

Hartlebury and John Taylor in Chaddesley Corbet, 22 April, 1707. John Nickolls of King's Norton certified the newly erected house of Edward Dawks, 11 January, 1708/9.

These are all the certificates that survive from the Stuart period. The city records contain none, nor does the bishop's registry. The resulting picture of Protestant dissent in the county is not enlivening.

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## A Forgotten Hymnodist.

RICHARD KENT lived a hundred years ago, a deeply religious man, who wrote of his spiritual experiences almost daily. His speciality was to put them in verse; from May 6, 1824, to November 26, 1830, he wrote 558 hymns in one massive folio alone. A prefatory page acknowledges that his output to date was 8,973, in 21 volumes, with a general index to the whole in a separate book.

He lived in the Cambridge district, for there are allusions to a friend at Trumpington, and occurrences at Waterbeach and Great Swaffham. One of the volumes fell into the hands of a Bedford bookseller, from whom it was acquired in 1862 by W. H. Black, the Seventh-day Baptist. Fifty years later Messrs. Bull & Auvache sold it to Mr. Ernest G. Atkinson, of the Presbyterian Historical Society, who has now given it to the Baptist Historical Society.

The author claimed spiritual kinship with Bunyan, Hervey, Whitfield, Venn, Berridge, Guyse, Pool, and based his theology on the Articles and Homilies or the Westminster catechisms. Perhaps he might be called a Calvinistic Methodist, and though he disclaims Antinomian views, it is significant that only in an appendix to Gadsby have his verses been traced in print. One hymn was composed for the baptism of infants, but the immense majority are scriptural. An appendix brings out another side of life, with an elegy on a hare, a poem on the death of poor Grunter, "a rabet," and another on the death of Scowler, a horse.

Kent is unknown to Julian the hymnologist: can any reader furnish more information about him?