

mere providential income, arising from unforeseen donations and legacies, together with the subscriptions of their own members, been able to carry on a work which seems to require a certain public revenue for its support. The success of the Society's labors hath exceeded their first hopes. The Church of England hath been by law established in some Colonies; in others, numerous congregations of people have been gathered, who have had the benefit of the administration of God's Word and Sacraments; above sixty churches have been built, a very great body of people have been instructed; many schools have been opened for the training up of children and youth in the knowledge of the Christian Faith, and with convenient learning; and above eight thousand volumes of books, besides above one hundred thousand small tracts, of devotion and instruction, have been dispersed among the inhabitants.

In justice and honor to the Colonies it must be remarked here, how much they deserved this help of their countrymen. Great numbers of the most worthy persons in the richer Colonies showed a very earnest and sincere zeal to have the Church of England settled among them; nay, in some Colonies, during their unsettled state, many poor inhabitants, who had scarce built themselves houses, contributed towards building churches. They have been liberal in their poverty; and that Providence which hath in so early a season disposed them to be a religious people, seems by that to design them hereafter to be a great and flourishing people.

The propagation of the Gospel, the spreading of the Christian Faith, and settling of the Church of England in the Colonies, containing now a great body of people, is plainly a work of so great excellency, it needs no words to recommend it to a Christian. Especially if it be farther considered, that the numerous posterity of the present inhabitants will derive their knowledge of the true Christian Faith, from the labors of this Society; when those vast tracts in America, now waste deserts and wildernesses, may, ages hereafter, become cultivated and fruitful countries, covered with cities and towns, and filled with nations of Christians.

In gratitude to the memory of the founder of this Society, King William the III, it may not be improper to conclude this treatise, with remarking to the reader, the erecting of this corporation, was among the last public actions of his heroic life. After having rescued the Protestant religion in Europe, and saved the Church of England here, he did by this last act, as it were, bequeath it to his American subjects, as the most valuable legacy, and greatest blessing.