

[1790]

lity of ornamenting places of religious worship, with such pictures as might be useful, and could possibly give no offence in a protestant country; that, probably, this example would be followed in other chapels and churches; that it would be opening a new and noble scene of action, would not only be highly ornamental to the country, but would be absolutely necessary for the future labour of the many pupils the Academy was breeding up; adding, withal, an observation I had made some little time before at Milan; that, in one church there (the Domo) there was more work of pictures and statues, than the whole Academy could be able to execute in a century, even supposing them to work every day. Every one came into the proposal with great eagerness. Sir Joshua Reynolds proposed, as an amendment, that, instead of Somersets chapel, we had better undertake St. Paul's cathedral, which was agreed to; and he was accordingly commissioned to propose it to the dean and chapter; they consented, and we had a regular meeting of the Academy in consequence, where Angelica, Barry, Cipriani, Dance, Reynolds, and West, were, by the majority of votes, selected from the body of the Academy for this purpose; the matter made some little noise for a time; but, in the end, came to nothing; as we were informed in October, 1773, that the Bishop of London, Dr. Terrick, would not give his consent.

“ Very shortly after our disappointment in the affair of St. Paul's, I received the following letter from Valentine Green, Esq; mezzotint engraver to his Majesty.

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