

THE
BAPTIST
ANNUAL REGISTER,

FOR 1798, 1799, 1800, AND PART OF 1801.

INCLUDING
SKETCHES
OF
THE STATE OF RELIGION
AMONG
DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS
OF GOOD MEN
AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY JOHN RIPPON, D. D.

From East to West, from North to South,
Now be his Name ador'd!
EUROPE, with all thy millions, shout
Hosannahs to thy Lord!
ASIA and AFRICA, resound
From shore to shore his Fame;
And thou, AMERICA, in songs
Redeeming Love proclaim!

SOLD BY MESSRS. BUTTON AND CONDER, LONDON; BROWN AND JAMES, BRISTOL; OGLE, EDINBURGH; ALLEIN, DUBLIN; AND MAY BE HAD OF THE BAPTIST MINISTERS IN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON, RICHMOND, SAVANNAH, AND CHARLESTON, IN AMERICA.



The late REV^d SAM^l PEARCE A.M.

Pastor of the Baptist Church at Birmingham.

Published by D. Rippon March 1. 1801.

A LIST *

OF

THE PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES IN ENGLAND.

1798.

The Names of Ministers in this Catalogue are printed in Italics, and so distinguished from Pastors.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

1.	BEDFORD , 1st Church	Samuel Hillyard
2.	2d Church	Daniel Morrell
3.	Biggleswade - - - -	Thomas Mabbot
4.	Blunham - - - -	Martin Mayle
		5 Carlton

NOTES.

* The friends of the register may rest assured, that neither labour nor expense has been spared to render this list complete. The information it contains is derived, not only from a general acquaintance, but from more than six hundred letters. And after all many of the churches are passed over in silence: the reason, in most instances, with respect to the country churches, is this, we either have nothing interesting concerning these societies to insert, or else our information is not correct enough for publication.

NUMBER I. This society, of which the renowned John Bunyan was pastor, is in a pleasing and prosperous condition. Additions continue to be made to it almost every month. In the course of the year 1796 a baptistery was built in the meeting-house, where there never had been one before. The first person baptized in it was Mr. John Kilpin, a senior deacon of the church, in company with several others, among whom was Mrs. Allein, a christian of good standing in the church, and mother of Mrs. Hillyard, wife of the present pastor. Mr. William Freeman, pastor of Cotton End, but who resides at Bedford, administered the ordinance, as he generally has done since that time. Mr. Hillyard's congregation, Lord's day afternoon and evenings, is about eight hundred. Besides the three services on the Lord's day, they have a Tuesday and Thursday evening meeting.

There are three dissenting congregations in Bedford. The old Baptist church, of which Mr. Samuel Hillyard, a paedobaptist, is pastor; the Independent church (a separation some years since from the former) of which Mr. Thomas Burkitt, late of Buckenham, is pastor; and the second Baptist church, on the strict communion plan, of which Mr. Daniel

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
5. Carlton - - - - -	Charles Vorley
6. Carrington Cotton End -	William Freeman
7. Cranfield - - - - -	William Wakefield
8. Dunstable - - - - -	Francis Hews
	9. Keyfoe

NOTES.

Morrell is pastor. These three congregations have an evening prayer meeting once a month, which is held in rotation at each of the places of worship. In the afternoon of the day, before this meeting for prayer, the three pastors, with whom Mr. Freeman of Cotton End is associated, meet and arrange their plan for village preaching for the then coming month; a plan which embraces between twenty and thirty villages. Hence on the Lord's day, at one or other of the meeting-houses in Bedford, it is common to give out five or six notices of preaching in different villages on the following days of the week. Nor are the exertions of these exemplary ministers confined here. Besides their own labours, they avail themselves of the talents of the pious and discreet in their churches. They have thirty gifted persons, or more, who are encouraged to promote *Village Worship*. Some of them can lead a tune, some can decently read a sermon, and all can pray. Two or three together, commonly one from each church, when the Lord's day afternoon service is over, walk to the villages. They have visited five or six, Clapham, Biddenham, Bromham, Harrowden, and other places, the consequence of which is, that prayer meetings and *Village Readings* are established, and in some places increasingly attended, while in the old congregations new faces are constantly seen, and multitudes are praying, that gospel ministers, throughout the land, would lay themselves out as they might, in *Village Preaching*, and for the increase of *Village Reading*.

2. Their case was first introduced to the notice of the Particular Baptist Fund in London, in 1797, by a letter of recommendation, with the signatures of Mr. John Emery of Little Stoughton, and Mr. Wm. Freeman of Cotton End.

4. This society is in a prosperous condition. They have raised several prayer meetings in the surrounding villages, and their meeting-house is well filled on the Lord's day. The happy pastor of this people has a salary of about 26*l. per annum*, a house to live in rent-free, and an opportunity of keeping a cow. This, with a small income of his own, he cheerfully devotes to the support of a wife and four sons. And though he has not been entirely free from trials, he finds that he has a good master, in whose service he is willing to live and die. His deacons are Simon Page and Edward Sutton.

5. Mr. Charles Vorley came out of the church at Irthlingborough in Northamptonshire, and, after he had been at Carlton a year and half, was requested to take upon him the pastoral office; some time after he obtained his dismission from Mr. Hall's church, and became pastor at Carlton, June 7th 1796.

6. In a flourishing condition. Their meeting-house was enlarged in 1796, and in the summer is more than full. They have on the Lord's day preaching forenoon and afternoon, and in the evening; as also on Thursday evening, a prayer meeting. Mr. Freeman was ordained April 16, 1794. Since then about forty persons have been added to the church. He has also registered a place for preaching at Williamstead, two miles from Cotton End, where a prayer meeting also is established twice a week. The church at Cotton End received assistance from the Baptist Fund in London till the year 1797, but does not at present stand in need of it.

CHURCHES,

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

9. Keyfoe - - - - -	William Dickens
10. Leighton Buzzard - -	Thomas Wake
11. Little Stoughton - - -	John Emery
12. Luton - - - - -	Thomas Pilley
13. Maulden - - - - -	William Coles
14. Ridgmount - - - - -	Thomas Hunt

NOTES.

7. In September 1797, this church consisted of sixteen members. They are a little happy society, rather increasing; three added last year, and more expected. Their pastor is a man much esteemed. He was sent into the ministry by the church at Keyfoe, and was ordained July 26, 1791.

10. When Mr. Wake removed to Leighton there were but twenty-one members: before September 1795, they had increased to more than fifty, "and the congregation was as large as the place would conveniently admit." Prospects were very hopeful, and several serious awakenings induced the pastor and people to believe the Lord was with them. Their increase of members the following year was twenty. This it seems was occasioned under the Divine blessing, by Mr. Wake's "constantly preaching in various villages round about, instead of preaching at home on Lord's day evenings; the villages shewed a singular readiness to attend." And in August 1797, he wrote thus, "a glorious prospect is open on every side in the villages, and several persons appear to be serious."

Mr. Wake keeps a day school. Monday evenings he repeats the substance of his discourses on the preceding day. Tuesday night is his lecture. Thursday evening village preaching. Friday night prayer meeting. Saturday afternoon catechizing in his own house. Among the good effects of his labours he reckoned an addition to his church of eleven persons from one village. His people voluntarily give up their Lord's day evening lecture in summer, to facilitate his success in the vicinity; and in the winter they meet for prayer and reading a sermon in the forenoon, that good may be done wherever Providence opens a door for their pastor's services. *Query.* Might not many ministers be much better employed of a Lord's day evening, than in preaching a third sermon to people who have heard two before, especially when it is considered, that there are multitudes around who seldom hear any thing of the way of salvation?

11. Mr. Emery's meeting-house was enlarged a few years ago, it is now quite full, and he baptizes very often.

12. The meeting-house was enlarged a few years since, and we are informed is as full on Lord's days as ever it was. The pastor of this church enjoys as much vigour as though he were a young man.

13. The friends of the church at Maulden have lately erected a place of worship at Ampthill, where a Lord's day evening lecture is preached by neighbouring ministers, and a monthly lecture on a Wednesday. The meeting-house is built on the pastor's premises, contiguous to his dwelling; the lectures are well attended, and the prospects, it is said, are flattering.

14. In their destitute condition they have been often supplied by the students of the Rev. Mr. Bull at Newport-Pagnell. Mr. Samuel Kilpin (a student at Bristol,) who assisted them five or six weeks in December and January last, received an affectionate call from them, to which he gave a negative, about the latter end of April 1798. Mr. Hunt, (late of Watford,) being invited, went among them. The congregation is somewhat increased, serious attention is given to the word; and the church, which is in peace and unity, cherish the thoughts of his settling among them.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
15. Sharnbrook - - - - -	
16. Southill - - - - -	John Gamby
17. Stevington - - - - -	John Millard
18. Thorn - - - - -	R. Davis

BERKSHIRE.

19. Abingdon - - - - -	John Evans
20. Kingston-Lisle - - - - -	Thomas Smith
21. Newbury - - - - -	James Bicheno
22. Oakingham - - - - -	John Wills
23. Reading - - - - -	John Holloway
24. Wallingford - - - - -	Robert Lovegrove
25. Wantage, 1st Church - - - - -	John West
26. ————— 2d Church - - - - -	Holmes

NOTES.

15. Mr. Richard Grindon has resigned his pastoral care of Sharnbrook, and preaches at Ringstead in Northamptonshire.

16. The congregation from three to four hundred people. The deacons are Mr. Thomas Preston and Mr. Thomas Dunton.

17. This church admits pious Pædobaptists to the Lord's table. Their present pastor, who is a baptist, belonged to the Independent church at Olney, from which he was dismissed to Stevington, July 24, and ordained October 8, 1795. When Mr. Millard came here, May 18, 1794, there were twelve members, there were twenty-nine in the month of July 1797. Some additions have since been made.

18. Mr. R. Davis, who is now minister at Thorn, was called to the work of the ministry by the church at Chatham, and occasionally supplied at Smarden for three or four months; he then supplied the second church at Portsmouth, and afterwards assisted Mr. Dawson at Lyme. His principal labours are divided between Houghton Regis and Thorn, which is a hamlet belonging to Houghton. He preaches in two other villages, is not yet ordained, but has baptized nine persons, including whom the church at Thorn consists of sixty-four members.

22. This people and Mr. Thomas Burgwin, their former pastor, separated in March 1795; after which they had supplies from London and Reading, till Mr. Wills, formerly minister at Witney, was recommended to them by Messrs. Dunscombe of Coat, and Tomkins of Abingdon. The church agreed that he should also preach at Beach Hill, where there is a place of worship, endowed by the late Mr. Abraham Atkins of Clapham. Mr. Wills entered on his charge about Midsummer 1795. The congregation considerably increased; the people at Beach Hill were much inclined to hear the word. Mr. Wills opened a small boarding school, and the last accounts, not of a very recent date, intimate that he was comfortable in his work. The deacons Mark Porter and Samuel Wallden.

23. An account of the church at Reading, and the ordination of their pastor is to be given in the following pages.

24. A large and pleasing account of this church is drawn up, to be published among the histories of the other Baptist churches.

25. The congregation very small, the number of members in the church were lately thirteen.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

27. Chenies - - - - -	Nathan Sharman
28. Chesham - - - - -	James Sleep
29. Colnbrook - - - - -	John Lloyd
30. High Wycombe. - - - - -	William Scott
31. Newport Pagnell - - - - -	Thomas Corby
32. Olney - - - - -	John Sutcliff
33. Princes Risborough - - - - -	Henry Dawson
34. Stony Stratford - - - - -	John Goodrich

NOTES.

27. In the year 1795, several members having been lately added to this church, the deacons and people (a fit example for others) advanced their pastor's income 10*l.* per annum. — August 22, 1796, They were seventy-four members. The following year five were added, and two removed by death. Many attend the word in this village. The pastor is very industrious. Messrs. William Davis, James Blake, and Thomas Dell, are deacons.

28. The friends at Chesham were under the pleasing necessity of enlarging their meeting-house, in the year 1797. While the work was in hand they were indulged every Lord's day afternoon with the use of the meeting-house of the Rev. Mr. Sermon, pastor of the Independent church at Chesham, who, with his people, in the most voluntary way, favoured the subscription. On the reopening of the place, Dr. Rippon of London preached in the forenoon, the Rev. Mr. Pilley of Luton in the afternoon, and the Rev. Mr. Hinton of Oxford in the evening. Heartly prayer was offered to God, in which the people were assisted by many of the neighbouring brethren in the ministry, and the service of the day concluded by Mr. Sleep himself, who addressed, to the great master of assemblies, one of the most humble and grateful prayers ever heard by the large and devotional body of people then assembled together. Mr. Sleep preaches to his people three times on the Lord's day and once a fortnight on a week day. They have a comfortable prayer-meeting on Lord's day morning. And the good man has been used to visit three places in the neighbourhood, and to preach at each of them once a month. They are an hundred members, and have four transient communicants. The deacons are Messrs. James Benham and William Harris.

29. Mr. Lloyd, formerly pastor at Tenterden, publicly undertook the pastoral care of the church at Colnbrook, Wednesday Jan. 15, 1795.

30. The meeting place is in New-land. They were eighteen members August 13, 1797.

31. Aug. 13, 1797. This small society consisted of thirteen members. At the ordination of their pastor Mr. Fuller preached to them on *union* from 133d psalm. Mr. Sutcliff delivered the charge, as it is commonly called, from Psalm 68 27. *There is little Benjamin with their ruler.* On which, it seems, he made some such observations as these. 1. That Benjamin, though little, was ranked among the tribes. 2. That the exertions of little Benjamin were kindly noticed. 3. That Benjamin, though little, was a tribe regularly organized: He appeared with *his ruler.*

32. There are various good men who belong to Mr. Horne, minister of the Established church at Olney; to Mr. Hillyard of the Independent, and to Mr. Sutcliff of the Baptist church, who unite in *Village Reading.* They go two or three together into the neighbouring villages, sing, pray, and read a plain sermon, and in some places are well attended. Mr. Hillyard and Mr. Sutcliff also *preach* in the villages as opportunity offers. And the three ministers seem to be very happy together,

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

35	Waddefdon Hill	- - -	-	Paice
36	Woodrow	- - -	-	Richard Morris

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

37	Bluntifham	- - -	-	Coxe Feary
38	Cambridge	- - -	-	Robert Hall
39	Cottenham	- - -	-	Thomas Baron
40	Gamlingay	- - -	-	William Pain
41	Over	- - -	-	Thomas Lee
42	Soham	- - -	-	<i>Francis Bland</i>
43	Sutton	- - -	-	George Norman
44	Willingham	- - -	-	John Rootham
45	Wisbeach	- - -	-	————— Fisher

CHESHIRE.

46	Chester	- - -	-	James Afton
47	Brassey-Green	- - -	-	
48	Warford	- - -	-	Thomas Holt

CORNWALL*.

49	Chacewater	- - -	-	Robert Redding
50	Launceston	- - -	-	

CUM-

NOTES.

36. The pastor of Woodrow has been favoured with considerable additions, and with the enlargement of his place of worship; and as he is *not slothful in business*, so it is hoped he is *fervent in spirit serving the Lord*.

37. The much respected pastor of this church, with the greatest part of the members, are baptists, but they were unintentionally omitted in the list of 1794.

40. August 24, 1797. They write in the course of the last year; "five people have been baptized and added to our number, one received by letter, and three have been removed by death, one of whom was our senior deacon, Mr. Nicholas Paine." The then surviving deacon was Mr. Richard Wells.

44. There has been an interest at Willingham, upon the Calvinistic plan, almost ever since the act of uniformity took place in 1662. The instruments of it were Mr. Holdcraft and Mr. Oddy, whose names will ever be precious in this county. The church continued to be of the Independent denomination till about nine years since, when Mr. Rootham, a baptist, called to the work of the ministry by the church at Little Stoughton, having preached with success at Willingham, was desired to settle there. The good man has been much tried with an asthmatical complaint, and other disorders, so that he seldom enjoys a days health. But has a considerable congregation, and about forty members.

46. There were forty-five members in this church March 1797. Of these about thirty had been baptized by their present pastor.

* The church at Falmouth is extinct.

49. The baptist interest at Chacewater owes its existence, under God, to the liberality and piety of the late excellent Mr. Jonathan Hornblower; a name that will long be fragrant in Cornwall. The number of communicants,

CUMBERLAND.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
51 Broughton - - - - -	▲ Jacob Hutton
52 Whitehaven - - - - -	
53 Wigton and Oulton - - -	Samuel Ruffon

DERBYSHIRE.

54 Derby - - - - -	
55 Lofcoe - - - - -	William Fletcher

DEVONSHIRE.

56 Ashburton - - - - -	John Toms
	57 Bamp-

NOTES.

municants, who ordinarily make up this part of the church, is about 20. They have had no increase of members for some years. Little apparent success attends the word, but the congregation is as large as formerly. A few years ago, when it was probable Mr. Redding would have been necessitated to leave his situation, two of the Friends in Truro exerted themselves, took a small meeting-house then vacant, and invited him there. They were then but three members. In December 1796, they were more than twenty. At Truro there was an addition of ten the following year. And though the word does not now seem to be blessed for awakening as in times past, the Lord has not left his people without a witness of his goodness. This last year five have been added. The congregation is large as usual. The attendance in the country is greater than it was, and it is unanimously agreed to send forth a valuable member, whose talent lies in visiting the sick and poor, and in conversing with them about their soul affairs. His province is to go round about the poor villages, for which a partial assistance is voted him.

51. In August 1796, this church consisted of but nineteen members, twelve months after they were increased to twenty-six. Thomas Walker deacon.

55. Eleven persons added the last year. Mr. Fletcher has been laid aside by illness, but is mercifully restored to his work, and is very active.

56. The origin of this church is given us by Mr. Sprague of Bovey. "A short time after I came to Bovey, several persons of Ashburton were baptized and united unto our church, but on account of their distance from us they wished for occasional preaching at home: the word was blessed, eight or nine were baptized. And on Jan. 2, 1798, the church was formed. I preached from Psalm cii. 16. *When the Lord shall build up Zion he shall appear in his glory.* And our good brother Birt of Dock, from Rom. xv. 5, 6. *Now the God of Patience, &c.* After this all the baptized friends present sat down at the Lord's table, and, I believe, found it a profitable opportunity. Five persons who are now in full communion with us are to be dismissed to them, when they will be about fifteen in number." He goes on, "There is, I hear, a pleasing addition to the church at Exeter. And at Plymouth Dock brother Birt sees the travail of the Redeemer's soul, in the conversion of sinners, and numbers are added to that church." Jan. 13, 1798. They are supplied one Lord's day in a fortnight by Mr. Toms, and are eighteen in number.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
57 Bampton - - - - -	Samuel Norman
58 Bovey Tracey - - - - -	Joseph Lee Sprague
59 Collumpton - - - - -	Nicholas Gillard
60 Dartmouth - - - - -	<i>William Giles</i>
61 Exeter - - - - -	William Mannering

NOTES.

57. About thirty members, Preaching three times on the Lord's day. Two prayer meetings in the week, one of which is lately set up and adjourned from house to house, which gives an opportunity of attending to some who either could not or would not otherwise be present. And it is apprehended that this service has been already blessed. The pastor of this church, in company with Mr. Robert Humphrey, a student under Dr. Ryland, called to the work of the ministry by the church at Longbuckby, has spent several weeks in village preaching, in the north of Devon and Somerset, much to the satisfaction of the Baptist Itinerant Society in London, at whose instance he was engaged. Mr. Humphrey also, who is returned to Bristol, has left a pleasant favour behind him, in many places.

58. Mr. Joseph Lee Sprague was baptized by Dr. Rippon of London, and ordained at Bovey, March 30, 1796. Such were the fruits of his labours, that the meeting-house was enlarged and twenty-three members were added, when he had resided here but about one year. Twenty more were added the next year; and in the following one Mr. Sprague has successfully introduced the gospel into several places in the vicinity. "He is indefatigable," says Mr. Moses Savery, one of his deacons, "in dispensing the gospel in the villages around." He frequently preaches six sermons a week, "and sometimes seven, and his labours have been greatly blessed." He has this summer, in company with his uncle, of Tiverton, spent four weeks, as an itinerant, in the north of Somerset and Devon, under the direction of the Baptist Society in London, for the encouragement of Itinerant preaching. The church consists of ninety members. About two years since they called Mr. Peter Duges to the ministry, who is very laborious in village preaching, and, as we are informed by his pastor "has been made very useful." But they have been deprived, by death, the last year, of a worthy and highly valued deacon, Mr. Thomas Luscombe, who had for many years adorned his office.

59. Mr. Nicholas Gillard, the pastor of this church, is in the eightieth year of his age. His people say, his path is like that of the just, shining more and more unto the perfect day. August 13, 1797, their number was twenty-five. Since then three by baptism, and four by letters of dismission, have been added to them. Meetings are well attended. And it is expected that several who have given themselves to the Lord, will unite themselves to his people according to his word.

60. There have been three persons lately added to this little society. They are only nine members, viz. four men and five women. August 25, 1798. But the house is well filled, they have at present a blessed prospect, and think of erecting a gallery this year. And Mr. Wm. Giles, their minister, preaches constantly at Brixham of a Thursday evening.

61. The letter of this church, addressed to the Western Association, which met at Sarum, in the Whitfun-week 1798, after stating their creed, which is truly Calvinistic, informs us, that since the last Association, they have lost one by death, dismissed two by letter, excluded one, and added seventeen by baptism.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
62 Kingbridge - - - -	Humphrey Penn
63 Mary-Church - - - -	
64 Modbury - - - -	B. Gofney
65 Plymouth - - - -	Philip Gibbs
66 Plymouth Dock - - - -	Isaiah Birt William Steadman
67 Prescott - - - -	Benjamin Thomas.
68 Tiverton - - - -	Daniel Sprague
	67 Upot-

NOTES.

62. The society at Kingbridge in 1796, consisted of about seventy members. Their meeting-house being too small for the congregation, in 1797 their beloved pastor solicited assistance from other churches for its enlargement, and succeeded in the undertaking. Mr. Penn has been much engaged in village preaching, especially among the very poor, and is fully persuaded, "that a mission to the heathen is not of greater importance, than the propagation of the gospel among many of the inhabitants of Devon."

64. This congregation worshiped for some time in the Presbyterian meeting-house in Modbury, but in 1795, were advised to obtain a place of their own. August 6, 1797, they were five men and eight women members. Mr. B. Gofney from Plymouth had been with them some time. They had requested his labours for one year as a probationer. The house was "by far too small to receive the people disposed to attend." Mr. Nicholas Beer, deacon.

65. We have not been favoured with a letter, of recent date, from the venerable and reverend pastor of this church.

66. May 27, 1798; "In the past year we have received thirty by baptism, lost one by death, and excluded two. Our pastor has for several years wanted assistance. The last year our beloved Mr. Steadman (who had preached to us with great acceptance in his repeated visits to Cornwall,) favoured us with his labours for twelve weeks, when we invited him to the pastoral office in connection with Mr. Birt, which invitation Mr. Steadman has since accepted, and he is expected shortly to return, in order to settle with us. You will join us in our hope and prayer, that the connection may conduce to our mutual comfort, and be highly productive of the Divine glory.

"Our place of worship having for a long time been too small for the congregation, that wished to attend with us, we have lately purchased another, and much larger meeting-house: but as the houses are at a great distance from each other, we have judged it proper, for a season, to keep them both regularly open."

67. A church of seventy members. Their public worship is well attended on Lord's days especially in the afternoon. The pastor preaches at Uffculm, a neighbouring town, once a fortnight, on the Lord's day evening, where is a lovely little meeting house, fitted up, and supported at no very small expense, by Mr. Joseph Hill of that place, the master of a family whose benevolence, it is allowed, is not surpassed by any of our connections in the west of England. Mr. Thomas also frequently preaches on week days in the surrounding villages.

68. The pastor of this church, for reasons, which at the time appeared very satisfactory, removed to Aulcester in Warwickshire, where he was treated

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

69 Upottery - - - - - John Rippon, sen.

DORSETSHIRE.

70 Loughwood - - - - - *Richard Gill*

71 Lyme - - - - - Joseph Dawson

72 Wimbourne - - - - - John Miell

DURHAM.

73 Cold-Rowley - - - - - Thomas Hebron

74 Ham-

NOTES.

treated with great generosity and respect, but finding things "different from what he expected," and his health being impaired, several who are his well wishers, and at the same time most hearty friends of the church at Tiverton, made a proposal for his return, which was approved by the church and himself. And as he had not used his letter of dismissal in the church at Aulcester, the people at Tiverton agreed, that, on his return, he should be considered their pastor, as before, and as if no such letter had been given. The reunion took place in November 1797. Since then Mr. Sprague has not been entirely free from trials, some of which arise from the starving condition of many of the town, for want of labour, who used to assist in the support of worship; but his exertions have been greater than ever. Just before his resettlement at Tiverton, he accompanied his bosom friend Rippon of London, for several weeks, itinerating in the north of Somerset and Devon; a work for which Mr. Sprague is eminently fitted. Since then he took his nephew of Bovey Tracey, over the same ground; and was appointed, August 28, 1798, by the society in London, to go out again as soon as convenient, with other his brethren, on the same delightful work. His preaching fourteen or fifteen sermons a week strengthened his body, and invigorated his mind; so that when he resumed his pastoral work at Tiverton, he encouraged new meetings for prayer and exhortation at the extreme ends of the town, and began to preach in villages where he had never laboured before. His perseverance, we hope, will be crowned with much success, as great attention is paid to the word. And we have the pleasure to add, that since the association at Whitsuntide he has baptized five persons, and hopes more of his hearers are thoughtful about their souls. We understand that Mrs. Lydia Terry, of Tiverton, relict of the late Rev. Henry Terry, of Tiverton, departed this life Sept. 9, 1797.

69. A man of the sweetest of tempers presides over this little society. Good judges say, he preaches better and better. May his last days be, as we trust they eminently are, his best days.

70. Sept. 24, 1797. This church thus writes, "We are eleven men and eleven women, besides our minister Mr. Richard Gill, and our pastor, the [REVEREND] Mr. Samuel Burford," in the 90th year of his age. We understand that this venerable man has since then, on account of age and infirmities, resigned his pastoral office.

73. The messengers of the Particular Baptist churches at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (Northumberland,) Sunderland, Cold Rowley, and Hamsterly, (Durham,) being the *Eastern District* of the NORTHERN ASSOCIATION, met at Cold Rowley, Durham, May 17 and 18, 1797.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
74 Hamsterly - - - - -	Charles Whitfield
75 Sunderland - - - - -	William Biggs

ESSEX.

76 Braintree - - - - -	John Hornblow
77 Coggeshall - - - - -	John Hutchings
78 Colchester - - - - -	Thomas Steevens
	79 Earls-

NOTES.

BREVIATES.—*Wednesday morning, ten o'clock, May 17.* The church at Rowley being destitute of a Pastor, requested brother Whitfield to act as their Moderator, (as by one of the rules the Pastor of the place for the time being is to be President) who opened the meeting by a short address, singing and prayer.—The letters from the churches were then read. brother Ruffon (minister at Wigton and Oulton in Cumberland) prayed; and after singing brother Whitfield preached from Gal. ii 20. *Nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.* After singing brother Hassel prayed, and the people were dismissed.

As Rowley is inconvenient for evening worship, the church had previously appointed public preaching at two other places at a convenient distance from each other. Accordingly brother Hassel preached at Hulyfield to a pleasing auditory, at seven o'clock, from 2 Cor. x. 14. *For we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ.* Brother Ruffon also preached at the same hour at Hindly, from 1 Cor. i. 30.

Thursday morning, May 18. Brother Ruffon opened public worship, at 10 o'clock, by a short prayer, read Psal. lxxxiv. and after singing, offered up prayer suitable to the occasion. After singing, brother Hassel preached from Phil. iv. 1.—Brother Hebron prayed; and after singing brother Jones, the Independent minister at Durham, preached from Psal. xcvi. 11. *Light is shewn for the righteous.*—Brother Whitfield gave an exhortation, and after singing, concluded with prayer.—Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

Thursday afternoon, 3 o'clock. After singing brother Fishwick, one of the messengers from the church at Newcastle prayed. The association letter, "ON THE RELIGION, ORDER, AND GOVERNMENT OF FAMILIES," was read, approved, and ordered to be signed by the Moderator on their behalf. The case of the church at Newcastle, for building a new meeting-house, was approved, and recommended. The next association at Hamsterly, except the little church at Sunderland request it, and have convenience for it. Agreed to observe the 30th of June as a day of solemn prayer, with fasting, for the purpose of humiliation before God. After a brief recapitulation of what the brethren had been engaged in, and of the pleasing unanimity, love, and peace in the churches, the Moderator gave a suitable exhortation to the messengers and the brethren present, and having sung a hymn, concluded with prayer, particularly for each of the churches. *The Lord shall reign for ever, thy God O Zion to all generations. Praise ye the Lord.*

75. *The Incorporation of the Particular Baptist Church at Sunderland, Durham, 1797.* Some of the members of the church at Newcastle, and one of the church at Hamsterly, resident in Sunderland, having met together for some time on Lord's days, when they could not attend their own churches; and one of them, approved for that purpose by his brethren at Newcastle, having at the request of his brethren, led their worship, and explained some passage

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
79 Earls-Colne - - - -	Major G. Pudney
80 Halstead - - - -	William Hallobread
81 Harlow - - - -	— Severn
82 Langham - - - -	Zenas Trivett
83 Potter Street - - - -	James Brown
84 Ridgewell - - - -	Humphrey Larwill

NOTES.

passage of the word of God from time to time, with which they and others were edified: they began to think of applying to their churches for advice and concurrence respecting their being incorporated among themselves. It met with their entire approbation. The church at Newcastle not then having a pastor, referred them to the pastor of a neighbouring sister-church for advice and assistance, which was accordingly obtained. A day of solemn preparation was observed. The Lord's day, 26th of March, was fixed upon for this purpose, and letters dismissary, with the assistance of their brethren, being requested, were readily obtained. When the day fixed arrived, the following order and proceedings constituted these brethren an independent church of the baptized denomination.

Brother Hassel, the minister at Newcastle, opened public worship at ten o'clock, with a short prayer, reading Isa. 26. and, after singing, prayed. Brother Whitfield then addressed the congregation, and particularly the brethren relative to the important subject before them. The dismissary letters were then read. To the few questions proposed concerning their motives, their purposes, evangelical principles, and their mutual consent, suitable answers were given by brother Biggs in behalf of the whole. The substance of these being repeated by the officiating minister, they were requested to signify their full and hearty consent and giving up of themselves to the Lord, and to each other as a church, to walk in gospel ordinances, worship, order, and conversation, in the most solemn manner, by holding up the right hand, (they all the while standing, and the congregation sitting). This being done, after reminding them of the solemnity of the act, the brotherly covenant and mutually solemn engagements, he pronounced them an independent, scripturally constituted church, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and offered up prayer to God for them, accordingly suitable to the solemn occasion. Prayer being ended, a number from each of the neighbouring churches, of the same faith and order, having congratulated them upon the pleasing appearances of the divine mercy in their favour, gave them, in the name of their respective churches, being previously authorized to do it, the right hand of fellowship as a sister church. After singing, brother Whitfield preached to them from 2 Cor. xi. 2. and, after singing and prayer, the congregation were dismissed.

Public worship was opened again at past two o'clock, as before, by brother Hassel, who preached from 2 Cor. v. 20. The congregation being dismissed, the church assembled, when two members were received into fellowship. Brother Whitfield then administered the Lord's supper. The members present of churches of the same faith and order were admitted to the sacred ordinance. In the evening at half past six brother Hassel preached again from Rom xvi. 20. Thus concluded the solemnities of a day which was eminently distinguished in the experience of many for unanimity, peace, joy, in the Holy Ghost; which it is hoped will never be forgotten by those immediately concerned therein; and it is wished that it may be for the honour of our immortal Redeemer in the day of his appearing. To him be everlasting glory, Amen.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

85	Saffron Walden	-	-	Matthew Walker
86	Waltham Abbey	-	-	William Brackett
87	Burnham	-	-	Thomas Cromwell

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

88	Bourton	-	-	Thomas Uppadine
89	Campden, (Chipping)	-	-	Elisba Smith
90	Chalford	-	-	James Deane
91	Cheltenham	-	-	Hugh Williams
92	Cirencester	-	-	William Wilkins

NOTES.

86. We are in possession of two or three pages of the biography of Mr. Brackett's predecessor, Mr. John Davis, drawn up chiefly by his brother of Reading, which will be given as soon as we are furnished with a longer memoir drawn up by the late pastor of Waltham Abbey.

87. Burnham in the preceding sheet was omitted by mistake; however, it is now placed in its own county. Mr. Thomas Cromwell, the pastor, was formerly at Ashford, in Kent. Of late we hear that the church now under his care enjoys a revival, and that prayer meetings, with other means of grace, are rendered very beneficial.

88. To the life of the Rev. Benjamin Beddome, printed in a former number of the Register, we add, that he was baptized at Barbican by the famous Samuel Wilson, September 27, 1739, in company with six other persons, one of whom yet survives, viz Samuel Etheridge, Esq. one of the members of the Rev. Mr. Booth's church.

89. In 1792. Mr. Elisba Smith left Shipston on Stour, having an opportunity of fixing Mr. T. Taylor in that place, who was ordained there quickly afterwards, but he and the people have now separated, and Mr. Read, who for some time served Bourton on the Water, now supplies them. On the decease of Mr. Beddome, Mr. Smith served Stow in the Wold, but finding it too hard to ride twenty miles and preach three times every sabbath, and an opportunity offering of their procuring a stated minister, he left them to the care of brother Rodway, lately from Sierra Leone, who labours amongst them with good acceptance. Mr. Smith's removals from both these places, were occasioned, not by want of reciprocal affection, but entirely by the plain indications of Providence. Since his leaving Stow, he has divided his labours between Campden and Blockley; where the interests, though small, yield him growing encouragement.—Religion is also on the advance in his vicinity. Little more than two years ago, Mr. Proctor, of Fleet-street, compassionating the case of the inhabitants of Morton in the Marsh, a place three miles distant from Mr. Smith, of which there is some account in the Baptist History of the Midland Association in 1655, fitted up at his own expense a place of worship, and sent down a worthy minister from Hoxton academy, Mr. John Man. It is somewhat remarkable he is of the same name as the person who signed for that place at the Baptist Association in 1655. Mr. Man's labours have been blessed, he also preaches every sabbath in the parish of Blockley. There is the utmost harmony of mind and measures between Mr. Smith and Mr. Man. This summer there has been a place of worship erected at Broadway, five miles distant, by a worthy independent brother, so that this part of the wilderness begins to blossom. Four members have been added to the church at Campden this year, three of them are of Mr. Peyton's family.

90. Mr. James Deane was ordained pastor over the baptist church at Chalford, Oct. 15, 1798.

CHURCHES.	-	-	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
93 Coldford	-	-	
94 Fairford	-	-	Daniel Williams
95 Hilsley	-	-	William Hitchman
96 Horsley	-	-	Benjamin Francis
			97 King-

NOTES.

93. Coldford is about six miles from Monmouth town.

94. "Our church consists of seventy members, including three or four that are come to reside with us who have not yet received their dismissions. We have had about thirty added since our dear pastor has been with us, and I hope there are more with their faces Zionwards. John Thomas, Wm. Ebsworth, and Charles Hooke, deacons. Mr. Williams labours hard among us, and in the neighbourhood, with great acceptance: though we are not very numerous, our church and congregation are more so than ever before. I desire to bless God for the kind Providence that directed Mr. Williams among us. I reckon it among the most pleasing events of my life to have one, in my declining years, to preside over us, who feeds us with knowledge and understanding, I can truly say the longer I hear him, the more I love him. I am, dear Sir, your's, very affectionately, Chas. Hooke. Fairford, Nov. 30, 1798."

95. Mr. Hitchman is assisted by our good old friend Joseph Rodway, father of James Rodway, who was lately at Sierra Leone, and now assists at Cirencester, &c. and at Stow in the Wold. Joseph and James Rodway, father and son, were both called to the work of the ministry, the same day, at Hilsley, seven or eight years since, where the father had been a deacon twenty-seven years. Mr. William Hitchman is about seventy years of age, and preaches on the Lord's-day afternoon. Mr. Joseph Rodway preaches in the mornings at Hilsley, and at evening in different villages. The afternoon congregations at Hilsley are the largest, amounting to about 300 persons. June 4, 1797, the church consisted of 56 members.

96. In their letter to the association at Salisbury, May, 1798, they write thus: "As the principal design of our letter is to acquaint you with our present state, we inform you that brotherly love and a spirit of prayer happily prevail among us; that the audience is numerous and attentive; that we have buried seven and excluded four of our members; that twenty-seven have been added to us, twenty-five by baptism, and two by letter of dismissal from another church; and that we never knew the interest of religion wear so pleasing an aspect among us as at present; glory be to God for his abounding goodness!" To their own account we have the pleasure of subjoining—that the church at Horsley, more properly at Shortwood, consists of about 270 members. Here Mr. Francis preaches twice on the Lord's-day, and once a fortnight in the evening, at Hampton. Though at the latter place the gospel has for years paused in its progress, great success attends the word at Horsley. The pastor and people attribute much of this, under God, to their continual prayer meetings, which are most pleasingly attended. Lord's-day mornings at six o'clock, fifty or sixty people are present, and in the afternoon before public service begins, the vestry overflows with persons at the prayer meeting. On the Lord's-day evenings, when their pastor does not preach, the neighbouring friends at Horsley hold a prayer meeting, which is respectably attended from house to house. This church, notwithstanding former enlargements, finds it absolutely necessary to enlarge again; this would have been done some time since, had not the war peculiarly affected the manufactories in their neigh-

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
97 Kingstanley - -	-
98 Natton, 7th day people -	-
99 Sodbury - -	Thomas Ferebee
100 Tedbury - -	Joseph Burchell
101 Tewksbury - -	John Davis
102 Thornbury - -	-
103 Wotton-under-edge -	Thomas Symmons

HAMP.

NOTES.

neighbourhood. But the resolution is now formed to make the meeting-house about 25 feet longer next spring, and to raise the money among themselves. About three miles from Mr. Francis's residence, between Horsley and Uley, lies a village called Nimpsfield, not long since distinguished for its heathenism. But the gospel has gained admission. A room registered for preaching was found too small, so that in the summer, a large and in general an attentive congregation has been addressed out of door. Messrs Francis, Lewis, and Symmons, we understand, preach to them in rotation, "and it is astonishing what a spirit of hearing there is, the whole village seems to be alive."

97. The dissenting interest at Kingstanley is reported to be the most ancient of any in Gloucestershire. Long before the baptist meeting house at Stanley was built, which stood upwards of 80 years,* the pious people frequently worshipped in a wood belonging to Lord D. Morton, under beach-trees, in a certain spot which is to this day called *the gospel beach*. The old place of worship had long been in a ruinous condition, the people were afraid of entering it, and at last part of it actually fell down. They have lately built a new meeting-house, we are informed, on the old foundation and of the same dimensions as the former, only the pulpit differently situated. While it was erecting, they met for worship every Lord's-day in a private house, and enjoyed constant preaching by ministers of different denominations. In July, 1795, they were "about 32 members" but though death, since that time has lessened their number, they begin to hope for times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. They have a prayer meeting on the Lord's-day in the evening, and another in the week.

98. Mr. Davis, of Tewksbury, has supplied this church on the seventh day.

101. Mr. Davis was ordained here in the Whitsun week, 1792. The principal parts of the service were conducted by our ministering brethren, Messrs. L. Butterworth, B. Francis, and J. Jenkins.

102. Thornbury has been chiefly supplied three Lord's-days in a month, by Dr. Ryland's students at Bristol. The former parts of the other Lord's day in the month are filled up by prayer and reading, and in the evening of it, Mr. Symmons, of Wotton, preaches their lecture, and sometimes administers the Lord's supper to them.

103. At Wotton there is a great variety of the means of grace. The gospel is preached by Mr. Whitefoot, at Mr. Hill's place of worship, called the chapel; in the independent church by Mr. Lewis, and in the baptist church by Mr. Symmons; but we are sorry to hear that, *in the town*, among all the denominations, the work of religion is at a stand. This is a subject mutually complained of by these good men, among whom there is the utmost harmony and affection. They preach at Kingswood, one

* Note -- Another letter says 90 years.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

HAMPSHIRE.

104	Broughton	-	-
105	Lockerley	-	- John Stokes
106	Lymington, 1st church	-	- Isaac Stradling
107	-----, 2d church	-	- <i>William Murfell</i>
108	Portsmouth, 1st church	-	- Joseph Horley <i>Daniel Miall</i>
109	-----, 2d church	-	- <i>George Stone</i>
110	Rumsfy	-	- John Nike
111	Southampton	-	- Edward Rowcliffe

NOTES.

mile from Wotton; and also a Wednesday Lecture at North-Nibley, in which also Mr. Ralph, of Dursley, assists. There is preaching also at Cranhole once a fortnight by Mr. Simmons, and by Mr. Warner of Bristol. In these places the brethren have not laboured in vain. They proceed without molestation, and one of them informs us, that some of the most solid enjoyments he ever had upon earth were in preaching among these villages. Mr. Symmons's people, in the summer season, drop their Lord's-day evening lecture at Wotton, that he may extend his labours amongst the benighted places around them.

104. Before Mr. Steadman left Broughton, Mr. Joseph Webb, his brother-in-law, was called into the work of the ministry, and is now a student in the academy at Bristol. Since the removal of Mr. Steadman, this church has been regularly supplied with the means of grace, and neighbouring pastors have administered the Lord's supper to them. For many years there has been a considerable number of young people in this auditory, and the congregation at this time is on the increase.

105. The little church at Lockerley is in a low condition. Their pastor lives at Rumsfy, he is a man in years, and infirm, has no salary from the people, who do not advance "more than enough to keep the meeting-house in repair." He is therefore dependent on his daily labour, and on the annual distribution of the London fund, which is always sent to the pastor where there is one, and never in that case to the church.

108. This church has "great reason to bless God for peace and a plenty of the means of grace," and that their pastor and minister "do not labour in vain." The last year they baptized twenty-two, received by letter four, lost by death five, dismissed to other churches three, and excluded two. The preaching of the word, and their prayer meetings have been well attended, so that in compliance with the Cry "Give room, the place is too strait for us," they have enlarged their meeting house, and built a commodious vestry. And such has been the liberality of the friends as to prevent application, in this case, to other churches for pecuniary assistance. Mr. Miall has had the warmest invitations from both the church and congregation at Northampton to settle amongst them, but he remains colleague with his worthy brother Horley, in an affectionate union, which multitudes desire may never be dissolved, but by the hand of death. Mr. Miall has lately been exercised with the severe trial of losing the partner of his joys and sorrows, but we are not in possession of the circumstances of her dissolution.

111. A few dates from the book belonging to the church at Rumsfy, with which Southampton was long connected, will enable us to give a familiar detail of the general proceedings of both societies, while served by one pastor, and since they have found it necessary to obtain two.

112. Whit-

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

112 Whitchurch - - Charles Cole

HEREFORDSHIRE.

113 Leominster - -

114 Ryford - - James Williams

HERTFORDSHIRE.

115 Codicote - - Alexander Thompson

116 Hempstead - - John Liddon

117 Hertford - - Robert Baskerville

118 Hitchin - - John Geard

119 Hoddesdon - -

120 New Mill (Tring) - John Clement

121 St. Albans - - John Gill

122 Watford - - *William Groser*

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

123 Great Gedding - - John Whitmee

124 Great Granston - - Robert Skilliter

NOTES.

114. Their number of hearers about one hundred.

115. The pastor of this little church lives at Walhern, near Stevenage, eight miles from Codicote, where, to his honour we report it, he labours as a gardener for the support of himself and wife, not receiving from the church and congregation more than eight pounds per annum. He is under the necessity of keeping a little horse, and has the pleasure of saying, that public worship among his flock is better attended than in former periods.

118. Our much respected friend and brother, Mr. Geard, has, for two or three years past, employed a portion of his time, much to his own edification, and to the satisfaction of competent judges, in abridging the Rev. Mr. Matthew Henry's Exposition of the Old and New Testament, appositely entitling his work, *The Beauties of Henry*: the first volume of it in twelves, price 4s. 6d. was published a year since, and we hope is in good circulation; but we are yet to learn whether the religious public has done itself the justice to encourage him to put the second volume to press. Mr. Geard's is a baptist church of mixed communion principles. In 1796, the members were about 100, three or four of whom were Pædobaptists.

120. Prosperity and peace are enjoyed by this church, of which we intend to give a full account.

122. This church has obtained an acceptable minister in Mr. Groser, who was regularly introduced into the Christian Ministry by the church in Eagle-street, London. The congregation at Watford is much increased.

124. This church informs us that the labours of their late beloved pastor, Mr. John Howson, were attended with good success, that he finished his course with joy, and left behind him an honourable testimony to the cause of Christ, which he had espoused. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. John Audley, of Impington, near Cambridge, a ministering brother, who styles the deceased "a very worthy man, and a sincere friend." The present pastor Mr. Skilliter, was sent into the ministry by the church at Little Staughton, ten members have been added to the church this year.

CHURCHES.	-	-	-	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
125 Hale Weston	-	-	----	Alcock
126 Kimbolton	-	-	-	Joshua Nicols
127 Needingworth	-	-	-	Thomas Ladson
128 Spaldwick	-	-	-	John Manning
129 St. Neots	-	-	-	Thomas Rands

KENT.

130 Ashford, 1st church	-	-	-	<i>William Willey</i>
131 ----- 2d church	-	-	-	Francis Reed
132 Bessell's Green	-	-	-	John Stanger
133 Canterbury	-	-	-	Samuel Rowles <i>James Parnell</i> <i>Thomas Parnell</i>

134 Chatham

NOTES.

125. About two miles from St. Neots.

127. Besides performing the constant services on the Lord's day, Mr. Ladson preaches on a Thursday evening at Needingworth, and lectures at six or seven other places which are registered for preaching, and used for no other purpose: he is at most of them once a fortnight, and at one of them monthly. His congregations and church are scattered from South to North about eighteen miles, and nearly in so many parishes. Number of members 120.

129. Mr. Thomas Rands was a member of Mr. Ladson's church at Needingworth more than thirty years and also a deacon of long standing. He was called to the work of the ministry in 1796, and ordained as pastor of the church at St. Neots, in the May of 1797, which was also the year when the church was formed. Mr. Ladson introduced the service; Mr. Grindon gave the charge, and Mr. Lee preached to the people. Mr Rands was at that time, it is supposed, 58 years of age. The members were then seventeen or eighteen, but are now increased to about 20.

130. A great work of God, it is said, has been going on this summer among the Militia who were stationed at Ashford, but are now near Folkitone. Forty or fifty have been baptized, some of whom have known the Lord for years. Mr. Willey, minister of the first church there, was formerly resident at Dartmouth. But no one has enabled us to report, with any precision, what has been so remarkable among the soldiery.

133. Towards the close of the year 1797, Mr. Rowles removed from Chard, and settled as pastor at Canterbury, where, according to his modest statement, he is "with a little church, and a little congregation, hoping to do some little good at the end of his journey." The Lord's-day services are three two of which are conducted by the pastor and the other by Mr. James Parnell, or Mr. Thomas Parnell. The former of these two brethren also cheerfully assists the neighbouring churches, a pleasure which is seldom enjoyed by the latter on account of frequent indisposition of body. Poor health was a principal cause of his not accepting frequent invitations to the pastoral office in the church year after year. This society of about twenty-five members had been in the practice of mixed communion, but was settled on a strict plan before they had an eye to Mr Rowles. In this town a monthly evening of prayer, for the success of the gospel, is observed in rotation at the three meetings belonging to the Baptists, Lady Huntingdon's,

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
134 Chatham	John Knott
135 Cranbrook	George Stonehouse
136 Eythorn	John Giles
137 Folkstone	William Atwood
138 Greenwich	Richard Hutchings
139 Maidstone	----- Bentliffe.
140 Margate and Shallows	Jonathan Purchis
141 Sandhurst	William Copping
142 Sevenoaks	Thomas Arnold
143 Smarden	-
144 Tenterden	John Foster
145 Wilmington	John Morris

NOTES.

don's, and Mr. Wesley's people. When Mr. Rowles's pen shall again become duly prolific, a *correct* history of the Baptists at Canterbury, in the last and present century, will, we flatter ourselves, appear in the Register.

136. June 24, 1798, the brethren of this church were 67, the sisters 66, in all 133. A sketch of the Lord's-day services among them, of their weekly seasons for prayer, and of their remarkable *monthly prayer meetings* will be found in the subsequent pages.

137. The second baptist church at Folkstone, mentioned in our list of 1794, is become extinct, and the meeting-house, built not many years since, is occupied by the Calvinistic methodists. Many of the most respectable members have joined the first church, of which our worthy brother Atwood is pastor.

139. The few Calvinistic Baptists who resided in the town of Maidstone, of late years, were in full communion with Mr. Knott of Chatham, but usually attended public worship at the independent meeting in Maidstone; where every indulgence was granted them by our benevolent brother the Rev. Mr. Ralph, and by the church under his care, Mr. Knott had the free use of their meeting-house, and on stated occasions administered the Lord's supper to his baptist friends. But some of them, desirous of raising a church altogether of their own faith and practice, opened a room in March 1796. In September following the *general* baptists in Maidstone, who had long been dwindling away gave up their little meeting-house. The society at Chatham having granted their members at Maidstone permission to become a distinct people, they were formed into a church April 12, 1797, under the direction of the Rev. Messrs. Copping, of Sandhurst, and Foster, of Tenterden. They have fitted up a vestry and built a baptistery, several additions have been made to them, and in December, 1797, informed us that they have comfortable prayer meetings in the week, and do often experience the Lord to be with them of a truth. Mr. Bentliffe, who labours among them, has been a preacher some time. He was baptized about four years since, and united to Chatham church.

145. The people at Wilmington, near Dartford, were formed into a church and settled with their pastor in the year 1791. He keeps a school, and in union with Mr. Stanger of Bessels-Green preaches Lord's day evening lectures at Fawilham and Eynesford in the houses of some of their members, which have been well filled. This church belongs to the union of the Independents and Baptists for preaching the gospel in the western parts of Kent.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

146	Woolwich, 1st church	-	Robert M'Gregor <i>William Culver</i>
147	-----, 2d church	-	Adam Freeman

LANCASHIRE.

148	Accrington	-	William Honeywood
149	Bacup	-	John Hift
150	Blackburn	-	James Miller
151	Bolton le Moor	-	<i>William Wrathall</i>
152	Cloughfold	-	<i>William Ackroyd</i>
153	Coln	-	John Stutterd
154	Goodshaw Chapel	-	John Pilling

NOTES.

146. "Our church was formed in the year 1758, when Woolwich was in a state of deplorable darkness. Since then, through the kind hand of our gracious God, 310 members have been added to us, and we are in peace and love. And though a second church has branched out of us, and multitudes have died, we are yet 141 members. The number of our hearers in common on the Lord's-day about 400. sometime 500 Mr. William Culver, who resides at Oldford, hath been a successful assistant among us about a year and a half. Aug. 22, 1798."

Mr. M'Gregor has laboured at Woolwich more than fifty years, and still preaches occasionally once or twice a week. The good people have prayer meetings on Monday evenings and Lord's-day mornings, and on New Year's day morning at five o'clock, great part of the house was filled with persons assembled to begin the year in prayer.

147. If the 2d church at Woolwich had communicated any thing for insertion, they also might emphatically have said—*The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.*

148. This society is in a flourishing condition, though a number of their members, residing at a distance, have built a place of worship for themselves. The meeting-house of the church at Accrington has lately been enlarged, and they have in a respectful manner declined their application to the fund in London for further assistance.

149. About 103 members and a large congregation.

151. Mr. James Hargreave, who was pastor in this situation, is removed to Ogden. Mr. Wrathall, (who was pastor at Steep-lanc, Yorkshire,) their present minister, has lately been in London, and with good success, collected towards defraying the expenses of their meeting-house. They are twenty-nine members, and before they had a place of worship, commonly attended at Bacup, a distance of seventeen miles.

152. Mr. Hyde having laboured here about five years, and seeing at length "but little fruits of his labours" he removed to Salendine Nook, Yorkshire. They are now supplied once a fortnight by Mr. William Ackroyd, sent out by Mr. Fawcett's church, whom they "desire to obtain as their pastor." Members about forty.

153. Has suffered awfully by the defection of those members who seemed to be pillars; but though reduced are not without hope of a revival.

154. Here God has been "applying his word to the mind of poor sinners." The members of this church, it is said "have been eating their bread with gladness; and believers have been added to them of such as shall be saved." Their meeting-house was lately enlarged, and is now sometimes too full to be perfectly comfortable.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
155 Hag Gate -	- William Smith Abraham Nowell
156 Hawkheadhill -	-
157 Liverpool -	- Samuel Medley
158 Manchester, 1st church -	- John Hindle
159 ----- 2d church -	- Bruce
160 Ogden -	- James Hargreaves
161 Pendle-hill -	- Benjamin Dickinson
162 Preston -	-
163 Rochdale -	- Thomas Littlewood
164 Tottlebank -	- Thomas Harbottle
165 Warrington -	-
166 Wigan -	-

LEICES-

NOTES.

155. A small village near four miles south of Coln; about twenty members: their faith and order somewhat differ from the other Baptist churches in England.

160. The congregation increasing.

161. Pendle Hill church in the Township of Pendleton, in the parish of Whalley near Clithero. Pendle Hill, properly so called, is a large mountain which runs five miles from east to west. On the south side of its western part is a deep narrow valley called Sabden, which is watered by a fine rivulet. Over this, on the highway from Burnley to Clitheroe is a bridge called Sabden bridge. Near this place Bury and Co. have their printing works, grounds, &c; two or three hundred yards northwest, on the road side and near it, beginning to ascend the hill, many houses are built for the workmen. Here the meeting-house stands.

The church when it was formed consisted of only ten members — Others are since added. "The congregation is between one and two hundred," and is called Sabden Bridge, and also Sabden by the neighbouring ministers. Mr. Dickinson, their pastor, was sometime at Derby.

163. Rochdale, Dec. 11. 1798. "Our church circumstances, taken all together, seem as favourable now as they have done at any former period. We have erected a gallery that will contain near two hundred, and have the satisfaction to see the place as full as it was before the gallery was erected: we have carried on, during the last half year, a sabbath evening lecture which is well attended by a congregation almost entirely distinct from that of the day. Many creep in at night that would be ashamed to appear in the day. We are not without hopes that this evening service may eventually be serviceable to the cause of Christ, and the welfare of souls. We have some additions to the church, but not so considerable as might be hoped for considering the magnitude of the congregation. We flow in tears; may the time come when we shall reap in joy!"

164. About thirty members. Mr. Harbottle has begun, some time since, a course of village lectures, which are pretty well attended, particularly in Rufford and Lowick.

166. Dissatisfied with forms of prayer, and grieved to see scriptural order and discipline trampled upon, a few persons who were Baptists in judgment broke off from the society to which they had been attached. In

LEICESTERSHIRE.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

167	Arnsby	-	-	-	Thomas Blundel
168	Bottesford	-	-	-	Thomas Linford
169	Foxton	-	-	-	Joshua Burton
170	Hinckley	-	-	-	John Parker
171	Husband Bosworth	-	-	-	William Steans
172	Leicester	-	-	-	Benjamin Cave
					173 Sheepf-

NOTES.

May 1796, they took a room which will hold about 170 persons, and fitted it up with forms. In August ten of them were baptized, and on the tenth of September they were united together as a church. The Rev. Mr. John Hirst, of Bacup, being present, who administered the Lord's supper to them the following day. Since that time others have been added to them. They are however without a pastor, and perhaps are not well able to support one. But they have been pretty regularly supplied by Baptist Ministers of Lancashire and Yorkshire, who also, in their visits, preach among the collieries at the distance of four miles from Wigan. The Miners are very attentive, and some of them seem pleased and thankful that the precious gospel is brought among them. One of our correspondents from Lancashire who was with this new church in December 1796, says, that this appeared to him a pleasing little company of "sensible, affectionate, zealous christians."

167. The worthy successor of the great Robert Hall, of Arnsby, had much recommended himself to several respectable ministers, while in a private station by different pieces on religious subjects, which appeared without his name in a certain periodical work. His place of worship being of late too small, and so decayed as to render it unsafe to assemble in; we have the pleasure to announce that the people of his charge are erecting a larger and commodious meeting-house.

168. Bottesford church in the county of Leicester, but near Grantham in Lincolnshire, consisted of fifty-two members, Oct. 9, 1797

170. "Sep. 15, 1797. Above two years since there was a number of persons in this town convinced of Believer's baptism; after due examination seventeen of them were baptized and formed into a church, since which period we have had several ministers to preach among us, whose labours have been made very useful, so that we are increased to thirty-six. Meeting with such encouragement, we have, in a rough way, fitted up a barn that we rent, which is very well fitted in public service, and, considering the times, we have a pleasing prospect. Our minister is Mr. Parker of Coventry, who attends us every Lord's day."

Since the above date eight members have been added, and "the cause of Christ seems to prosper, notwithstanding distress and persecution."

171. The church at Husband Bosworth was formed April 28 1793. In 1794 they were twelve members, and on August 19, 1798, they were thirty-three.

172. The NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION assembled at Leicester, on the 13th 14th, and 15th, of June, 1797.

BREVIALES—Tuesday Evening, six o'clock. Met at Brother Cave's meeting-house, in Harvey Lane, who began in prayer. Brother Sutcliff was chosen Moderator. The Letters from the churches were read, and their

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

173 Sheephead	--	- Robert Mills
174 Sutton in the Elms		- Benjamin Evans

NOTES.

their contents minuted. The meeting was closed in prayer by brother Blundel.

Wednesday morning, six.—Met at the same place for prayer. Brethren Nickolls from Nottingham, Read from Oakham, and Churchill from Sheephead, all newly called to the ministry, and brother Fletcher, of Lofcoe, were engaged.

Half past ten—Met for public worship at the Rev. Mr. Deacon's meeting house in Friar-lane; the minister and people, who stately assemble there, kindly accommodating us with the use of it, as brother Cave's was too small to contain the congregation. Brother Craps began in prayer; brother Hopper preached from Rom. v. 11. *We joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.* Brother Morris prayed. Brother Gill preached from Luke x. 42. *Mary bath herself that good part which shall not be taken away from her.* Brother Fuller concluded in prayer.

The ministers and messengers retired, after dinner, to hear the circular letter, drawn up by the moderator, on the DIVINITY OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, which was approved and ordered to be printed.

Evening, six.—Brother Mills prayed; brother Ryland, from Bristol, preached from Col. i. 26. 27. *The Mystery (or Secret) which hath been hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.* Brother Edmonds concluded.

Thursday morning, eight.—Met in Harvey Lane. Brother Evans, of Sutton, prayed. The ministers related some leading parts of their religious experiences during the last year. After which, brother Heighton prayed. The business of the Association Fund was then adjusted. Though the annual collections for it have been hitherto small, its utility is very apparent, especially in defraying the expenses of several of our brethren, who have put themselves to greater cost by frequent preaching in the villages than their contracted circumstances would admit, were it not for this assistance. Brother Burton was desired to prepare the Circular Letter for next year containing *A Defence of experimental Religion.* The Association was concluded with prayer, by the Moderator.

The next Association to be held at Spalding, in Lincolnshire, on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the Whitsun week. Our Brethren Blundel and Fuller to preach.

State of the Churches:

ADDED		DIMINISHED.	
On a profession of Faith	122	By Death	36
By Letters of Recommendation	5	Dismission	2
Restored after Exclusion	3	Exclusion	16
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	130		54

Clear Increase in the last Year - - 76

The number of communicants in twenty-one churches is 1680.

173. Brother Mills has been grievously tried by a preacher of Antinomian principles in his neighbourhood, but he has great pleasure in Mr. Benjamin Churchill, a minister raised up in his own communion, who assists him, and constantly preaches in the circumadjacent villages.

174. The church and pastor going on well.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

175	Boston	-	-
176	Lincoln	-	-
177	Spalding	-	- James Craps
178	Timberland	-	- George Woodcock

MIDDLESEX.

179	Battle Bridge	-	- Thomas Sowerby
180	Hackney	-	- John Rance
181	Hammermith	-	- John Sandys
182	Harlington	-	-

183 Old-

NOTES.

176. Mr. Jones, the late pastor of this church, removed, and also several of his members to America: but we understand, that there is a great probability of his returning to his own country.

178. This village is about eight miles from Sleaford. The minister some years since was baptized by Mr. Jones, then pastor at Lincoln, who, with Mr. Craps, of Spalding, took the leading parts in his ordination.

180. Two or three baptist friends belonging to Mr. Booth's church, and residing in Hackney, finding much inconvenience as their families increased to attend divine service at their own place; in November, 1796, opened a small house in Shore-place, Hackney, for afternoon service only; they procured various preachers from time to time; the congregation increased, and in 1797, the place was enlarged: hitherto they had service only once a day, but it was thought proper to have it both forenoon and afternoon: this was done the first Lord's day in the year 1798, and has been continued. Mr. John Rance was invited Sept. 25, 1797, to preach to them a month, and afterward to continue his services: and still finding a steady serious increasing auditory attend, they judged it prudent to be embodied, as a church, which was accordingly done, May 14, 1798, by Mr. Booth and Mr. Button. Mr. Rance then received an invitation to preach three months longer with a view to undertake the pastoral charge. At present the place is so small, about 200 attend in the afternoon, and in the morning about 150. Mr. Rance was ordained Oct. 3, 1798, in the Rev. Mr. Palmer's meeting-house, St. Thomas's-square, Hackney, the principal parts of the service were performed by Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Booth, and Mr. Upton.

182. "Sept. 3, 1798 At your request I send a brief account of the late settlement of a baptist church, at Harlington, in Middlesex, thirteen miles from town. For several years past there has been preaching in that village through the encouragement and assistance of Mr. Atlee, a considerable farmer, who has long resided in that parish, and has married a member of our church, which circumstance has occasioned my going down at different times to preach. I have had some pleasant seasons among the people. The congregation was in general serious and attentive. A few months since they met with some opposition, which however only tended to enliven and increase them. Several of the most pious in searching the scriptures began to see the ordinance of baptism as administered in primitive times, by immersion, on a profession of faith in Christ. I had some conversation with them on the subject, and being persuaded they were proper subjects,

agreed

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

183 Old-Ford, (Bow)	-	William Newman
184 Poplar	-	William Broady
185 Somers-Town	-	William Jarman
186 Staines	-	Thomas Silvester

NOTES.

agreed to baptize them. Accordingly Mr. Atlee and six more of the congregation came up to London, and I baptized them, and soon after five more submitted to the ordinance, through the hands of Mr. Silvester, at Staines. These now began to think they had hitherto not regarded the kingly office of Christ as they ought to have done, and were concerned to unite in fellowship, and form themselves into a regular gospel church. They invited Mr. Sowerby, Mr. Hutchings of Unicorn-yard, and myself to be witnesses of their formation and union. We readily went on Friday, April 6, 1798. Mr. Sowerby preached to them in the morning. In the afternoon, the doctrines and ordinances they were determined in the strength of the Lord to adhere to, and their covenant agreement to walk together according to the order of the gospel, were read and they all signified their assent by the holding up of their right hands. Then two Deacons were nominated and chosen. After which, I addressed them from Psalm cxxii. 7. "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces." In the evening Mr. Hutchings preached. The meeting-house, which I suppose holds about 250 people, was crowded. Solemnity appeared throughout the congregation, and I trust the great Head of the Church was present. I think there is a pleasing prospect of good to be done, and I hope that God has formed this people for himself to shew forth his praise. I am affectionately your's, William Button."

183. "This church is now, through the favour of the gracious King of Zion, in a very flourishing state. The present pastor has been settled here about four years. The church and congregation have been within that period doubled, or rather tripled; between forty and fifty members have been added; their present prospect is highly encouraging; they have been for many months preparing to build a new meeting-house. The number of members is now 73, and, from present prospects, likely to be increased considerably. Prayer meetings are attended with great advantage, November, 1798." This church was introduced into the Baptist monthly meeting Association, in London, December 17, 1798.

184 The Rev. Mr. William Broady, formerly one of Dr. Addington's students, baptized by Mr. Horsley of Portsea, and afterwards assistant to the venerable Mr. Gibbs of Plymouth, was ordained over the mixed communion baptist church, at Poplar, Sept 8, 1796. Mr. Newman, of Old-Ford opened the service; Mr. John Townsend, of Rotherhithe, introduced the business of the day with great ability; the aged Mr. McGregor of Woolwich prayed the ordination prayer, with laying on of the hands, and then gave the charge; Mr. Atkins of Greenwich prayed; Mr. Beck, of Bury-street, gave the charge; and Mr. Hutchings, of Greenwich, concluded in prayer. This church was formed by Mr. Broady, it has had several additions, and is in pleasing and comfortable circumstances. The members were 37 in October, 1798.

185. An account of this new church is given in page 149.

LONDON AND SOUTHWARK. *

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

187	Blandford-street	-	-	John Keeble
188	CARTER-LANE	-	-	John Rippon, jun.
189	Chapel-court	-	-	James Downes
190	CRIPPLEGATE, first day			John Wilson
191	—————, seventh day			Robert Burnside
192	DEAN-STREET	-	-	William Button
193	DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE	-	-	Timothy Thomas
194	Eagle-street	-	-	William Smith
195	Ewer-street	-	-	
196	GOODMAN'S-FIELDS	-	-	Abraham Booth
197	Great Castle-street	-	-	William Garnish
198	Green-walk	-	-	James Upton
199	Little-Ayliffe-street	-	-	William Shenston
200	MAZE POND	-	-	James Dore
201	Mill Yard	-	-	Thomas Thomas
202	Mitchell-street	-	-	Thomas Powell
203	Rotherhithe (Jamaica Row)			George Phillips
204	Store-street	-	-	John Martin

* 1. Notes on the state of the *older* churches in London and Southwark are intentionally omitted, as we have long been collecting materials for a comprehensive history of them from the year 1644.

2. Mr. Gwennap's church in Piccadilly is dissolved.

3. The churches here distinguished by *small capitals*, constitute the Baptist Fund, and make a yearly collection for their poor brethren and churches in England and Wales.

NOTES.

187. This church was formed by members from several societies, particularly from Mr. Martin's church. Their distance inclined them to erect a place of worship. Several ministers have laboured among them, but none, they think, with so much success as Mr. Keeble, who was called to the work of the ministry by Mr. Hall's church, at Ipswich. Mr. Hall and Mr. Ridley, other ministers being present, conducted the principal parts of Mr. Keeble's ordination, November, 1798.

199. This is the church of which the Rev. Wm. Dowars was pastor:— he died July 1, 1795, aged 75 years. Mr. Shenstone, called to the work of the Ministry by the church in Eagle-street, London, was ordained pastor, Jan. 23, 1798. The particulars of this transaction, and his pleasing success since his settlement, are postponed to another Number for want of room.

204. The church formerly meeting in Grafton-street, Soho, were long since of opinion, that they wanted a more quiet and extensive place of worship. At different times, certain plans were talked of and proposed, which upon mature investigation, they rejected. But in the year 1794, Mr. Wm. Ashlin, of Sloane-street, Chelsea, one of the members of this church, brought forward a proposal which they could not reject. In one of their regular church meetings, he spake to this effect,—“ My Friends, if you are still of opinion that a larger and better place of worship

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS

205	UNICORN-YARD	-	Thomas Hutchings
206	Walworth	-	Dr. Joseph Jenkins
207	WILD-STREET	-	-

NORFOLK.

208	Aylesham	-	-
209	Buxton	-	John Cooper
210	Claxton	-	Job Hupton
211	Dereham, (East)	-	Samuel Green

NOTES.

is wanting, I will undertake to build one of that description at my own expense. The place I am in treaty about, for that purpose, is on the Duke of Bedford's estate, at the east end of Store-street, nearly opposite the back front of the British Museum. When the building is finished, I will say, *THERE IT IS*. Should it meet with your approbation, you may give me just what you please. None of our friends shall be pressed to subscribe a single guinea; nor do I wish any collection to be made at the doors of that meeting on my account. But I am willing to accept whatever you, or others, may be disposed to subscribe. I have only to add, when I have done my best to give you satisfaction, if you then resolve to remove from *this* place [Grafton-street] to *THAT*, the new meeting shall be vested in trustees, chosen by yourselves, in such a manner as you and they shall approve." A proposal at once so liberal, and so unexpected, pleased and surprised the generality of the friends. It was therefore accepted by them, with due acknowledgments to Mr. Ashlin for his distinguished benevolence. The first brick of the new meeting-house was laid by Mrs. Ashlin, April 29, 1794; and on the 28th of June, 1795, it was opened for public worship. The expense of this building and its appurtenances, (which expense is already paid) amounts to more than 3475*l*. Towards this sum the church and congregation had freely subscribed seventeen hundred pounds; so early as March 15, 1796, the date of the dedication of the sermon which Mr. Martin preached at the opening of this place of worship. The text of which is Acts xiv. 7. *And there they preached the gospel.*

206. Dr. Jenkins was settled with the church in East-street, Walworth, April 19, 1798; and is proceeding comfortably in his work.

208. Eleven of this little company were baptized and formed into a church, it seems, in the year 1796, by Mr. Kinghorn, of Norwich, who preaches to them once a month, on a Thursday evening, and then administers the Lord's supper. Mr. Hooke, of Ingham, occasionally assists them, and Mr. Beard, of Worstead, preaches to them a Lord's day evening lecture once a fortnight.

209. This church was formed by the assistance of Messrs. Brown, Kinghorn, Wilks, Beard, and other ministers, Nov. 9, 1796, at which time they ordained Mr. Cooper. The persons then united in church fellowship were 32, they have since increased to 64.

210. By means of village preaching, much increased; their place has been once enlarged, and they have thought it necessary to enlarge it again.

211. Mr. Denham the former pastor was an upright honourable man, and died happy, he requested Mr. Farmery to speak at his interment, "Oh those words "Now he is comforted," and about a fortnight afterwards his funeral sermon was preached at his desire, on Jer. xlix. 11. Mr. Green was ordained the last Wednesday in July, 1797, has met with good success and his people have erected a new gallery for the general accommodation.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
212 Difs -	- Charles Farmery
213 Great Ellingham	- John Ewing
214 Ingham -	- John Hooke
215 Lynn -	- Timothy Durrant <i>William Richards</i>
216 Necton -	- Robert Bunn
217 Norwich, 1st church	- Joseph Kinghorn
218 -----, 2d church	- Mark Wilks
219 Shelfanger -	- Thomas Smith
220 Worstead -	- James Freeman Beard.
221 Yarmouth -	- William W. Horne

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

222 Braunstone -	- John Simmons
223 Clipstone -	- John Webster Morris
224 Earls Barton -	- John Timfon
225 Gretton -	- <i>John Farman</i>
226 Guilsborough -	- John Edmonds
227 Hackleton -	- John Luck
228 Irthlingborough -	- William Hall
229 Kettering -	- Andrew Fuller

230 Long-

NOTES.

212. We are favoured with an highly interesting account of the prosperity of this church but it must form a distinct article in a future number.

215. At Necton, between Dereham and Swaffham, Mr. Bunn was ordained in May, 1796, by Mr. Smith of Shelfanger, and Mr. Wilks of Norwich. Members 30.

220. August 8, 1798. This church is enlarging their place of worship, and in an exemplary manner "straining every nerve to get the money among themselves, without applying to other churches for assistance." The pastor hopes that the Redeemers cause is on the advance among his people, and informs us that village preaching, and the worship of God in general is well attended.--- N. B. *In this connexion there is a little association of five churches, all of which have been under the necessity of enlarging their places of worship.*

222. Mr. Simmons baptized fifteen persons in July, 1796, this made the number of members 38, the next year they were increased to 48. Two brethren are called to the work of the ministry who supply destitute congregations, and preach in the villages. They are now 53 members and have erected a new place of worship. They style themselves "the Particular Baptist Church, of strict communion, meeting at Braunston, in Northamptonshire; and Hillmorton, in Warwickshire."

226. Sept. 18, 1796. This church consisted of 75 members, viz. 34 men, and 41 women. Since that time they have had six added, and lost one by death, August 26, 1798.

229. There is only one Baptist Church now at Kettering. Mr. Satchell, the pastor of the second church, being advanced in years, and highly esteeming Mr. Fuller as a minister and a christian, thought it unnecessary,

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
230 Longbuckby - -	James Presland
231 Middleton Cheney - -	Thomas Green
232 Moulton - - -	John Barker
233 Northampton - -	
234 Ringstead - -	Richard Grindon
235 Rhode - -	William Heighton
236 Rushden - -	--- Claypole
237 Thrapstone - -	Reynold Hogg
238 Towcester - -	Thomas Taylor
239 Walgrave - -	Alexander Payne
240 Weston by Weedon - -	John Law

NORTHUMBERLAND.

241 Newcastle - -	Thomas Haffel
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

242 Collingham - -	William Shaw
243 Nottingham - -	Richard Hopper
	244 Sutton

NOTES.

as no important difference of sentiment subsisted between them, that there should be any longer two churches. The second church, therefore, in compliance with the advice of its pastor, dissolved itself. The good man is since dead, and a memoir of him is given in page 102 of this volume.

230. "The Lord hath sent us Mr. James Presland, who was ordained over us, May 15, 1798. Since then we have received 14 members.—Our church is loving and unanimous, and our congregation is increasing. August 20, 1798."

234. Mr. Grindon removed hither from Sharnbrook in Bedfordshire,

239. "Two of our young members who are brothers, Messrs. John and Stephen Barker, in the spring of the year 1797, were honourably called to the work of the ministry. Our former pastor, Mr. Moses Deacon, and his brother Mr. Deacon, of Road, were brothers to Messrs. Barker's grandfather. Mr. S. Barker was invited to Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, at the close of that year, and his brother John continues with the church at Moulton. We have two other young men who are engaged on a sabbath evening in keeping up the worship of God in the villages around us, as does also our pastor, while the aged members stay in our own village and assemble for prayer in the vestry."

241. The copious and correct accounts we have received of the ordination of Mr. Haffel, the state of the church, the form of the meeting-house, and the rooms provided for the poor—demand more room than we can spare at the foot of a page.

243. "In March, 1769, I came to Nottingham, the church at that time consisted of 15 members. We have had many changes. However, in the main, things are in a tolerable state with us at present, between three and four hundred hearers in the afternoon: we are in love and peace, and attached to the glorious truths of the gospel. I think we have rather more than 120 members, with a prospect of some additions. Since my residence here we have had two called out to the ministry, Mr. Thomas Lingford,

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

244 Sutton Ashfield

OXFORDSHIRE. *

245	Burford	-	-	William Harris
246	Chipping Norton	-	-	Thomas Purdy
247	Coat	-	-	Joseph Stennett
248	Hook-Norton	-	-	Benjamin Whitmore
249	Oxford	-	-	James Hinton

RUTLANDSHIRE.

250 Oakham

NOTES.

Bottesford; Mr. William Nichols, resident in Nottingham; likewise two branches of this church formed into different societies, viz. Bottesford and Derby. I generally preach three sermons every Lord's-day, and another on Monday evenings. Lately several of our friends have gone into adjacent villages to pray, read, and expound the scriptures. Brother Nichols preaches constantly in a village about four miles from us. Sir, your's sincerely, Richard Hopper."

244. "August 21, 1796. We have had sixteen persons added to the church in the course of this year. Among this number is our minister, Mr. Holmes"

* Among the list of churches in this county, for the year 1794, we inserted Watlington and Witney; observing that the former of these had "the ordinances administered to them by the late Mr. Hiller;" but we have been informed, that the people at Watlington were not a church, and that Mr. Hiller never administered the Lord's supper to them. It has been a congregation of about forty persons. We also learn, that Witney never was a baptist church, though it had a baptist pastor for several years; and, out of the few people that remain, some of the members and hearers are of that denomination.

249. Their new meeting-house is somewhat more than 40 feet square, galleried on three sides, and, by a judicious disposition of room, is made to seat comfortably, about 530 persons, the former one seated only 230. The new place is well filled, and at evening lectures very frequently overflows. The vestry holds 120 persons, in which prayer meetings are well attended twice a week. These services cannot at Oxford be performed in the public meeting. There have been seen, in the meeting and vestry, some evenings, nearly 700 people. The nominal members are about 110, of these, 20 names are entered prior to the year 1787, that of Mr. Hinton's ordination. Many members have left Oxford for want of work, and few come from other churches, resident members are about 80. The prospect is certainly fair, an addition has been made of two others to assist their former deacons, Messrs. Pasco and Newman; the new ones are brethren Bartlett and Archer. The church is formed on the principles of free communion, all the officers of it are baptists, nine or ten of the members are Pædobaptists.

The new meeting-house was opened August 16, 1798, when Dr. Ryland, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Cook, of Maidenhead performed the principal services. It cost, including vestry, &c. &c. nearly 750l. of this they raised about 300l. at home, and have obtained the rest, within about 80l. from the large circle of Mr. Hinton's connections.

250. Mr. Edward Mabbut, who supplied this people between two and three years has left them. Mr. S. Read, whom they sent as a labourer into the vineyard in 1795, sometimes preaches to them, often for other ministers, and frequently in the villages.

SHROPSHIRE.

251	Bridgenorth	-	-
252	Broseley	-	- Abraham Webster
253	Sheffnal	-	- Thomas Harrisson
254	Shrewsbury	-	- John Palmer

SOMERSETSHIRE.

255	Bath	-	- John Paul Potter
256	Beckington	-	- John Hinton
			257 Bridge-

NOTES.

252. The worthy pastor of this church accompanied Mr. Palmer, of Shrewsbury, in 1797, as an itinerant minister, in various parts of Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Wales, under the direction and patronage of *The Baptist Itinerant Society in London*; and it is hoped that great good has been done.

253. "Mr. Harrisson, a member of Mr. Pearce's church, Birmingham, long in the ministry, having retired from business, in 1795 settled at Beckbury, his native village, about four miles from Sheffnal; since when he has regularly given us his labours gratis every fortnight, and sometimes oftener. He also has supplied at Woolverhampton." Their hearers are doubled within three years, and they propose to build a gallery, if it can prudently be done.

254. Mr. Palmer, (with Mr. Webster, of Broseley, in 1797, and with Mr. Smith, of Coseley, Stafford, in 1798,) has been employed with good success, by the Baptist Itinerant Society, London, in preaching through some parts of Wales and of the English counties adjoining. The detail is highly interesting; and its substance, with Mr. Palmer's letter to the Midland Association in 1798, of which we are possessed, should appear in our next number, with a multitude of papers of a similar description—which are postponed only for want of room.

255. The ministers and messengers of the WESTERN ASSOCIATION assembled at Bath, on the 7th and 8th of June, 1797.

BREVIATES.—Wednesday afternoon, June 7, three o'clock, brother Norman prayed, brother Francis was chosen Moderator; read the preliminaries and the letters from the churches. Evening, seven o'clock, began with singing, brother Barnett, minister at the Pithay, prayed, and brother Sharp, lately chosen Pastor there, having removed from Manchester, preached from John vi. 44.

Thursday morning six o'clock, met for prayer, received the subscriptions to the fund, and distributed different sums to aged and infirm ministers, to assist others with large families, and especially to encourage village preaching, to the amount of 72l. 10s. 6d. Half after ten, brother Saffery prayed, brother Rowles preached, from 1 Thess. i. 5. Brother Ryland read the circular letter, and closed in prayer. Afternoon three o'clock brother Jay, pastor of the independent church in Bath, began in prayer, and brother B. Francis preached from Phil. i. 27. Brother Kingdon concluded. After the public service, the ministers and messengers signified their approbation of the general letter, which was signed by the moderator. Agreed to hold the next association at Salisbury, on the Wednesday and Thursday in Whitson week, 1798. Brother Ryland and brother Francis to preach; in case of failure, brother Birt, or brother Sharp. Brother Kingdon to prepare the letter. The Moderator closed the association in prayer. Agreed to recommend

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
257 Bridgewater	- Benjamin Morgan
258 BRISTOL, Broadmead	- Dr. John Ryland
259 -----, Pithay	- John Sharp <i>James Barnet</i>
260 Chard	-
261 Croscomb	- Samuel Evans
262 Frome	- John Kingdon
263 Hatch	- Joshua Braker

NOTES.

recommend the case of the church at Southampton, as worthy the assistance of all our friends. Evening, seven o'clock, brother Sharp prayed, brother Saffery preached from Luke xvi. 31. Brother Horsey concluded.

State of the Churches in the last year.

ADDED.		DIMINISHED.
By Baptism - - - 190		By Death - - - 76
Letter - - - 19		Dismission - - - 20
Restored - - - 2		Exclusion - - - 13
—		—
211		109
Clear increase	-	102.

In Mr. Porter's congregation at Bath, public worship is well attended, and the church is happy. The Deacons are Messrs. John Williams, James Evil, John Smith, and Opie Smith. About 132 members. They have conference meetings on a Monday, and prayer meetings on a Friday, which are evidently much more blessed than the Monday services. In November, 1796, this church lost Mr. William Harris, an excellent deacon, who besides adorning his office, in his old age, occasionally preached when it was necessary. "He was one of the best of friends to the poor of the flock; and eminently the comfort and joy of his pastor."

256. Mr. Hinton resides at Bradford. His labours are blessed. Thirteen have been added the last year to the church. Prayer meetings are better attended than in times past; and the place of worship is generally full on the afternoons of the Lord's-day. August 26, 1798.

257. In this place of worship, the meeting was held preparatory to the first opening of the itinerancy of the north of Somerset and Devon, by the brethren Rippon of London, and Sharp of Bristol. Dr. Rippon preached on *the promised influence of the Holy Spirit*. The ministers present were mightily assisted in prayer; and Jacob's determination breathed through the whole assembly—*We will not let thee go, except thou blest the good design.*—The handsome manner in which Mr. Morgan conducted himself towards the itinerants going and returning, will not soon be forgotten; any more than the distinguished civilities and friendships which they received at Mr. Richard Horsey's at Wellington, and at many other places, from ministers and christians of several denominations.

262. This is a large church, and year after year has had pleasing additions. In their letter to the association, they say—"We greatly want more gratitude for past mercies, more resignation under present trials, and more faith as to future events; that what we do may please the Lord, and that what the Lord does may please us."

263. Mr. Joshua Braker was ordained pastor of the church at Hatch, May 28, 1794. Hearers are since increased, and this year, 1798, the place of worship has been enlarged.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
264 Horfington -	- John Cox
265 Paulton -	- Isaac Sottridge
266 Road -	- John Matthews
267 Stoke Gomer -	- Robert Humphrey
268 Wellington -	- John Cheery
269 Yeovil -	- Thomas Price

STAFFORDSHIRE.

270 Burton on Trent	- William Baldwin
271 Coppice (Sedgley)	- Benjamin Mafon
272 Cofely	- Joshua Biffell Thomas Smith
273 Hanley-green	- Thomas Berry
274 Willenhall -	- Richard Baylis
275 Woolverhampton	-

SUFFOLK.

276 Bilderfton -	- William Hoddy
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NOTES.

267. Mr. Augustine Crisp, late pastor of this church, died March 6, 1798. Mr. Robert Humphrey, one of the students at Bristol, supplied them on the Lord's days, in June and July last, and had very large congregations all around. He, and Mr. Norman of Bampton, spent the week days, at the instance of the *Baptist Itinerant Society, London*, preaching the gospel in the dark parts of the north of Somerset and Devon; and many as we find by information from different places, hope the Lord was graciously with his ministering servants. Since then Mr. Humphrey has visited his relatives in Northamptonshire, and returned to Stoke Gomer, December the 7th, where his prospects are very encouraging. But on the Lord's-day evening following, viz. December 9, 1798, the only deacon of the church, Mr. Richard Allen, died. He was 74 years of age, singularly pious; and the very being of this church, under God, seemed principally to depend upon him.

271. Mr. Mafon, now at the Coppice, near Cofeley, was, till of late, pastor at Brettle Lane, near Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

272. Cofeley is in the parish of Sedgley. The "place of worship on Lord's days is well-filled with people, who attentively listen to the word, which, in many instances, hath been applied with great power; in consequence of which, galleries have been erected for their accommodation.—Prayer meetings, in general are well-attended, and a spirit of prayer is enjoyed."

275. In Woolverhampton, it is supposed, there are about 1700 inhabitants. The prospect being very pleasing, a meeting-house was erected, and opened in the spring of 1796. The greater half of the money which the meeting house cost is yet unpaid, for which interest is paid by the church. They have no pastor, are about thirty members, and prayer meetings are well attended.—Have this summer begun a Sunday School, at which about sixty boys and girls regularly attend; who, at the end of August, 1798, were "very much in want of books"

276 The church at Bilderfton holds with mixed communion. Mr. William Hoddy, a worthy character, who was called out of the Rev. Mr. Hitchcock's church, at Wattisham, and who is a baptist, is now their pastor. Dec. 19, 1797, he thus writes:—"In the beginning of the year

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
277 Grundisburgh	- John Thompson
278 Ipswich	- George Hall Thomas Ridley
279 Mildenhall (West Row)	Charles Caddy
280 Stow Market	- Jabez Brown
281 Wattisham	- John Hitchcock

NOTES.

1795, I had an invitation to preach to the people meeting in the town of Bilderston; After I had laboured among them some months, the whole church, without an exception, invited me to the pastoral office. Their call I accepted, and on the 18th of August in the same year, was solemnly ordained over them. The church then consisted of twenty-six members. I have since baptized five persons, there are others in the congregation apparently the subjects of vital godliness, whom we expect to join us. Among those I have baptized, was my eldest son, who was something more than thirteen years of age. We have excluded two persons. The congregation has increased. Afternoons and evening lectures are well attended. Brotherly love and holy peace in a happy degree abound among us."

277. This people were a branch of Ipswich: they were formed into a church, July 1798, and then consisted of forty three members.

278. This church was originally a branch of that at Colchester. The Rev. Mr. Sowden was the first pastor, he died about the year 1772, or 1773. Mr. George Hall (called to the ministry by the church in Unicorn-yard, Southwark), after being several months on probation, was ordained pastor here in July, 1775. This church for a considerable time has greatly increased, its pastor has been in the habit of village preaching above twenty years. In July, 1796, the meeting-house was enlarged; never perhaps was an enlargement more necessary, and its utility more evident. Near an hundred members have been added in the two subsequent years. A branch of this church consisting of forty-three members at Grundisburgh, in Suffolk, was in July, 1798, formed into a distinct society, which, though a loss to the parent church, is a pleasing circumstance. Mr. John Thompson, a valuable man, called out of Ipswich church, is now settled pastor over them, and greatly owned. Among the twenty-five persons whom Mr. Hall baptized in May, 1798, was a daughter of his, not quite fifteen years of age. He has now three of his daughters members. His son-in-law Mr. Christopheron, is one of his deacons, and Mr. John Eastly is the other. In the twenty-four years which Mr. Hall has been at Ipswich, Messrs. Thomas Ridley, John Thompson, John Keeble, Abraham Kersey Cowell, and James Fenn, have been called to the ministry. The two latter brethren were sent forth in December, 1798, when the number of members in the church (not including the forty-three who embodied at Grundisburgh) was 174, to which another addition is soon expected.

279. See an account of the church at Mildenhall, in page 155 of this volume.

280. A branch of the church at Diss, in Norfolk. (under the pastoral care of Mr. Charles Farmery) but situate in and about Stow-market, in Suffolk, by consent of the church and its pastor, united and became a distinct church, July 4, 1797.

They met in the forenoon, and embodied to the number of 67; at which time also three deacons were ordained.

In the afternoon met again. Mr. Jabez Brown (late of Great Yarmouth) was settled over them as pastor. In this service the following ministers

SURREY.

282	Battersea	-	-	Joseph Hughes
283	Chobham	-	-	Thomas Burgwin
284	Clapham	-	-	John Ovington
285	Croydon	-	-	Jonathan Franklin

NOTES.

lent their assistance: Mr. Trivett, of Langham, opened the work of the day—Mr. Hitchcock, of Wotton, gave an exhortation to the pastor, from Isa. xl. 1, 2: *Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, &c.*—Mr. Farmery, of Dids, preached to the people, from Eph. v. 17: *Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*—The ministers who engaged in prayer, were Mr. Bloomfield, a gifted brother at Stow; Mr. Trivett, of Langham, Mr. Hall and Mr. Keebel, of Ipswich. It was a good day to many. Six have been baptized, and added to the church, since its settlement.

282. The present building was erected in the year 1736, but a congregation, it appears, existed considerably before that period: Dr. David Jennings having preached his first sermon at Battersea, in the year 1714. As yet we are furnished with no materials for ascertaining the succession of ministers, or whether a church was ever formed previous to the settlement of Mr. Hughes. These particulars we expect for a future number. In the spring of 1796, Mr. Hughes, on the point of quitting Bristol, where he had some years been one of the tutors in the Baptist Academy, spent a few weeks at Battersea, and preached stately at the meeting. Mr. Brown, who had officiated for almost forty years, was then in the decline of a life, which terminated the following November. At the instance of a gentleman resident in the parish, who had long been solicitous for the cause of religion there, and strengthened by the agreeable reception given to his public labours, Mr. H. agreed to pay another visit. During his absence the place was repaired, and received the addition of a vestry and gallery. It was opened again for worship, July 24, when three sermons were preached, those in the morning and evening by Mr. H. and that in the afternoon by Mr. Thompson, of Clapham.—The texts in order of time were—Exod. xx. 24. Mat. xiii. 44. Philip. ii. 16. The connection continuing to subsist with mutual and growing satisfaction, it was at length resolved to make it more intimate. Mr. H. united with two friends in requesting a dismission from the church, late under the pastoral care of Dr. Stennett, each of them having been a member. This being obtained, they met for prayer and farther consultation, when they affixed their names to the following declaration:—“We the undersigned, desirous of the privileges connected with religious fellowship and a stated ministry, having already sought the Lord, and, we trust, chosen him as our sovereign and friend, do hereby give ourselves afresh to each other according to the divine will, that being united into a christian church, we may render mutual aid, as fellow-travellers from earth to heaven; and though we firmly embrace the sentiment peculiar to the baptists, yet espousing with equal determination the cause of evangelical liberty, we welcome to our communion all who give evidence of a change from sin to holiness, who appear to love the Lord Jesus Christ, who are willing to be accounted learners in his school, and who wish to be enrolled in connection with us. And we hope it will be our united endeavour, and the endeavour of such as may hereafter be added

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

286	Guildford	-	-	Thomas Wood
287	Kingston	-	-	Iſaac Phillemore
288	Lingfield	-	-	

SUSSEX.

289	Battle	-	-	
290	Brighthelmſtone	-	-	Thomas Humphrey
291	Hailſham	-	-	Francis Brown
292	Handcroſs (Slougham)	-	-	William Fuller
293	Lewes	-	-	Joſeph Middleton
294	Rotherfield	-	-	William Coe
295	Rye	-	-	Thomas Purdy
296	Uckfield	-	-	Richard Butcher
297	Wivelsfield	-	-	Henry Booker

NOTES.

to us, by all means to keep the unity of the ſpirit in the bond of peace, to mingle faithfulneſs, ſpirituality, and affection, in our intercourſe, ſtrictly to regard the divine ordinances as far as we know them; and to walk before the world—the church—our families—and our God,—worthy of our heavenly Father.” They took an early opportunity of acting on the principles of this declaration, and a letter inviting to the paſtoral office, ſigned by Baptiſts and Paedobaptiſts, was received, and answered in the affirmative a few days afterwards. The ordination took place on Wednesday, July 19. Mr. Urwick’s meeting-houſe at Clapham was borrowed for the purpoſe, their own being too ſmall. We are aſſured that conſiderable proſperity has hitherto attended the cauſe.—But the church is in its infancy—may it increaſe with the increaſe of God!

286. Mr. Wood’s predeceſſor at Guildford, in the paſtoral office, was Mr. John Chamberlain, who died October 11, 1792, aged 69 years ten months and two days. His funeral diſcourſe was preached by Dr. Rippon, who, from an acquaintance with him, of no ſhort ſtanding, pays but a tributary reſpect to his memory, and to the honour of divine grace, in ſaying, That, the ſoundneſs of his faith, the ſimplicity of his manners, the ſincerity of his friendſhip, and the favor of his devotion, rendered him, both in life and death, an ornament to the chriſtian name, and an honour to the miniſterial and paſtoral functions.

287. “ Four have been added to us this year, and one excluded. Our twenty-ſeven members are in peace, and we have great reaſon to be thankful for the Lord’s goodneſs to us. Sept. 7, 1798.”

293. “ Through the kindneſs of God, who never fails to help his people, we, as a church, are much more peaceable and harmonious, than we have been. The influence of the Antinomian doctrine and ſpirit, which has prevailed around us, is, I truſt, on the decline. Our Deacons, Dicker and Larwill now preach, I hope, with much profit to the country people, among whom they go on the Lord’s days. I want, my dear Sir, to have my heart more deeply affected with the goodneſs of God.”

WARWICKSHIRE.*

298	Aulcester	-	-	James Smith
299	Bedworth	-	-	
300	Birmingham, 1st church			Samuel Pearce
301	—————, 2d church			Edward Edmonds

NOTES.

* The meeting-house at Ryton, Warwickshire, partly fell down, and is converted into a dwelling-house, the church is become extinct, and the pious people who remain chiefly attend at Bedworth.

298, One of our correspondents says, that "Mr. James Smith, is laborious, and has been comforted lately with an addition of nine members."

299. "This church, consisting of twelve members, was formed by the Rev. Mr. Edmonds, of Birmingham, July 27, 1796. Since then six have been added." They are supplied by neighbouring ministers.

300. We are enabled to give, in future, a syllabus of the history of the first church at Birmingham, from the pen of a brother which always pleases, though, alas! we are now called to mourn a general suspension of its energies, after it has been long in daily career eighteen hours together:—an excess of service this to which no zeal was equal but that of an angel in embryo, and under which no animal economy, of tender sensibilities, could perseveringly have supported, but for the aids of devotion, and an elevated delight in God. The deep affliction of Mr. Pearce, however, we find is somewhat alleviated, and the hearty prayer of thousands is, that he may be returned to the bosom of his family, of his church, and of all his religious connexions, in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. His flock is increased on every side, remaining in peace and love beneath the care of the great shepherd; who is constantly adding to this part of Zion such as we trust shall be eternally saved.

A paragraph in the letter of this church to the association at Sheffnall in May, 1798, gives an equal proof of their fidelity to each other and love to Christ. And as it states a conduct which deserves to rank in the class of examples for other churches, we shall lengthen this single note with an extract. After mentioning the number of their communicants, they proceed thus:—Among so many members "it is difficult to preserve due discipline without extraordinary efforts, but experience teaches us its importance and necessity in order to purity, order, and social comfort. Several of our members have at various periods been infected with that bane of church prosperity—a *wandering spirit*, which, being indulged instead of repressed, has ended in a frequent neglect of their social duties, and their seats have been vacated at home for the indulgence of their curiosity abroad. We resolved early in this year to examine the orderly demeanour of each member, and to suffer none to remain on our church book who violated their obligations to their brethren. The result has been that after due exhortation, those who would not be reclaimed have been excluded.—But then the Lord has added fresh seals to his truth among us, and we are yet more in number than we were at the last association."

[The truth is as we gather from other correct papers, that in October, 1798, the church consisted of nearly 370 members.]

The letter to the association adds "we have very pleasing prospects in villages near Birmingham, &c. &c. O brethren! let us add exertion to our prayers and God will add his blessing to both." This church has lately called into the work of the ministry, Mr. William Scarlett, who preaches occasionally at Wolverhampton, and in that neighbourhood. Messrs. Thomas Cranfield, Henry Pope, Thomas King, William Thorne, Thomas Potts, and Peter Round, are deacons.

CHURCHES.	-	-	PASTORS & MINISTERS,
302 Coventry	-	-	John Butterworth
303 Henly-in-Arden	-	-	Stephen Barker
304 Warwick	-	-	John Wilson
			305 Brad-

NOTES.

301. The letter of brother Edward Edmonds's church at Birmingham addressed to the late association at Sheffnal, is remarkably pleasing. Sixteen persons have been added to their communion from the yearly meeting of 1797 to that of 1798. "Continually increasing congregations have crowded the house of God, and some good fruits have appeared in the country places around. Old professors, long hidden from the church, have been fought out and now rejoice they are not forsaken. We send eight of our brethren, two and two, who expound the word every Lord's day, at Erdington, Yardly, Beech-lane, and Heeley, where they are kindly received. Two of our brethren, William Wilkes and Charles Moloney, are called to the important work of the ministry—Men honourable in the church. We are also endeavouring to establish two Sunday Schools in the country, and we wish every means may be used successfully to promote a spirit of faith, love, holiness, and oneness of mind on all occasions." Messrs. Edward Blakemore, William Lowe, and William Wilks, are deacons.

302. The aged and truly reverend minister of Coventry has this summer been in London, collecting towards the payment of the debt on his meeting-house, and has, in consequence of the great esteem in which he is held, and of the great assistance received from his son, an eminent law bookseller in the city, returned to his people with 160*l*. Considering his time of life, he bore the fatigue as well as could have been expected, preached twice to his people the Lord's day after he got home, and expresses peculiar gratitude to his christian brethren, in town. This liberality of the friends in London has induced several members and hearers in the congregation at Coventry, *to lend without interest*, a further considerable sum to reduce the debt on their place of worship, and they have agreed to be repaid as opportunity shall offer. May the last days of this valuable servant of Christ be his best days!

303. The connection between this people and the church at Aulcester is merely nominal, and as they have applied to the London fund for assistance, and support their own minister, it is said "they may properly be considered a distinct church."

304. Mr. Peter Reece, the former pastor of the church at Warwick, departed this life June 11, 1795. "Mr. John Wilson the last pastor is to remove at the end of this year, 1798."

The Ministers and Messengers of the MIDLAND ASSOCIATION met at Warwick, June 6, and 7, 1797.

BREVIATES.—Tuesday evening, six o'clock. The Association was opened with prayer, brother Butterworth was chosen Moderator; the letters from the churches were read. The ministers and messengers audited the treasurer's accounts of the Association Fund, and the contributions from the various churches were received. Agreed, that in future the pastor of the church where the Association is held, be considered as Moderator for that year.

Wednesday morning, six o'clock. Brother Pope prayed; brother Wilson produced the circular letter, which was ordered to be printed. Brother Belfer stated the case of his friends at Worcester; and requested the assistance of neighbouring congregations, towards defraying the expense attending the erection of a house for divine worship in that city. Agreed to recommend

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

WILTSHIRE.

305	Bradford	-	-	Joseph Ring
306	Bratton	-	-	
307	Calne	-	-	Isaac Taylor
308	Chapmanslade	-	-	William Clift
309	Crockerton	-	-	John Clark
310	Devizes	-	-	

NOTES.

recommend the said case to the benevolence of the associated churches. Agreed that the institution of Sunday Schools appears to this association as a happy mean, of diffusing religious knowledge and happiness among the poor. At half past ten met for public worship; brother Belsher prayed; brother Edmonds, of Upton, preached from Numb. x. 29. Brother Butterworth preached from Isa. xxv. 7. Brother Pearce prayed, and dismissed the congregation. Met again in the evening at six, when brother Davis preached.

State of the Churches since the last Association.

INCREASE.			DECREASE.		
By Baptism,	-	104	By Death,	-	38
Letters and Experience,		15	Exclusion,	-	19
Restored	-	2	Dismission	-	10
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		121			67
Clear increase this year			- 54.		

The next association to be held at Sheffnal, on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Whitfun week. Brethren Pearce and Edmonds of Birmingham, to preach.

305. The friends at Bradford have pulled down their place of worship and erected a new one nearly in the same spot; the expenses of which, we learn, are about 900l. but before they began to build, they "had liberally contributed upwards of 500l."

306. Rev. John Cooper, late pastor at Bratton, "publicly dissolved his relation to that church in April, 1797. It has since been chiefly supplied by the students from Bristol academy, whose labours have been blessed of God to the awakening of some, and the edification of others. Ten have been added by baptism."

307. Mr. Taylor spent a few months, in 1797, at Plymouth, but is now in his former station, at Calne.

308 The place of worship at Chapmanslade, between Westbury Leigh and Beckington, in the road to Frome, is always crowded of a Lord's day afternoon, and very inconvenient for worship. Neighbouring pastors administer the Lord's supper here. Mr. William Clift, of North Bradley, in this county, was sent into the christian ministry, by Mr. Marshman's church at Westbury Leigh.

309. "July 29, 1798,—Our pastor, [who resides at Frome, is in his 87th year, and he hath been our minister almost fifty-two] can be with us but once in a month. The other Lord's-days we are supplied by Messrs. Walfield, Whitchurch, and Thrasher. Our number of members is thirty-two, and auditory, sometimes, between two and three hundred.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
311 Downton	- - John Bain
312 Grittleton	- - Richard Mofely
313 Malmsbury	- -
314 Melksham	- - Thomas Ward
315 North Bradley	- - Joseph Clift
316 Salisbury	- - John Saffery.
317 Southwick	- - William Norrefs
318 Stratton	- -

NOTES.

310. May 29, 1798. The members in full communion at Downton were twenty-seven. A double lecture was held here, Sept. 26, 1798, when ten of the ministers who were present agreed to go in turn, every other Lord's day for twenty weeks to come, into the Isle of Wight to preach the gospel. Two or three places, previous to that meeting, "had been opened by brother Perry, of Brockenhurst, and brother Saunders at Yarmouth, and its neighbourhood, where the cry of many is, *come over and help us.*"

314. The good people at Melksham, at last, have the pleasure to appear among their sister churches with a pastor.—Mr. Thomas Ward was called to the work of the gospel ministry, by the church of Christ, at Diss, in Norfolk; he finished his course of studies at the Bristol academy, and was ordained July 13, 1798, when his tutor, Dr. Ryland, and the Rev. Benjamin Francis, preached. Mr. Ward has been preaching at Melksham more than a year, and often goes to the adjacent villages, "warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come, and inviting them to fly to Christ, as the hope set before them in the gospel."

315. Not long since, they erected a new gallery, and are yet, we understand, a crowded auditory. And, in the course of the two past summers, seventeen members have been added to them.

316. From the association of 1796, to that of 1797, twenty-six members were added to this church; and in the next year 1798, nineteen more,—Nine of the former number were from the surrounding villages, into which the gospel had lately been introduced. But seven days before the association at Sarum, May 29, 30, 1798, the pastor, the church, dear relatives, a large connexion, sustained no common loss, in the death of Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. Mr. Saffery, and daughter of the Rev. Mr. Horsey, of Portsea, only 35 years of age. A voice was heard, by the side of her grave, which published to her affectionate husband, a sermon in a sentence,—

"*She is perfect, and You are training.*"

Mr. Saffery, since this bereaving dispensation, has been prevailed on, by much entreaty, to visit the villages in Cornwall, in company with Mr. Franklin; they spent the July and August of 1798, under the direction of the London Baptist Itinerant Society.—Their labours have been very acceptable, quickening, and refreshing, of which their correct journal and other papers are a sufficient proof.

317. A letter, which we have in reserve, drawn up by the Rev. Mr. Cooper, of Trowbridge, in 1794, gives a very pleasing account of this *new* church, which, nevertheless, is in a sense, the mother of many of the surrounding congregations.

318. Mr. Thomas Smith, of Kingston Lisle, preaches to the few good people at Stratton once a fortnight, and administers the Lord's-supper to them every second month. They are supplied, at other times, by Mr. John Mayel, an occasional preacher, in the neighbourhood.

CHURCHES.

PASTORS & MINISTERS.

319	Trowbridge	-	-	Nathaniel Rawlins
320	Westbury Leigh	-	-	Robert Marshman

WORCESTERSHIRE.

321	Bewdley	-	-	George Williams
322	Brettel-lane (Stourbridge)			<i>William Snow</i>
323	Bromsgrove	-	-	<i>John Scroxtton</i>

NOTES.

319. The congregation at Trowbridge, is in a flourishing state. A minister, who preached there, some time since, says, that "it is one of the most attentive he has ever addressed;—young and old are seeking the Lord." The church has called to the work of the ministry, Mr. Thomas Dunn, who preaches in the villages; and they have other brethren who assist in doing good allaround.

320. Our senior brother the Rev. Mr. Marshman, of Westbury Leigh, has been graciously owned of God in his ministerial labours, but more abundantly so, since he has freely invited *all* the poor sinners who attend on his labours to come to Christ as the only saviour. The people of his charge sent into the ministry Mr. William Clift, and his brother Mr. Joseph Clift; the former now pastor at North Bradley, and the latter minister at Chapmanslade. At both of these places some of the members of Westbury Leigh resided, and by mutual consent formed two additional churches. Mr. Marshman's congregation still continued so numerous, that they called a meeting Feb. 9, 1796, at which it was agreed to build a new place of worship adjoining the other, 50 feet long and 40 feet wide in the clear, with galleries on three sides four seats deep, and the same day opened a general subscription, which at once amounted to 567l. and soon 700l. was raised among themselves. The whole expense has been 1300l. which was "nearly or quite paid" a year ago. The house was opened for public worship April 19, 1797, when our brethren Messrs. Steadman, Ryland, and B. Francis, preached to an assembly, which was numbered, of 1700 people. Some time previous to this the men members of the church were 42, the women 74. Their number we apprehend, must be larger now; as, in the year 1798, Mr. Marshman baptized seventeen persons in one day. From his last letter we learn, that "many hearers attend," that "his loving people are comfortably settled in their new house, and are in peace among themselves."

321. A succinct account of this church from its formation, and of the ordination of Mr. Williams who was called to the ministry by Mr. Pearce's church at Birmingham, is prepared for the Register.

322. The friends at Nine Locks, near Brettel-Lane, write—that Mr. Snow has been with them about twelve months, in which time fourteen persons have been added to them,—that brotherly love, evangelical truth, and christian concord abound,—that their meeting-house is the dwelling of one of their members, is too small for the people who attend, and that those who get in are sometimes almost ready to faint with heat.

323. Mr. John Scroxtton received his education under the Rev. Mr. Bull, of Newport Pagnel, and was "resident minister at Woburn" before his removal to Bromsgrove. Habituated to village preaching, he has, in his new situation, began to labour in two neighbouring villages. "The people seem well disposed to hear, and prayer meetings are better attended than usual in his own congregation."

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS,
324 Buckridge-bank - -	John Thomas
325 Dudley - -	-
326 Evesham - -	Lawrence Butterworth
327 Perfhore, 1st Church -	John Rowland
328 -----, 2d Church -	John Smith
329 Shipstone on Stour -	----- Reed
330 Upton -	Thomas Edmonds
331 Westmancote - -	Thomas Williams
332 Worcester - -	William Belfer

YORKSHIRE.*

333 Barnoldswick - -	Nathan Smith
334 Bingley - -	-
335 Bishop Burton - -	David Kinghorn
336 Blackley - -	John Rigby
337 Bradford - -	William Crabtree
338 Bramley - -	-
339 Bridlington - -	Robert Harnais
340 Cowlinghill - -	James Shuttleworth

NOTES.

* 1. *Very great* alterations have taken place among the churches in Yorkshire. The list of them in 1794 contained thirty lines. Whoever compares *this* catalogue with *that*, will find but fourteen lines in it which stand as they did little more than four years ago.

* 2. The church at Elland, it seems is extinct. And the second church at Leeds was dissolved some time after the death of their pastor, Mr. Thomas Price. Their place of worship, called Ebenezer chapel, has been purchased by the methodists.

325. Dudley is commonly supplied by neighbouring ministers.

333. Mr. Smith has been engaged in teaching a day school nine or ten months in the year, and in addition to his pastoral duties preaches occasionally at Early, Kellbrook, and Foubridge, but, he fears, without much success. The members of his church are thirty-two, the congregation is moderate in the afternoons, and the word is not preached without some good effect. Nov. 27, 1798.

337. The aged father Crabtree, at Bradford, is now getting feeble, and sometimes sits down once or twice, we are told, in the course of his sermon, but great favour attends his prayers and all his discourses, and he preaches with as much zeal and animation as ever.

339. The Rev. Joseph Gawkrödger, of Bridlington, in November 1794, laid down his pastoral office. The society hearing Mr. Robert Harnais, a member of the first baptist church at Hull, invited him to serve them a year, and then unanimously introduced him into the pastoral office by the assistance of the Rev. Messrs. Hindle, and Hague. "A few years since they were under the necessity of rebuilding, in a great measure, their meeting-house, but did not apply to any other church for assistance."

340. Mr. Shuttleworth, of Cowling-Hill, near Cross-Hills, Craven, is a minister of a weak constitution, with a little income, and a wife, and ten children many of them very small. Nov. 27, 1798, the members of his church were forty-five. His ministry is well attended in general. He is of late in the habit of village preaching, which he thinks "is a mean of keeping up the congregation. People attend pretty well in the villages, and many come to hear on Lord's days, who before neglected that duty."

CHURCHES.	-	-	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
341 Driffeld (Great)	-	-	<i>Jabez Stutterd</i>
342 Farley	-	-	James Ashworth
343 Gildersome	-	-	
344 Gisburn Forest	-	-	Thomas Newhouse
345 Halifax	-	-	William Wade
346 Haworth	-	-	Miles Oddy
347 Hebden Bridge	-	-	John Fawcett <i>John Fawcett, jun.</i>

NOTES.

341. Mr. William Wrightson, having resigned his pastoral office, preached his farewell sermon here July 23, 1797: since then Mr. Jabez Stutterd, a member of the baptist church at Blackley, near Halifax, who has been sometime resident in the neighbourhood and preached in its villages, is minister at Driffeld.

342. Our Reverend Brother Mr. James Ashworth, now at Farley, was formerly pastor at Gildersome.

344. The meeting-house stands by the highway side, five miles north of Gisburn. Mr. Newhouse preaches also at Long Preston, Craven, once a fortnight.

345. The ministers and messengers of the YORK and LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION assembled at Halifax, on the 30th and 31st of May, 1794.

MINUTES.—Met at two o'clock on the Wednesday, as usual. A hymn being sung, Mr. Cockin opened the service by solemn prayer, after which Mr. Littlewood preached, from Isaiah xxxvii. 31. *The remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward; and bear fruit upward.* J. Fawcett, jun. then read the letter he had prepared, which was approved, and ordered to be printed.

Met again at seven in the evening; J. Fawcett, sen. being chosen Moderator, after singing and prayer, the letters were read from the several churches, and the service closed by Mr. Ashworth.

The concourse of people being pretty large on Thursday morning, Mr. Cockin made an offer of his Meeting-house, which was accepted. The service was opened there by Mr. Langdon, after which Mr. Pilling preached from Jer. ~~xxx~~ 7. *It is the day of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be delivered out of it.* Then J. Fawcett sen. from John xix. 30. *He said, it is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

N. B. The Associated Ministers agreed that the next Association be held at Leeds, on the Wednesday and Thursday in Whitsun-week.

That the subject of the next Circular Letter be, *The life of Faith*, and that Mr. Littlewood be appointed to prepare it.

That thanks be presented to Mr. Cockin for the use of his Meeting-house, and other tokens of kindness on this occasion.

*State of the Churches:—*Added 63—Diminished 32—Increased 31.

347. Our Reverend Brother, Elder Fawcett, surrounded by friends, active in duty, and successful in his numerous engagements, has, in the year 1798, at Ewood Hall, the place of his residence, near Halifax, published the following works:

1. *Life in God's favour*, by the Rev. OLIVER HEYWOOD, A. B. formerly minister of the gospel at Coley chapel, and afterwards at Northavram, in the parish of Halifax, (N. B. *A little corrected and modernized*) 12mo. price 2s. 3d. in boards, or 2s. 9d. bound.

2. *The Life of the Rev. OLIVER HEYWOOD*, with historical sketches of the times in which he lived; and anecdotes of some other eminent ministers, in Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c. 12mo. price 2s. 3d. boards, or 2s. 9d. bound.

Mr. John Fawcett, jun. has, lately, published a pamphlet, (price 6d.) *on the communion of saints*, which has met the approbation of the associate baptist ministers, in York and Lancashire, and of many respectable characters in other connexions.

CHURCHES.		PASTORS & MINISTERS.	
348	Hull, 1st Church -	-	Mordaunt Cracherode
349	-----, 2d church -	-	James Lyons.
350	Leeds -	-	Thomas Langdon
351	Lockwood -	-	William Hartley
352	Masborough -	-	John Turton
353	Rawden -	-	John Oulton
354	Sallendinook -	-	Robert Hyde
355	Scarborough -	-	William Hagué
356	ShIPLEY -	-	John Bowser
357	Snape -	-	William Terry
358	Slaughwaite -	-	Charles Bamford

NOTES.

348. The first baptist church in Hull, of which the late Rev. John Beatson was pastor, and after him Mr. John Hindle, meets in Salthouse Lane, and consists of about 120 members. The present minister, Mr Mordaunt Cracherode, pastor, for many years, of the Independent church at Gravetend, in Kent, was baptized July 15, 1798, by Dr. Rippon, as was also at the same time Mr. William Waterman, pastor of an independent church in London.

349. Mr. James Lyons succeeds Mr. William Pendered, as pastor of the second baptist church in Hull. He was baptized at Plymouth Dock, by Mr. Birt, and called to the ministerial work, by the church under his care. He assisted Mr. Birt, at Dock, at Saltash in the new meeting house which Mr. Birt had erected, and elsewhere. His ordination is inserted in page 150 of this volume. The place of worship in George Street, Hull, which cost more than a thousand pounds, was begun in October 1795, and is handsomely finished. Soon as it was determined to build, the sum of nearly 500*l.* was immediately and voluntarily subscribed;—other subscriptions have been lately obtained in Hull, and at distant places: and we have authority to say, that Mr. Lyons has a flattering prospect before him. The four congregations in Hull, belonging to the Rev. Mr. Lambert pastor of the independent church, to Messrs. Lyons and Cracherode ministers of the two baptist churches, and to the Rev. Mr. Richards of Lady Huntingdon's chapel, have a *monthly meeting* of prayer, for success on the missions, which passes from one place of worship to another. It has been, hitherto, well attended by full congregations, and followed with beneficial consequences.

351. Rev. William Hartley, formerly at Halifax, now at Lockwood, has fifty members under his pastoral care, and is well attended.

352. Masborough Common, August. 1798.—“Blessed be God, our number is augmented. Six have been baptized and received into full communion; and three from the sister church, that *was* at Sheffield, [but is now dissolved] have joined themselves to us”

354. Mr. Hyde removed from his pastoral situation at Cloughford, in Lancashire, to this of Sallendine Nook, three miles from Halifax. He has ninety-eight members, and is well attended. This useful minister has “eight children, the oldest not 15 years of age.”

355. The brethren at Scarborough, thus write: June 26, 1796.—“Our beloved pastor is advancing in years and almost blind.—He is a zealous, faithful labourer in this corner of Christ's vineyard.”—June 20, 1798. “He has a wife and three children at home,—his last years salary amounted to 30*l.* which was the most we ever raised him; however, as our congregation increases, we hope it will be better.”

358. Powlmoor, Slaughwaite, near Huddersfield.—The meeting-house is built on the common, a mile north of the village of Slaughwaite, six miles from Halifax and three from Sallendine Nook. The number of members about sixty. A pleasing and an increasing congregation.—“The good old pastor is more popular than ever.”

CHURCHES.	PASTORS & MINISTERS.
359 Steeplane - - -	John Walton
360 Sutton (in Craven) - -	-
361 Wainfgate - - -	John Brearley

NOTES.

359. Steep-Lane, it seems, is near Sowerby, in the parish of Halifax. In our list of 1794, the name of Mr. John Dracup stood as pastor here. This aged and much esteemed servant of Christ finished his course with honour and tranquillity in the latter end of May, 1795. And on the day his funeral was preached, his aged widow also expired. They had lived happily together for a long course of years. After his death, Mr. William Wrathall, formerly at Wainfgate, became their pastor, but removed from them to Bolton-le-Moor, in Lancashire, about the close of August, 1798. They are now supplied by a young man of Mr. Fawcett's academy.

REMARKS.

1. The preceding sketches, every intelligent person will observe, are to be estimated only according to the humble rank which they assume—They are most of them mere *notes*.

2. In the first twelve pages of the Catalogue of English Churches, the dates go no farther than September 1798, which is the month when these pages were printed; but, as the remaining parts of the list, from page twelve to page 40, were not printed till three months after, some articles from note 86, to number 359, might have been dated at the very end of December 1798.

3. Most of the notes are descriptive of the state of our smaller churches, and of such societies as are recently formed; but those ancient churches in London, at Bristol, and elsewhere, which consist of 150, 200, and some of them of three or four hundred members, not to say more, are intentionally passed over, *at present*, without any remarks.

4. The expression; *this year*, which often occurs in the notes, generally intends, unless there be some date or intimation to the contrary, from the Whitsuntide of 1797 to that of 1798, Whitsuntide being a time of the year when letters are sent by the English churches to the associations;—or else it means, (which is nearly the same) from the August of 1797, to that of 1798, in which month the poorer country churches send their annual petitions to the baptist fund, in London, giving an account of their faith, and also of their increase and decrease in the twelve months then past.

5. The churches in our list of May, 1794, were 326; in this of December 1798, they are 361. The smallest which have been newly embodied, were about ten or eleven members; the largest of them was formed with 67.

It deserves to be remarked, with gratitude, how generally the churches are supplied with ministers, pastors, and the means of grace; prayer meetings are in numerous places well attended, yea better than ever, and eminently so *among the churches which are flourishing*. There are a few of our societies, and but a few, blessed be God, in all the list, whose members are decreased. Some also have great reason to mourn, whether they do or not, over their barrenness and lukewarmness, But revivals have

been enjoyed in other places, and the members in several churches have been more than tripled within five years. In one church an hundred members have been added in two years. The greatest increase, of which we have lately heard, has been at Ipswich; sixty members were added last year, and two brethren sent into the work of the ministry. One little country association of five churches, June 1797, consisted of 739 members.—All the five have been under a necessity of enlarging their places of worship. And, it is said, that more of our meeting houses have been enlarged, within the last five years, and more built within the last fifteen, than had been built and enlarged for thirty years before,—and yet, it is necessary for many more of our societies to lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes. Within a small time, about an hundred persons have been regularly sent into the work of the ministry; and one of our churches has had the felicity of introducing four, the same day, into the sacred service. Multitudes of other brethren are employed, according to their abilities, in village services—reading, praying, expounding—two or three brethren from some churches, seven or eight from others; in one church 17 persons, and in another no less than 30 offered their assistance in these services.

Saying nothing of the mission to India, which is likely to render Bengal, what England is already, A LAND OF BIBLES, such societies have been formed at home, for village and itinerant preaching, as were never before heard of among the Baptists, in this country, unless the year 1689 be an exception—and a glorious exception it is. Exertions have been made all through Cornwall, and in the north of Somerset and Devon, in Shropshire, and in some parts of the neighbouring counties, by the *Baptist Itinerant Society in London*; and elsewhere, by other Societies, not without effect. To these efforts there has been scarcely any opposition, nor is opposition much to be feared in any part of his Majesty's dominions. Almost the whole country is open for village preaching, and if there be a hamlet in a thousand where ministers cannot, with comfort, preach out of doors, rooms and houses may be registered at a small expense; and if this is done, which we earnestly recommend, the gospel will be heard not only while the summer weather lasts, but it is probable all the year round.

As to the academy at Bristol, under the presidency of our excellent friend Dr. Ryland, it is full of students; several have applied for admission, who cannot be received at present. Two or three seminaries on a smaller scale, in different parts of England, are just opening, and it is a question of new discussion, Whether a number of them, all through the kingdom, cannot be raised; in each of which two or three young men, retaining their former stations, and either partially or wholly their several occupations, might be considerably assisted in reading and study, and trained to greater usefulness, by capable pastors near the spot, who might give them two, three or more lessons a week, as the mutual circumstances of such ministers and students admitted.

A LIST OF THE PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES IN WALES.

JULY 1798.

☞ *The First Column shews the Number of Churches in this Connexion—the Second, the Year when the Churches were constituted—the Third, the Names of the Churches—the Fourth, the Association to which they belong ; thus, N is for the North Association ; S E for the South-East ; and S W for the South West—the Fifth Column has the Names of Pastors and Ministers ; and those printed in Italic characters are not ordained.**

NGLESEA.

NO.	YEAR	CHURCHES	ASS.	PASTORS AND MINISTERS
1	1784	Beaumaris	N	Richard Michael
2	1779	Ebenezer	N	Christmas Evans
3	1796	Amlwch	N	Edmund Francis
4	1796	Newchapel	N	Hugh Williams
5	1796	Llanvachreth	N	William Roberts
6	1796	Whitechapel	N	
—	—	Holyhead		
—	—	Llanfair		

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

7	1787	Builth	S E	William Jones
8	1696	Maef-y-berllan	S E	David Evans

CARDIGANSHIRE.

9	1788	Aberytywyth	S W	Thomas Evans
10	1795	Llwyndafydd	S W	<i>Owen Williams</i>

* We have inserted the Names of the additional assistant Ministers, who are not yet ordained, in Notes at the bottom of each Page in this List.

1 Richard Morgan, Ellis Roberts	}	9 Samuel Breeze,
8 Charles Jenkins, John Williams		

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

NO.	YEAR	CHURCHES	ASS.	FACTORS AND MINISTERS
11	1742	Aberduar	S W	Zacharias Thomas David Davis Timothy Thomas
12	1794	Drefach	S W	<i>David Jones</i>
13	1794	Ffynnon-henry	S W	James Davis
14	1775	Graig	S W	Evan Evans
15	1775	Heolyprior	S W	Joshua Watkins
16	1788	Llandyfaen	S W	Moses Williams
17	1735	Llanelli	S W	Morgan Rees Daniel Davis
18	1795	Penybont	S W	Evan Rees
19	1696	Pantêg	S W	William Thomas Griffith Jones
20	1768	Porthtywyll	S W	Owen Rees. Benjamin Beinon
21	1668	Rhydwilim	S W	Gabriel Rees
22	1773	Salem	S W	Benjamin Phillips
23	1792	Ty-côch	S W	
24	1797	Cwmifor	S W	<i>Charles Jones</i>
25	1797	Llangadeirn	S W	
26	1794	Bwlchgwynt	S W	John Bevan
27	1797	Wainclynda	S W	

CARNARVONSHIRE.

28	1784	Horeb	N	<i>William Williams</i>
29	1796	Cricketh	N	Evan Evans
30	1796	Llanllyfun	N	
31	1793	Nevin	N	
32	1784	Salem	N	
33	1796	Cachow	N	
34	1796	Llangian	N	
35	1796	Tyddynfion	N	John Pritchard

DENBIGHSHIRE.

36	1786	Newbridge	N	John Griffiths
37	1764	Glynn	N	Thomas Jones
38	1794	Vale of Clwyd	N	<i>John Jones</i>
39	1794	Groesfifaf	N	

11 David Thomas, Aaron Williams,
David Rees, David Saunders
14 David Davis,
15 John James,
18 John David, Evan Jones (at Brif-
tol) Jenkin Jones, do. Daniel
Davis,

21 Thomas Williams, William Wil-
liams, John Llewelin, Mauris
Mauris, Dan. Evan, Dav. Hughes
22 Job Lewis
24 Joshua Thomas
28 William Goodman, John Hughes
37 Edward Jones

NO.	YEAR	CHURCHES	ASS,	PASTORS AND MINISTERS.
40	1789	Rhôs	N	John Roberts Robert Roberts
41	1783	Salem	N	Hugh Dafydd
42	1796	Plafymredydd	N	
43	1796	Llanferddolhaiarn	N	
44	1796	Bryndimydd	N	William Roberts
45	1796	Groesfifaf	N	
46	1796	Llanfraid Glynn	N	John Edwards
47	—	Wrexham	N	

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

48	1649	Swansea	S W	
49	1785	Do,	S W	Daniel Jones
50	1789	Bryn Salem	S W	
51	1791	Merthyr-tydfil	S E	Edward Evans
52	1792	Ditto	S E	William Price
53	1790	Neath	S W	Maurice Jones
54	1650	Hengoed	S E	Lewis James James Perrot
55	1795	Blaeneglyntawe	S W	David Hughes
56	1789	Nottage	S E	<i>Edward David</i>
57	1726	Pen-y-fai	S E	Jonathan Francis Thomas Edward
58	1777	Peterton	S E	<i>William John</i>
59	1785	Yftrad-dafodog	S E	David Oliver

HEREFORDSHIRE.

60	1633	Olchon	S E	George Watkins
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MERIONETHSHIRE.

61	1785	Ramoth	N	John Jones Joseph Richard
62	1795	Harlech	N	
63	1795	Dolegelle	N	

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

64	1747	Bethesda	S E	John Hier William Edmond
65	1696	Blaenau	S E	Thomas Moses Joseph Price

46 Richard Foulks
51 David John
52 John Adams
53 Jonathan David

60 — Watkins, son of the above
64 Harry Rees
65 Harry Evan, William Thomas,
Academist

NO.	YEAR	CHURCHES	ASS.	PASTORS AND MINISTERS
66	1772	Brynbyga	S E	Edmund Watkins Morgan David
67	1771	Caerleon	S E	Thomas Evans
68	1652	Llanwenarth	S E	James Lewis
69	1729	Pen-y-garn	S E	John Evans
70	1776	Trofnant	S E	Miles Edwards
71	1781	Twyn-gwyn	S E	<i>William Elias</i>

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

72	1792	Rhydfelen	S E	James Evans Joseph Jones
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PEMBROKESHIRE.

73	1704	Cilfowyr	S W	David Evans Benjamin David David Evans
74	1795	Blaenywain	S W	Titus Lewis
75	1767	Ebenezer	S W	William Williams Lewis Evan
76	1745	Llanglofan	S W	David Lewis John Williams Henry David Thomas Lewis Joseph James Morris Griffiths
77	1794	Newport	S W	John Stephens
78	—	Tabor	S W	William Griffiths
79	1794	Middle Mill	S W	John Reynolds John Clunn
80	1731	Moleston	S W	Benjamin Davis Daniel Davis William Thomas David Rees
81	1794	Fynnon	S W	Benjamin Davis

RADNORSHIRE.

82	—	Dolau	S E	<i>David Evans</i>
83	1796	Nantgwyn	S E	James Harris
84	1727	Pentref	S E	John Evans Morgan Evans

68	William Morris, David Jones		76	William Jenkins, <i>Academist</i>
72	Richard Elis		78	Thomys Evan
73	John David, William Richard, David Thomas		80	Isaac John,
74	Evan Lloyd		83	Thomas Powel
75	Richard Jones,		84	David Richard,

REMARKS.

The churches in Denbigh, Carnarvon, Anglesea and Merioneth have dissolved their yearly association, which was called the *North*; but they have quarterly and monthly meetings.

Many branches of the churches in Carnarvonshire, being distant from each other, and unable to meet in one place and to carry on discipline, have formed themselves into distinct churches. This will, in *some* measure, account for the increased number of churches in the Principality. In 1794 the number of churches was fifty six, in which there were about seven thousand and fifty eight members, In July 1798 there were eighty four churches, and we think not less than NINE thousand members.

WELSH ASSOCIATIONS, 1798.

The *Westerly* Association was held on the second Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in June, at Ebenezer, in the county of Pembroke.

Tuesday evening.—Brethren G. Rees, and D. Rees, prayed; B. Beynon, and H. David, preached; and D. Davies concluded in prayer.

Wednesday—J. Watkins, T. Jones, and B. Davies, prayed; Z. Thomas, D. Jones, and C. Evans, preached; and the opportunity concluded in prayer. Soon after, brother T. Evans prayed; and the Letters from the Churches were read; from which it appeared the churches in general were in love and unity; and, after giving satisfaction respecting their faith and practice, the churches at Llangadeirn, Wainclynda, and Cwmfein, were admitted members of the association.

State of the Churches :

ADDED.		DIMINISHED.	
Baptized	- 336	Excluded	- 91
Restored	- 49	Dismissed by Letters	3
		Dead	60
	<hr/> 385		<hr/> 154
Clear Increase	- - 231.		

The next Association to be at Salem. Brethren D. Jones and J. Reynolds to preach on the Tuesday evening, There will be no preaching on Wednesday, in order that sufficient time may be had to consider the state of the churches.

The *Easterly* Association was this year at Ystrad-dafodog:—there are considerable additions to that, but their letter is not come to hand.

The same also may be said of the *North*. They have now only quarterly meetings,—but prosper, and are comfortable.

THE NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION.

The Ministers and Messengers of this Association assembled at Spalding in Lincolnshire, May 29, 30, 31, 1798.

BREVIA TES.

Tuesday. After dinner the ministers and messengers retired to hear the circular letter, prepared by brother Burton, on EXPERIMENTAL RELIGION which was approved and ordered to the press.—Evening, six o'clock. Met for worship. Brother Crapps, minister of the place, began in prayer. Brother Morris, of Clipstone, was chosen moderator. The letters from the churches were read, and their contents minuted, The meeting was closed in prayer by brother Cave.

Wednesday morning, six o'clock. Assembled for prayer. The brethren who engaged were, Nichols from Nottingham, Melksham from Boston, Jerman jun. from Clipstone, and Oates from Sutton, Ely.

Half past ten o'clock.—Met for public worship. Brother Evans began in prayer: brother Blundel preached from Psalm xxvi, 4. "I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." Brother Burton concluded in prayer.

Afternoon, half past two o'clock.—First prayer by brother Davis of Thorne; sermon by brother Fuller, Gen. xii, 2. "I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing." Concluding prayer by brother Mills.

Evening, half past six o'clock.—Brother Mabbutt, of Oakham, prayed; brother Sutcliff preached from Matt. xiii. 46, 47. "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a net that was cast into the sea, &c."

Thursday morning, six o'clock. The service began with prayer by brother Bruin, messenger from the church at Arnsby. The ministers communicated their religious experience, and brother Read, of Oakham, concluded the public service by prayer.—The contributions to the association fund were then received, and distributions made to several of the brethren in aid of village preaching. The circular letter for next year *On Church Discipline*, to be written by brother Fuller. The association was concluded with prayer by the moderator.

The next association to be held at Olney, Bucks, on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after Whitsun-week. Brethren Simmons and Hopper to preach.

State of the Churches since the last Association.

ADDED.		DIMINISHED.	
By Baptism & Experience	64	By Letters of Dismission	7
Letters	- 2	Exclusion	- 22
Restored	- 4	Death	- 33
	<hr/> 70		<hr/> 62
Increase	- - 8		

THE
COMMENCEMENT

AT
RHODE-ISLAND COLLEGE.

PROVIDENCE, SEPT. 9, 1797.

ON Wednesday last was celebrated the anniversary Commencement of Rhode-Island College. The processional train was formed as usual, and at ten o'clock moved to the Baptist meeting-house. The following exercises, after a prayer by the President, were performed.

The Performances of the Forenoon were,

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

1. Salutatory address, and an oration on independence—by James Ervin.
2. An intermediate oration, on the liberty of the press—by John Simmons.
3. An intermediate oration, on the advantages resulting from the study of history—by Nathan Holman.
4. An oration, on the importance of education to the union of republican governments—by Richard George.

VOCAL MUSIC.

5. An intermediate oration, on the present prosperity of the United States—by John Baldwin.
6. A dissertation on war—by Horatio G. Bowen.
7. A dispute on this question; "Whether it would be more advantageous for mankind, if the earth should produce her fruits spontaneously?"—between Liberty Bates and Nathan Cary.
8. An oration, on the love of glory—by Abijah Draper.
9. A Poem—by Paul Dodge.
10. A dissertation on the prospects of America—by Horace Everett.
11. An oration, on the infallibility of the understanding—by John Sabin.

VOCAL MUSIC.

12. A dissertation, on the pleasures of imagination—by Francis Howard.
13. A Dialogue "The world is infectious"—between Liberty Bates, Paul Dodge, Francis Howard, Samuel Ervin, and John Witherpoon.
14. An intermediate oration, on the love of power, considered as a principle of action—by Calvin Park.

15. An oration, on the necessity of maintaining the dignity of the United States—by Jairus Ware.

The Performances of the Afternoon were,

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

1. An oration on the advantages of mental improvement—by Drury Fairbank.

2. An oration, on the indignities offered America by France—by Samuel Ervin.

3. A dispute, on this question; "Does the light of nature afford evidence that God will pardon sin?"—between Abel Richmond, William Collier, and Joseph B. Cook.

VOCAL MUSIC.

4. An oration, on oratory—by John Witherspoon.

5. A conference, on education—between Horatio G. Bowen, Horace Everett, Drury Fairbank, and Jairus Ware.

6. An oration, on the necessity of political union at the present day—by Paul Allen, jun. candidate for the second degree.

7. An oration, on the propriety of introducing the science of jurisprudence into a course of classical education—by Samuel W. Bridgham, candidate for the second degree.

VOCAL MUSIC.

The degree of Bachelor in the Arts was conferred on the following young gentlemen, Alumni of the college: Benjamin Allen, John Baldwin, Liberty Bates, Horatio G. Bowen, Nathan Cary, William Collier, Joseph Bullein Cook, Paul Dodge, Abijah Draper, James Ervin, Samuel Ervin, Horace Everett, Drury Fairbank, Richard George, Nathan Holman, Francis Howard, Job Morton, Calvin Park, Abel Richmond, John Sabin, John Simmons, Jairus Ware, and John Witherspoon.

The degree of Master in the Arts was conferred on the following young gentlemen, Alumni of the College: Jeremiah Bailey, Samuel W. Bridgham, Paul Allen, jun. John Miles, John P. Little, Joseph Rawson, John W. Richmond, and Samuel Watson.

The degree of Bachelor in the Arts was conferred on Horace Binney, an Alumnus of Harvard College.

The honorary degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on the Rev. Clark Brown of Machias. The honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred on the Rev. Isaac Backus of Middleborough. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. Hezekiah Smith, of Haverhill. The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on JOHN ADAMS, PRESIDENT of the United States.

An address was then delivered to the graduates by the President.

8. An oration, in defence of revelation, together with the valedictory addresses—by Benjamin Allen.

A prayer

A prayer by the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock concluded the exercises of the day, which were highly gratifying to a numerous assembly.—The vocal and instrumental music (performed with much animation, and great musical accuracy, by a circle of ladies and gentlemen of the town) merited and received the highest applause, and gave a zest to the truly pleasurable scene.

The corporation, at their meeting on the 7th instant, appointed Samuel Eddy, Esq. a Trustee of the College; and Mr. Benjamin Allen, one of the graduates, a Tutor of the College.

A LETTER

FROM

THE STOCKBRIDGE INDIANS,

TO

THE NEW YORK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

WISE MEN AND BROTHERS,

WE beg your attention to the voice of your Indian brethren of Muhhekaneok* nation (commonly called Stockbridge Indians); having our fire-place near the front door of the different tribes of Indians, we desire to speak to your ears.

In the first place, we will remind you, that we believe it was the will of the Great Good Spirit, that your forefathers were brought over the great waters to this island for a certain good purpose; our forefathers then appeared like tall trees, but were under the dark clouds; yet they contended well in it.

Brothers.—Remember that our forefathers have taken the hands of your ancestors, as soon as they came near enough to reach them, and took them as their brothers; our forefathers did not hesitate with regard to colour; and that friendship they, and we, their children, have never violated, but maintained until this day.

Brothers.—With sorrowful heart we now desire you to look back a little, and view the ruins of our mighty trees; you can scarcely find where they have fallen—scarcely find any stumps or root remaining; but, if you look down near your feet, you will see the remnant of your brethren, like small bushes;—who now, looking up, speak to you; for you are become very, very great; you reach to the clouds; you can see all over this island; but we can scarcely reach to your ancles.

* "These Indians, as well as the tribe at New London are, by the Anglo-Americans, called *Mohicans*, which is a corruption of *Muhhekaneew* in the singular, or *Muhhekaneok* in the plural. Their language is spoken by all the Indians throughout New England. Every tribe (as that of Stockbridge, of Farmington, of New London, &c.) has a different dialect; but the language is radically the same. Mr. Elliot's Translation of the Bible is in a particular dialect of this language." Dr. JONATHAN EDWARDS.

Brothers—

Brothers.—We will inform you, that, notwithstanding our dismal situation, yet we have felt a sincere desire to learn to walk in the good path which you are walking in, that we and our children may grow like fruitful trees: but our situation has been such, our hands are empty; we can make but slow progress: yet at the same time we are willing to acknowledge that the fault is our own. But still we hope you will not be offended if we should say this; we believe, that if our white brothers had taken one quarter the pains which they have used in getting our lands to lead us in the good path, we might have avoided many of the mud holes and briers on the way, and we might not have fallen so much; the clouds also might have been dispersed: and further, we will acquaint you, that we have been greatly encouraged to see our white brothers begin to look on their Indian brethren with pity; and that, while we were viewing our dish, we saw Mr. Holmes come to visit us, not knowing who he was; but when he began to open his mouth, we found that he had a message from the Good Spirit, and we own him as our father who distributed the good food to us; and by the token in his hand, we find that he is belonging to your council fire, and that you have encouraged him to visit us, for which we now thank you.

Brothers.—Be it known unto you that the common path is now open, which leads from your place hither; also our doors are open to receive our good brothers, who may find it in their hearts to visit us; and lastly, we desire you to remember us, and think of our situation.

Our father, the Rev. Mr. Holmes, will inform you what he has seen in this wilderness, farewell.

From your Brothers.

Sachems and Counsellors of Mubhekaneok Nation	{	JOSEPH SHAUQUEATH,
		VENDRICK AUPAUMUT,
		JOSEPH QUINNEY,
		JOHN QUINNEY.

New-Stockbridge,
Aug. 24, 1796.

To the New-York Baptist Association.

The Elders and Messengers of the Churches composing the New-York Association, meeting in the City of New-York, the 24th and 25th of May 1797, to the Sachems and Counsellors of the Mubhekaneok Nation, or Stockbridge Indians; Greeting.

WISE MEN AND PEACEABLE BROTHERS,

OUR beloved brother, Elkanah Holmes, presented to us your talk of the 24th of August last; we opened our ears, we were

were glad to hear you speak in so intelligent, pious, and friendly a manner to your white brethren in this place: we have considered what you have spoken to us; we now crave your attention; we wish to speak to your ears.

Brothers.—We believe with you, that it was the will of the Great Good Spirit that our ancestors came over the great water to this land, for a certain good purpose; and we feel more and more encouraged, by many late remarkable events of Divine Providence, that the time is near at hand, when that great and good purpose will be more fully accomplished.

Brothers.—You remind us that your ancestors, who were the tall trees of the wilderness, stooped to take our fathers by the hand, as their young brothers, as soon as they came near enough to reach them; and that friendship they and you their children have never violated to this day. We bless the God of our fathers, that when they were as small bushes He gave them favour in the eyes of your ancestors, and moved them to deal so kindly with them; we reflect with pleasure on the long long chain of friendship which hath been preserved between them; we pray that you and we their children, and our descendants, may lengthen it and brighten it, to the latest generations.

Brothers.—When, with sorrowful hearts, you desire us to look back and view the ruins of your mighty trees, and behold so small a remnant left; we compassionate your case, we mourn that so friendly and peaceable a nation should be so much diminished. Since the Great Good Spirit has permitted it so to be in his infinite wisdom, and has raised us up to tall trees, we esteem it our duty, and some amongst us feel inclined to mete the like kindness to you, that your ancestors measured to ours.

Brothers.—We are glad to hear you desire to walk in the paths of divine truth; the paths in which we trust we are walking. We own we have reason to be ashamed that we have taken no more pains to promote the Gospel amongst our Indian brethren; we are now glad our brother Holmes was moved to visit you; that we recommended him to you; that you opened your ears to him; that you received his ministrations with so much affection, and treated him with kindness and respect; our hearts were rejoiced to hear by him, that so many of your people appear to be acquainted with experimental religion, and are lovers of the Gospel of Jesus; that so much seriousness and good order are preserved in your solemn assemblies of divine worship and religious improvement; that you refrain from idle habits, prophane language, and carnal amusements; that you keep the Lord's day holy, train up your young people in the knowledge of the holy scriptures, and singing the praises of God; we wish the blessing of the Great Good Spirit to rest upon you in all these things, and feel ourselves bound to join you in thank-

fulness, that the pious labours of those who have been sent amongst you in times past have not been in vain in the Lord.

Brothers.—We thank you that you have declared the common path open from our place to you; and also that your doors are open to receive any of our good brethren, who may find it in their hearts to visit you; we hope you will receive more good spiritual food through this path, and that no briers nor thorns will be permitted, by the Great Good Spirit, to grow up in it.

Brothers.—When you inform us your fire-place is near the front door of the different tribes of Indians, and let us understand your hearts are moved with compassion towards them, * as under great clouds of thick darkness, no beam of gospel light shining in unto them; we admire the power, wisdom, and goodness of the Great Good Spirit, in preserving you, and placing you in such a situation; especially when we consider, he is moving the hearts of your pious white brethren, of different denominations, with commiseration for them; we would fondly hope Divine Providence has not only preserved you to perform many great and good offices between your white brethren and the Indian tribes, of a civil nature, but that you are also designed to be the doors of entrance unto them, and that through your mediation and friendly assistance a common path will be opened to send the Gospel of our blessed Jesus amongst them; and that you will yet rejoice with us, in seeing the clouds which hang over them dispersed; and thousands of them, seeing the light and feeling the power of the Gospel of Christ in their hearts, will rejoice in the salvation of God, and, as the ancient prophets have predicted, the wilderness shall bow before him, break out into singing, and shout for joy.

Brothers.—We cannot write all we wish to speak to your ears; we refer you to our beloved brother Holmes, who desires to return to you; we pray the Great Good Spirit to conduct him to you in safety; we pray for his usefulness amongst you; we intreat your prayers for him, and to give him your advice, counsel, and assistance; and may your mutual endeavours to be a blessing to others be crowned with abundant success. Commending you to the Great Good Spirit for assistance and direction, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the Gospel,

Signed, by order, and in behalf
of the Association, by

RUINE RUMYON, *Moderator.*

WM. VANHORNE, *Clerk.*

* Two or three words in the mss. copy of this Indian correspondence, were here, and in two other lines, somewhat indistinct. EDITOR.