

With the exception of Mr. Seccombe of Chester, it is not known that any of the Congregationalist ministers who were settled in the New England townships on the eve of the war of the Revolution remained in the Province until its close. It is not proper to question their motives in thus withdrawing. They were placed in an embarrassing situation and to return to their homes was to follow the line of least resistance.

Spiritual succor came to the pastorless flocks from an unexpected quarter. Among the first group of Rhode Island settlers in Falmouth a lad named Henry Alleine accompanied his parents. As he grew towards manhood he came under the influence of a wave of religious enthusiasm which at that time was sweeping over the Protestant, and particularly the Puritan, parts of North America. One effect of this movement apart from its moral and spiritual results was to sensibly weaken respect for things established simply because they were established and traditional. So when Henry Alleine felt moved to play the part of a religious teacher he found no stumbling blocks in his way.

Without the assumption of clerical orders or assertion of ecclesiastical authority, in the course of a few brief years, he dotted over the New England townships with "Newlight meeting houses," within whose walls spiritual fervor made up for lack of learned discourses and the liturgical proprieties. Neither Haliburton nor Murdock mentions his name. Campbell has an appreciative notice, but seems to confuse his work with that of a transatlantic divine. The secular historian does not transcend his sphere when he recognises the forces which operate for the moral and spiritual uplift of the people.

New York, March 21st, 1783.

Sir:

In conformity to your Excellency's desire, we now lay before you the following plan for an episcopate in Nova Scotia and please ourselves with the prospect of its succeeding under your Excellency's patronage. The plan is simply this, viz:

That a Bishop be consecrated in England and sent to reside in Nova Scotia, to have the superintendence of the clergy, to ordain candidates for holy orders, and to confirm such of the laity there as shall desire confirmation, but not to be invested with any temporal power or authority whatever. In support of this plan we think many