

and wild, the countries a mere wilderness, and almost desolate. The society did, soon after their establishment, endeavor the conversion of the Indians bordering on New York. The French, and the adjoining Canada Indians, had several times, by various artifices, seduced them to ravage the frontier settlements of New England and New York. The Earl of Bellamont, in the year 1700, Governor of New York, made a representation to the Lords of trade and plantations here, "That there was a great want of some ministers of the Church of England to instruct the five nations of Indians, on the frontiers of New York, and prevent their being practiced upon by French priests and Jesuits, who were conversant among them, and very industrious in persuading them, by pretences of religion, to espouse the French interest."

Whereupon the Lords Commissioners represented it as their humble opinion, "That if a fund could be found for the maintenance of such ministers, they might be of very great use and service, as well for the propagation of the reformed religion, as for improving the interest of England." This representation was laid before the Queen in Council; upon which the following order was made:

At the Court of St. James's, the third day of April, 1700. Present, the Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

"Upon reading this day at the Board, a representation from the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, dated the second of this month, relating to Her Majesty's Province of New York in America, setting forth among other things, that as to the five nations bordering upon New York, lest the intrigues of the French of Canada, and the influence of their priests, who frequently converse, and sometimes inhabit with those Indians, should debauch them from Her Majesty's allegiance, their Lordships are humbly of opinion, that besides the usual method of engaging the said Indians by presents; another means to prevent the influence of the French missionaries among them, (and thereby more effectually to secure their fidelity,) would be, that two Protestant ministers be appointed, with a competent allowance, to dwell among them, in order to instruct them in the true religion, and confirm them in their duty to Her Majesty. It is ordered by Her Majesty in Council, that it be, and it is hereby referred to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to take such care therein as may most effectually answer this service."

His Grace the Archbishop, the President of this Society, communicated this most gracious resolution to the Board. The Society agreed presently to do their utmost. A mission among the Indians they knew would be attended with many difficulties, and therefore it was not an easy matter to procure a proper person who would undertake it. The inhabitants of Albany, one hundred miles from New York, and a frontier to the Indians, were chiefly Dutch, and had the chief dealings with the Indians; Mr. Delliuss, a minister, had resided there; and was represented to the Society as a very proper person to attempt the conversion of the Indians. The Society were also informed, that during his residence at Albany, he had been useful in instructing and converting