped his judgment.

"Oh popular applause, what heart of man
Is proof against thy sweet seducing charms?
The wisest and the best feel urgent need
Of all their caution in thy gentlest gales."

At length Henry Alline arrived in Liverpool. Everybody was in expectation. His fame had preceded him, and the people flocked to see and hear. He preached in "Old Zion" to crowded audiences, and his fiery eloquence produced a marked effect. He stirred up enthusiasm.