

of conciliation was soon followed by other measures of an opposite tendency ; and in 1667 we find him, grieved with the distractions and persecutions around him, again undertaking a laborious journey to lay before the king the distempered state of his kingdom and the necessity of concession, as well as indulgence, if he would hope to retain episcopacy at all. He was again heard with kindness, and dismissed with promises ; and the consequence of this was, an attempt at some comprehensive scheme of church government which should reconcile the minds of the kirk to episcopacy, and still leave them so much of their own discipline as should be most essential to their prejudices and habits. But the remedy came too late,—if it ever could have succeeded at all. The close contact into which the two parties had been brought, and the acrimony to which it had given birth, only served to alienate their minds more effectually from each other. The plan of Leighton was agreeable to neither, for while his concessions were thought almost subversive of episcopacy by the church, they were deemed unsatisfactory by the kirk ; and all the benevolence, and constancy, and wisdom of the bishop, only served to bring upon him the suspicions of both. Still, however, so long as any thing further could be attempted, he was unwilling to despair ; through evil report, and good report, he still pursued his path of peace, and that he might negotiate more effectually from higher grounds, he accepted, in 1669, the Archbishopric of Glasgow, vacated by the removal of Alexander Burnet, in consequence of new powers granted to the king by what was called the Assertery Act. In this situation, having obtained, in a third conference, fresh powers from the king, he carried on a negotiation through the medium of his friend, G. Burnet, with Hutchinson, and the leaders of the covenant, and afterwards visited in person the most prominent of the indulged ministers, exhorting them affectionately to put an end to the differences which distracted their unhappy country ; and when these offers had entirely failed, when his kindness had been received with incivility by some, with suspicion by others, and with unwelcomeness by all, he proposed, as a last resource, a solemn congress, that it might appear, at least to the world, at whose door it lay that the divisions of the church were not healed. The proposal was accepted ; and the congress met first at Holyrood House, 9th August, 1679, and again at Paisley, in December of the same year. In the former, Lauderdale opened the proceedings, and Leighton, Burnet, and Patterson supported the cause of episcopacy ; and were opposed by Hutchinson, Wedderburn, Ramsay, and two others. In the latter, Leighton assisted by two other clergymen, entered the lists against twenty-six nonconformists. It is needless to say that these debates were followed by no satisfactory results. Neither the arguments nor the prayers of the prelate, nor the concessions of the government, which he bore in his hand, could prevail for