

Loyal London Ministers, 1696.

Communicated by Ernest G. Atkinson, Esq., F.R.Hist.S.

AMONG the Association Oath Rolls of the year 1696 is an address to King William III from "the Ministers of divers Baptist Churches in and about London, on the behalf of themselves and their respective congregations." The address refers to the conspiracy against his Majesty's person and government, and expresses the loyal devotion of the signatories. They further state that, "in case his Majesty come to any violent or untimely death (which God forbid), we do hereby further freely and unanimously oblige ourselves to unite, associate, and stand by each other, in revenging the same upon his enemies and their adherents, and in supporting and defending the succession of the Crown," &c. A wish is expressed "that troupes (*sic*) of Associate Angels may always guard your Royal Person."

The address is signed by fifty Baptist ministers, as follows:—

William Kiffin [1616-1701; Devonshire Square, 6.]

W^m Collins [-1702; Petty France, 5.]

Tobias Russell [Joiners' Hall, 29. Not pastor?]

Leonard Harrison [Limehouse, 32.]

W^m Browne [16 -1704?; Park General, 12.]

Tho. Lampett [Broken Wharf, 8. Not pastor?]

Thomas Deane [Goswell St. General, 19.]

George White [Fair St. General, 2]

- Rich^d Tiddaman [Goswell St. General, 19. Not elder.]
 Tho: Harrison [1667-1702; Petty France, 5 Assistant.]
 John Piggott [-1713; Bow St. General, 33.]
 Mark Key [Had resigned co-eldership at Bow Street
 in 1693 being jealous of Piggott.]
 Richard Robbins [Sheer's Alley, 38.]
 Benj^h Gandar [Said by D'Assigny in 1709 to be then
 at Shadwell.]
 Joshua Farro [Goat Street, 22. Not pastor.]
 John Ward [Father of the professor. Found with
 Ebenezer Wilson in 1705, perhaps of Petty France
 now, 5.]
 Henry Cook [Pinner's Hall Seventh-day, 18.]
 John Griffith [fl. 1656-1702; Dunning's Alley General,
 10.]
 Robert Steed [fl. from 1655; Broken Wharf, 8.]
 Hercules Collins [16 -1702; Wapping, 3.]
 Richard Allen [-1717; Barbican, 14.]
 Thomas Kerby [-1719?; Goswell St. General, 19.]
 John Hammond.
 Joseph Stennett [1663-1713; Pinner's Hall Seventh-
 day, 27.]
 J. Wells [Barnet General.]
 Jn^o Smith [Two of this name moved in General Baptist
 circles now, signing a letter of commendation to
 Amsterdam this year.]
 John Allen.
 George Capstack [Broken Wharf, 8. Not pastor.]
 Nathaniel Wyles [Shakespeare's Walk, 39.]
 John Millard [Signature indicates youth.]
 Tho. Dawson [Goat St., 22. Not pastor.]
 Joseph Taylor [White's Alley General, 1.]
 Joseph Jackson.
 Rich. Adams [-1719; Devonshire Square, 6. Assistant.]
 George Barrett [Rotherhithe, 25.]
 James Pitman [flourished 1654-now; Barbican, 14.
 Senior pastor.]

Benjamin Keach [1640-1704; Goat St., 22.]

Benj. Dennis [Mile End Green, 20.]

John Nason [Goswell St. General, 19. Not elder.]

Simon Brunt [Pinner's Hall Seventh-day, 18.]

John Mauldin [1644-1714; Goodman's Fields General,
11.]

John Savage [Mill Yard Seventh-day General, 13.]

David Griffith [-1710?; Dunning's Alley General, 10.
Not elder.]

Elias Keach [1667-1701; Tallow-chandlers' Hall, 36.]

Geo. Hartman.

Richard Baxter [Winchester House, 35.]

Henry Soursbey [Mill Yard Seventh-day General, 13.]

John Carter [-1735?; Bow St. General, 33?]

Samuel Buttall.

John Millard [Signature indicates age.]

Notes by the Editor.

1. The Occasion. The interest taken by Baptists in the plot to murder William was nothing exceptional; the whole nation rallied to loyalty, and the Association was signed all over the country, as in the reign of Elizabeth when similar assassination plots were discovered. We may reasonably expect that the name of every Baptist minister "in and about London" would be attached, unless conscientious objections existed to revenge or to oaths: for no sympathy with James can be suspected.

2. The Document. Crosby extracted this from the Life of Joseph Stennet, at page 16, and printed it in his third volume on pages 278, 279, without signatures.

3. The Geography. Signatures profess to be of men in and near London. The only remarkable cases are Mark Key and Samuel Buttall. The former was appointed on 24 April 1695 to preach once each

Lord's Day at Reading, and thenceforward till September 1700 he figures constantly in the Reading records, though it is not said that he was ever pastor. On the contrary he was constantly journeying at the expense of the church there, which paid him £8 15s. for ten journeys. Evidently he wished to rank still as a Londoner, sojourning for a time in the country for his health. In June 1702 he went to Devonshire Square to assist Adams, and succeeded to the sole pastorate in 1718. Samuel Buttall had been a member of Jessey's church in Swan Alley; at the end of 1674 he went to Broadmead; in 1689 he attended the Assembly as a minister from Plymouth. Hitherto it was supposed that he "continued to preside over the church for some years, until 1697 or 1698"; but the roll of 1692 shows he was then only a minister, not pastor. This present list is good evidence that he was in or near London in 1696.

4. Missing Names. We look in vain for the signatures of a few London Baptist ministers. William Russell of Dean Street was so prominent that we must suppose either absence from town or conscientious objection. De Veil may perhaps have died by now, but his successor John Noble seems to have been a Londoner always. Penington Street had no pastor this year, and was refusing to have anything to do with Titus Oates. The General church at Deptford had two elders, William Woodham and William Alcock. Thomas Wilcocks of Tooley Street was apparently dead. Why Samuel Mee of Flower-de-luce and Joseph Maisters of Joiners' Hall and Benjamin Stinton of Goat Street did not sign is strange. And as Richard Baxter was allowed to, although his church was disowned, it is not evident why Thomas Warburton's signature is wanting.

5. Extinct Churches. Down to 1696 we know of 38 Baptist churches in London. Thirty-two were

represented on this roll, numbers are attached in brackets, which indicate the order of their foundation. The six missing probably were dead:—(4) The 1642 church of Munday and Tipping, known under James Jones in Southwark till the end of the reign of Charles: it may have united with Keach. (7) The great Glass-House church of 1644, which is known to about the same period, but seems to have dissolved with Joseph Morton's death. (9) The original church of 1616 which admitted Baptists after Jessey's baptism in 1645, and is last heard of as failing to secure Hardcastle from Broadmead in 1678. (15) The church of Chillenden, known at Houndsditch under Edward Man till just about this time, when it is supposed that John Noble fused it with the Gracechurch Street church. (16) Jeremy Ives' church in Old Jewry. (21) Lawrence Wise's church in Moorfields.

6. New Names. Six men are not yet identified, and while they may be preachers at one or other of the known churches, it is also possible that they represent some of the six churches just mentioned. In any case we make the acquaintance of John Allen, John Hammond, George Hartman, Joseph Jackson, and two John Millards; to say nothing of John Smith, known before but not placed.

7. A Gap Bridged. We were well posted as to the General Baptists at this time, but they were already outnumbered and outweighed by the Particulars. Of these we had a list in 1692 preserved by Rippon, and another of 1704 preserved by Ivimey, both referring to the London Baptist Association: we can now drop this list in between.

8. Order of Signatures. No principle can be traced. The list is indeed headed by Kiffin, but it is closed by another aged man, so it does not depend upon age. Nor on the age of the churches, as is shown by the numbers added to their names, in order of

seniority: Joiners' Hall and Limehouse are represented before Fair Street, while the original church of 1612 at White's Alley figures half-way down. Apparently some one travelled round and gathered signatures as he was able to meet the men.

Old Church Libraries.

The piety of some ministers has bequeathed to their churches many ancient volumes to form the nucleus of a pastor's library. Now that Dr. Williams' Library offers to send books both old and new to the home of every accredited man, these country collections seem to claim a new treatment. Three or four years ago, the church at Loughton presented to our Society a long run of the Baptist Magazine and of the Periodical Accounts, with some other volumes of reference. A similar gift has now been made by the Brookes' Trustees at Bewdley, who have also received grateful thanks from some score of Public Libraries, Grammar Schools, &c., for placing there appropriate volumes. This is the result of a report made to them by our Society. Custodians of any similar collection which is no longer in real use, are welcome to any advice we can give as to the best treatment of their books.