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DR. PETER CHAMBERLEN

Physician to Stuart Kings and Baptist Pastor.

Born May 8th, 1601 ; died December 22nd, 1683.

Buried in the Churchyard of Woodham Mortimer, Maldon, Essex.

Transactions

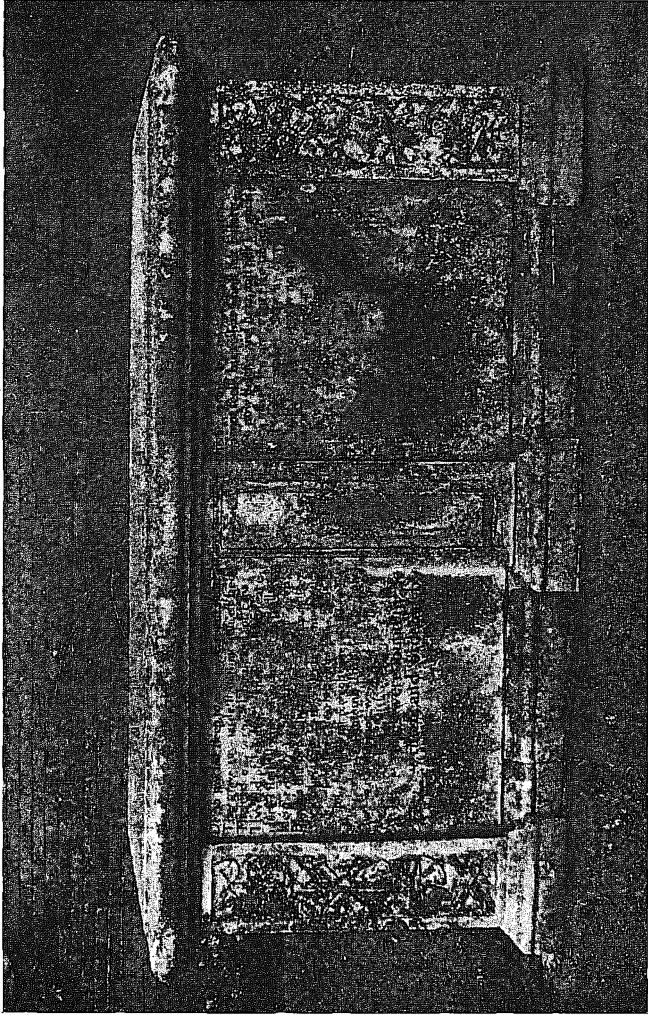
of

Baptist Historical Society.

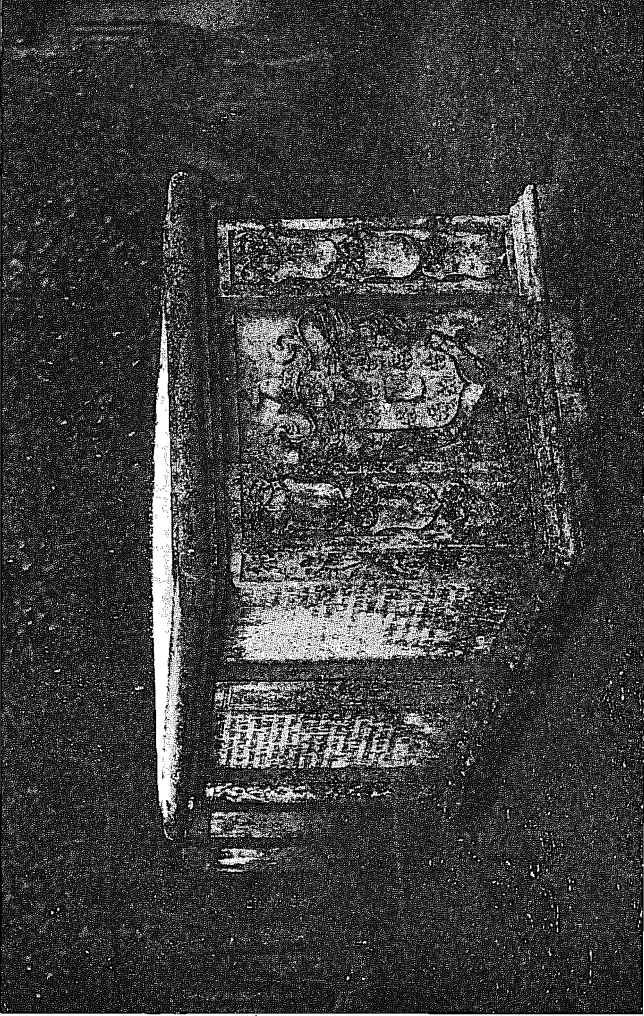
Vol. II., No. 1—April, 1910.



WOODHAM MORTIMER HALL, MALDON, ESSEX, where Dr. Peter Chamberlen (1601-1683) passed the later years of his life. Behind the cedar tree, on the left side of the picture, one may see the East end of the church. In the North-east corner of the churchyard, quite near to the Hall property, stands the monument which marks the Doctor's last resting-place—"the grave my hardest, but my easiest bed."



TOMBSTONE—SOUTH SIDE, WITH VERSES "ORDERED FOR HIS EPITAPH."



TOMBSTONE—WEST END, WITH ARMS. WELL DEFINED AFTER TWO CENTURIES' EXPOSURE TO
"WIND AND WEATHER."

THE CHAMBERLEN TOMBSTONE.

INSCRIPTION ON THE NORTH SIDE.

Here lyes ye body of Docter Peter Chamberlen, who was borne on O ye 8th of may, 1601, & dyed on H ye 22th of December. 1683; being aged 82 years, 7 months, & 14 days. he had 2 wives, & by ye first Iane Middleton had 11 sons, & 2 daughters, & amongst them 45 grand Children & 8 great grand Children: whereof were living att his death three sons: viz: Hugh, Paul, & Iohn, & his two daughters, and 20 grand Children, and 6 great grand Children.

By ye second Anne Harrison had 3 fones & 2 daughters; whereof onely Hope was living att his Death who hath Erected this Monument in Memory of his Father.

The said Peter Chamberlen toock ye degree of Docter in Physick. in severall Vniversities both att home & abroad, and lived such above three score years, being Physitian in Ordinary to three Kings & Queens of England. viz King Iames & Queen Anne; King Charles ye first & Queen Mary; King Charles ye second & Queen Katherine; & also to some forraigne Princes; having travelled most partes of Europe, & speaking most of the Languages.

As for his Religion was a Christian keeping ye Commandments of God & faith of Iesus, being baptized about ye year 1648, and keeping ye 7th day for ye sabbath above 32 years.

To tell his Learning and his Life to Men: Enough is said by here lyes Chamberlen.

INSCRIPTION ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

Death my last sleep, to ease my carefull head,
The grave my hardest, but my easiest bed.
The end of sorrow, labour and of care;
The end of trouble, sickness and of feare;
Here I shall fin no more, no more shall weep^e,
Here's onely to be found, a quiet sleep.
Death's but one night, my life hath many seene;
My life brought death, death brings me life again^e.
Seeds rise to trees, hearbes rise againe from feede
Shall bodies then of men obtaine worfe speed.
Wee dayly dye, entomb'd in sleep and night;
Butt in the morning, we renew our light.

These verses were found made
written, and ordered by

Hence spring my loyes, & comfortes evermore
I cannot feele, butt what Christ felt before.
Wee now believe, and hear, and talk by guess;
Then i shall see, and what i see possesse.
And when i wake, wrapt in eternall light;
Of God and Christ, i know no more of night.
Crown'd with eternal glories, ever blest;
Oh! happy rest, that brings me all the rest.
Bodies Calcin'd to iemms, like stars shall sing
Ravish't with loyes, & praises of my King.
Praised be God my Saviour, praise his name
Angels & Saints, sing with me of his fame.

Docter Peter Chamberlen,
here interred for his Epitaph.

Note.—In all, there are 460 words. In the second and third lines of the North-Side inscription, observe the astronomical signs preceding the dates—one (apparently) indicating the *Sun* and the other *Saturn*. These signs would imply that the Doctor was born on Sunday, May 8th, and died on Saturday, December 22nd.

As a fact, however, May 8th was not Sunday, but *Friday*; and it would appear that an error on the part of the stone-mason is responsible for the mistake—the (defective) Circular Shield of the *Sun* was not supplied with the pendant cross so as to form the Looking-Glass of *Venus*, whence *Vendredi*, or *Friday* (♀).

Aveling has overlooked the astronomical signs; but he reproduces a record from the French Church in Threadneedle-street (preserved at Somerset House) which shows that Peter was baptized, or christened, on Tuesday, May 12th, presumably four days after his birth (on Friday).

The stone-mason's representation of the Scythe of *Saturn* is quite rudimentary; and it is noteworthy that the date of death, December 22, is followed by "th" and not "nd."