

## Henry Denne.

HENRY DENNE appears first as curate of Pirton. After his adoption of Baptist principles and the onslaught of 1643 against him, he was imprisoned. When released in 1645 he at once "unmasked antichrist" as upheld by Dan Featley and Stephen Marshall, who in the previous year had defended infant baptism. He travelled from Eltisley in Cambridgeshire, widely, protesting against tithes, suggesting that a minister had better support himself as a carter between London and Spalding. He was again arrested, and when given a choice of prison or enlisting, chose the latter. In November, 1647, he took part in the debates at Putney as representing his regiment, demanding the trial of Charles for violating his coronation oath, also sketching a new constitution. At the same time he was charged in church circles as a familist and antinomian, a spiritual antichrist; while next year a New Englander upheld the baptism of infants against him. By 1649 he had become a Cornet, and was a head of the Levellers at Old Sarum, challenging the authority of the Rump parliament; so on 15 May Fairfax surprised his regiment at Burford, and condemned to death Denne and three others. The Levellers believed he had betrayed them, and it is certain that within nine days he issued a pamphlet deprecating the mutiny. He was pardoned and cashiered. Next he resumed Baptist propaganda and ecclesiastical debating against priests and presbyters preaching in Rochester cathedral, founding Eythorne church. But he published nothing more till 1658, and when he died two years later, he had earned the epitaph, which to-day has no point:—

To tell his wisdom, learning, goodness unto men,  
I need to say no more but, Here lies Henry Denne.

W. T. W.