

admiralty affairs, claiming the restitution of his wife's property, securing the reversal of his Irish outlawry. This period of great influence lasted four or five years, till the king gave his favour again to the bishops.

In the last phase, when the Popish Plot was to the fore, Tonge accused him of being a Popish agent concerned in setting London afire in 1665. And the Duke of Buckingham won a case against him for perjury in 1680. So that he died on 24th August, rather in bad odour. Such fears were still entertained of him, that it was rumoured his death was feigned; and it was needful to exhume the body and exhibit it, to remove the apprehension.

W. T. WHITLEY.

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## Chard.

JOSIAH THOMPSON learned in 1770 that his church was founded by captain Wallington before 1653, and met in a barn on Crim Chard lane. The church was represented in 1653 at Wells, in 1655 at Bridgwater, and entertained the Association later that year. It was visited by Jessey 1656, entertained the Association again in 1657, April. On 29th December 1663 its minister S. Wade joined with his fellow-prisoner Toby Welles in sending a letter from Ilchester jail to their churches. In 1689 W. Wilkins attended the London meeting, and was diligent till the end of the century. Then a new site was given by a clothier, George Strong or Straw. Thomas Meacham was pastor about 1715 till his death in 1725; he re-modelled the meeting at his own expense. Then came an interregnum, Hann coming from Up Ottery to administer the ordinances. We hear of Bonner Stowe, Sam Geer for four years, Augustine Crisp perhaps 1765-70 before he went to Up Ottery, Ben Pitts with twenty members, Mills. Only with Samuel Rowles from Rotherhithe, 1783-97, does the story begin to clear; he began a register of births, now at Somerset House.