

then sick in bed they forced out of doors, and pillaged the house of almost everything that was valuable. They forced me in the afternoon to appear before them. I was strictly examined and questioned by their leaders; and it gave me pleasure that I could assure them that I had never in my sermons so much as glanced at the political disputes, though I declared that not the severest punishment, not the fear of death, should tempt me to violate the oath of allegiance and supremacy to King George, of canonical obedience to my diocesan, or, in conformity to the provincial congress, to deviate from the rules of the crown of England, or in the instructions I had received from the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, whose servant I was; and that I was resolved by God's blessing, that no temptation should prevail with me to do, or even promise anything unworthy of my ministerial character. I was then allowed to retire to my house. The next day they placed a guard at another of my parishioner's houses, and carried away all his plate. They permitted me upon my parole to walk about town unguarded; and on Saturday I made my escape on board the King's ship, having good reason to believe that they intended carrying me away with them, and confine me their prisoner in the country. Sunday I read prayers and preached on board the ship. Monday, having received a letter from my church warden, we put to sea, and the next Sunday I arrived at the place where I am (Boston), without money and without clothing, my family at more than a hundred miles distant from me, a wife and three children destitute of bread, among enemies who bear the greatest malice to the Church of England, my little flock persecuted and many of them obliged to flee from their dwellings. . . . I am stripped of everything. However, though I walk in darkness, I know that God is able to protect His Church, and though we suffer in the cause of truth, I will trust in Him who can bring light out of darkness, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the fowls of heaven."