

procured her a particular degree of respect and notice, from a quarter where she had not been favoured with much of either for some time before. The American war, which, from inward and artfully-fomented murmurings, had at last broke out into open revolt, and had been carried on for some years with various success between Britain alone, and her rebellious colonies, supported by France, Spain and Holland, had, in spring, 1783, terminated in a peace, by which Britain gave up her sovereignty over these colonies, and fully acknowledged and ratified the independence which they had already assumed to themselves, under the new title of "The Thirteen United States of America." This concession of necessary policy dissolved the established connection which had hitherto subsisted between the Episcopal people in America and the Bishop of London, who had always been, by appointment and practice, the proper Ordinary of the Episcopal Church there, but could no longer now be submitted to by them in that character. And as the United States had found it for their interest to grant an universal liberty of conscience to all professions, without preference to any by way of establishment, the Episcopal clergy, thus left to themselves, and destitute of any Superior, began to look about how to get this fundamental defect removed, and have their now orphan church duly organized, in such a form as they believed essential to her being, and might find consistent with the civil constitution of their new government.

In this important undertaking, the clergy in the province of Connecticut, who had long been a numerous body, took the lead; and having, after mature deliberation, pitched upon Dr. Samuel Seabury, one of the missionaries from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, as a clergyman, in their unanimous judgment, every way qualified for the Episcopal function, and who had been one of the suffering loyalists during the late war, they sent him over to their old mother Church of England, with proper attestations of his character and qualifications, and earnestly supplicating the Prelates of that flourishing church to take pity upon their desolate state, and give them a Bishop in the person of this worthy brother, to be a spiritual father to them for governing them in the mean time, and for the great work of continuing a regular ministry to posterity in time to come. Upon the Doctor's arrival in England, and presenting his credentials, the English Prelates received him very graciously, but required time to consider in what way the object of his journey might be best accomplished. The business was new, and out of the usual line of their procedure hitherto, in the performance of this distinguishing part of their high office. They saw the expediency of the measure proposed, but wished to have some preliminaries adjusted, and brought as near as possible to their own stated forms, without which, they were at a loss how to act consistently with that regard which they owed to the standing practice of their church, and the strict connection subsisting in England between the civil and ecclesiastical constitution.

In this state of suspense, which necessarily lasted many months, the candidate began to weary of so long a delay, and such a continuing uncertainty, as the former was not convenient for his own situation, nor the latter suitable to the expectations of his employers; therefore having known before that there was a continued succession of Bishops in Scotland, and finding, where he then was, no objection to the validity of their Episcopal powers, what