

to the Church of England, events of vast magnitude, involving consequences which no man could estimate. "His conversion," says Mr. Quincy, "shook New England like an earthquake." When the appalling news came to Joseph Webb of Fairfield, he wrote plaintively to Cotton Mather, "I apprehend the axe is hereby laid to the root of our civil and sacred enjoyments."

Many earnest, faithful men followed Cutler and his friends into the Episcopal Church, bringing with them the conscientiousness and self-sacrificing devotion to truth, which induced them to renounce the views in which they had been educated, and being natives of the country, and accustomed to New England ways, they were more useful than clergymen educated in England. When Mr. Beach, who had been one of Cutler's pupils, renounced Congregationalism, a shrewd matron wisely observed, that "she knew Mr. Beach would turn churchman, for she never heard of any one that kept reading church books but what always did."

Some ill-natured persons, who could not believe that any one was capable of making great sacrifices for the sake of doing right, said that Cutler had long been at heart a churchman and that he waited until there was to be a new church in Boston, to which he might hope to be appointed, before declaring publicly what he had held privately. The Rev. Henry Harris, assistant to the Minister of King's Chapel, accused him of insincerity in a communication sent to the Bishop of London, which, if it ever reached him, remained unnoticed. On the 22d of June, 1724, Harris, who was never friendly to Cutler, and who charged him with holding popish and jacobite principles, wrote to the Bishop's successor that "the motive of this person's conversion was the prospect of a new church in this town," and that "his behavior is so imprudent, his notions so wild and extravagant, and his principles so uncharitable," that "the church will never flourish under his care." The whole tone of the letter confirms the statement in a letter written by Samuel Johnson to the Bishop of London, Oct. 10, 1724, that Harris was dis-