

with Mr. Rowland, and heard him preach in Pennsylvania or Maryland. The jury accordingly acquitted him, without hesitation, to the great disappointment and mortification of his persecutors, and of many others who were enemies, but to the great joy of the serious and well-disposed.

The spirits, hostile to the spread of the Gospel, were not, however, so easily overcome. In their view, an opportunity was now presented, favorable for inflicting a deep wound on the cause of Christianity; and, as if urged on by the malice of man's great enemy, they resolved that no means should be left untried, no arts unemployed, for the destruction of these distinguished servants of God. Many and various were the circumstances which still contributed to inspire them with hopes of success. The testimony of the person who had been robbed was positive that Mr. Rowland was the robber; and this testimony was corroborated by that of a number of individuals who had seen Tom Bell personating Mr. Rowland, using his name, and in possession of the horse.

These sons of Belial had been able, after great industry used for the purpose, to collect a mass of evidence of this kind, which they considered as establishing the fact; but Mr. Rowland was now out of their power by the verdict of "not guilty." Their vengeance therefore was divided against the witnesses, by whose testimony he had been cleared, and they were accordingly arraigned for perjury before a Court of quarter sessions in the county; and the Grand Jury received a strict charge, the plain import of which was, that these good men ought to be indicted.

After an examination of the testimony on one side only, as is the custom in such cases, the Grand Jury did accordingly find bills of indictment against Messrs. Tennent, Anderson and Stevens, for wilful and corrupt perjury. Their enemies and the enemies of the Gospel now began to triumph. They gloried in the belief that an indelible stain would be fixed on the professors of religion, and, of consequence, on religion itself; and that this 'new light,' by which they denominated all appearance of piety, would soon be extinguished for ever.

These indictments were removed to the supreme court; and