

Prisoners in Devon and Cornwall in 1672.

THE State Papers, Domestic, of Charles II, contain two in album 309, documents 103, which are duplicate lists of 18 Presbyterians, Independents, and Anabaptists, conceivably worthy of pardon together with Quakers:—

Edward Ebdon and John Bennet; prisoners in Southgate in Exon. on excommunication.

Thomas Egbeare and Elizabeth Pine (or Gine); prisoners in Stoke Canon in Devon on excommunication.

Samuel Hart and Henry Forty; prisoners in the King's Bench for nonconformity.

Alexander Edwards, Walter Tincombe (or Trincombe), William Lob, John Dier (or Diar), Charles Cock, Will Steevens; prisoners in Bodmin in Cornwall upon excommunication.

Samson Lark, Will Tacy (or Jasey), John Adams, Roger Rowe, Francis Hart; prisoner in the common jail at Exon for premunire.

Thomas Gower, prisoner in Durham jail on excommunication.

On the lists as a whole, it may be noted that the reason was excommunication. This method of putting people in jail was adopted afterwards with Bunyan, and called forth a legal pamphlet from James Jones of Southwark. Many people were startled lately by a very similar procedure when a man in default with an ecclesiastical court was sent to jail by the lord chancellor.

As to the men and woman. We cannot identify all as Baptist, for especially in Cornwall information is scanty. We know that the Lobbs and Tincombes were Presbyterian, and perhaps the Rowes also; the Ebdens and Egbeares were Congregational; for this very year they took out licences so describing themselves.

As to the others:—

Colonel Robert Bennett had been a well-known Baptist since 1650 in Cornwall; and album 303, document 103I shows that this year he received a pardon: John Bennet may be a relation.

The Dyers were a Baptist family, famous a century later in Plymouth.

William Facey lost no time in taking out a licence to teach at Tiverton.

Henry Forty had been twelve years in Exeter jail, and was freed together with Bennett on the application of Colonel Blood.

Sampson Lark went back to his work at Lyme Regis, joined Monmouth, and was executed for treason.

A Pyne was colonel and J.P. in Somerset 1653, and the family has been strong Baptist ever since.

Thomas Gower was very well known in London and Durham as a prominent Baptist.