

of the first settlers in those provinces, and of their numerous engagements with the natives, in which much blood was shed, even in the infancy of those colonies. These people, inhabiting those places, being grounded in customs contrary to the pure truth, when some of them were affected with the powerful preaching of the Word of Life, and joined in fellowship with our society, they had a great work to go through. It is observable in the History of the Reformation from Popery, that it had a gradual progress from age to age: the uprightness of the first reformers, in attending to the light and understanding given them, opened the way for sincere-hearted people to proceed further afterward; and thus each one truly fearing God, and labouring in those works of righteousness appointed for them in their day, findeth acceptance with him: though, thro' the darkness of the times, and the corruption of manners and customs, some upright men may have had little more for their day's work than to attend to the righteous principle in their minds, as it related to their own conduct in life, without pointing out to others the whole extent of that, which the same principle would lead succeeding ages into. Thus for instance; amongst an imperious warlike people, supported by oppressed slaves, some of these masters, I suppose, are awakened to feel and see their error; and, thro' sincere repentance, cease from oppression,