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The Baptist Interest under George I.

AFTER the Toleration won in 1689 and enjoyed through the reign of William III., there was a reaction under Anne, culminating in the Schism Act to come into force 1714. The Queen died just in time, and George I. let the Act lapse. After the suppression of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, dissenters felt themselves more secure, and lest their liberties should be again filched away, set themselves to realise their voting strength in the boroughs and counties.

There was in fact an unofficial census taken of the dissenting interest, and letters were sent out to prominent men in every county to state concerning the towns and villages their status as boroughs, cities, market towns, &c.; the numbers of hearers in every dissenting congregation, the number of voters for shire or borough, the quality of the congregation, labourers or tradesmen or gentry. The centre was naturally London, and the correspondent there was John Evans, colleague to Dr. Daniel Williams. Both these men came from Wrexham, and they enjoyed special advantages for making such an enquiry, for in that town Presbyterians and Independents and Baptists had for a time worshipped together in one congregation, so that there was unusual breadth in her sons, and they were on good terms with men of each stamp. It is, however, important that nearly all the actual correspondents named were Pædobaptists, and that the information given as to Baptists is far more meagre than as to others. Wrexham again was a border town, and the information as to Wales was fuller than a mere Englishman could have hoped to gather. And in 1715 or even in 1718, when the latest letters came in, there was not yet the cleavage that became manifest in February 1719 at Salter's Hall. So the results of Evans' enquiry deserve to be placed alongside the Assembly returns of 1689, or the bishops' enquiries of 1669.

His results as far as Baptists are concerned can easily be extracted from his manuscript, which is one of the most frequently quoted books at Dr. Williams' Library. Those who are familiar with any county will soon recognise that Evans' correspondents often overlooked small causes, but it is worth while presenting

the whole of their information at a glance, with occasional supplements from other first-hand contemporary evidence added in brackets. General Baptist causes are marked * by this editor. The spelling of place names is conformed to modern usage.

BEDFORD. Two accounts were furnished here, by Chandler and by Jennings. Both alike class the famous Bunyan Meeting as Independent, a nomenclature that the pastors of that place have been decidedly prone to adopt. The churches classed as "Anabaptist," with the size of congregation, and the preachers, are:—

- Biggleswade. 300. Samuel Cole. Mixed, Baptist and Presbyterian.
 Blunham. Perry.
 Carlton in Willy Hundred. 300. Robert Church.
 Charlton, Thorn and Wingfield. 130. Served from Luton.
 Cotton End. 80. Thomas Cooper, Thomas Thompson.
 Cranfield. 100. William Jarvies or Samuel Butler.
 Dunstable. 100. William Brittain, John Cock.
 Eversholt. 120. Matthew Dutton.
 Goldington. 35. Benjamin Scribner, Skinner.
 Keysoe. 300. Lewis Norman.
 *Leighton Buzzard.
 Luton. 400. Nathanael and Thomas Marsham, Samuel Chass, Francis Stone and Robert Hawkins.
 Maulden. Richard Jarvies.
 Market Street. 130. Same preachers as Luton.
 Ridgmont. 100. Samuel Butler. William Davis.
 Sharnbrooke. 70. Samuel Gurry, Harper, Robert Page.
 Southill. 500. Thomas Killingworth.
 Stevington. 400. Simon Harecock.
 *[Sundon].

BERKSHIRE. Twelve Presbyterian, three Independent, thirteen Quaker congregations; and seven Baptist:—

- 'Abingdon. 400. William Fuller.
 Cookham. Fenne.
 Faringdon. 140. Thomas Langley.
 *[Maidenhead].
 Newbury. 120. Jeffreies.
 Reading. Jonathan Davies.
 Twyford. (Not constant.)
 Wantage. William Jones.

BUCKINGHAM. Nine Presbyterian causes; five Baptist.

*[Amersham. Samuel Hobbs, John Young].

*Aylesbury. Clement Hunt.

*Chesham. John Cooke, Forster.

Chesham. Thomas Norris.

Colnbrook. John Biddle.

*[Ford. John Crips].

[Haddenham].

Newport Pagnell. 250. Hannels. [Robert Hannel in 1735 was at Kettering, a General Baptist.]

[Olney].

[Prince's Risborough].

*[Stony Stratford and Castle Thorpe, with Yardley in Northampton. John Britain of Cosgrave.].

*[Weston. Britton and Keach received a member next year from White's Alley.]

*[Winslow].

*[Wycombe. Thomas Tripp].

CAMBRIDGE. Five Presbyterian, eleven Independent, (including the General Baptist church at Melbourn!); four Baptist. [Gamlingay].

*Great Wilbraham [and Melbourn. John Catlyn, John Goring, Edward Elgar].

*[March. Thomas Mears].

Sutton in the Isle of Ely. Independent and Baptist.

*[Whittlesea. Benjamin Grantham and John Catlyn].

Whittlesea and March. 160. Thomas Speechley.

*[Wisbech. John Sherman].

Wisbech. 60. William Rix.

CHESHIRE. Twenty Presbyterian; three Baptist.

[Brassey Green. John Oulton quite so early?]

Hill Cliff near Warrington. Francis Turner.

*Nantwich. Samuel Acton.

Warford near Macclesfield. John Turner.

CORNWALL. Eleven Presbyterian, one Independent; two Baptist.

Looe. Cowlin left in 1694 for Penryn.

Penryn [sprung from Thomas Tregoss of Mylor, 1662].

CUMBERLAND. Ten Presbyterian, two Independent, twenty Quaker, two Baptist.

Egremont. 50 or 30. No settled minister.

Oulton and Great Broughton. 200. [Ware].

DERBY. Twenty-four Presbyterian, two Independent, no Baptist.

*Ashford, known before and after as Baptist, is put down as Presbyterian; minister John Ash.

DEVON. Fifty Presbyterian, eight Independent, seven Baptist.

Bampton. 390. James Murch.

[Cullompton, branch of Upottery].

[Dartmouth. Thomas Newcomen].

Exeter. 300. [Richard] Sampson, senior.

[Honiton].

[Loughwood and Kilmington].

Moreton Hampstead. 450. Thomas Howe.

Plymouth. 315. John Bryan.

South Molton. 100. Daniel Bavestock.

Tiverton. [James] Sampson, junior.

Topsham. Samuel Buttall [who in 1669 belonged to Jessey's church, then came to Broadmead and to Plymouth?].

[Upottery. Thomas Holway].

DORSET. Fourteen Presbyterian, two Independent; four Baptist.

Bere Regis. John Webber.

*Dorchester. Gould. [James Gould in 1719 and 1721 attended the General Baptist Assembly from the Western Association; Ralph Gould in 1711 and 1721. Till 1730 this Association included all Baptists].

Lyme Regis. 217. John Tor.

*[Minterne. William Sprake?]

Weymouth. Thomas Seamore.

DURHAM. Five Presbyterian, two Quaker, no Baptist. [Hamsterley].

ESSEX. Twenty-three Presbyterian, thirteen Independent; seven Baptist.

*Braintree. 100. Cowles.

*Burnham. [Henry Fields].

*[Colchester. Thomas Agnes].

Colchester. 200. John Rootsey.

*[Dedham].

High Easton, near Hatfield Broad Oak. [William?] Collins.

Nazeing, Harlow and Sooton. 500. Thomas Chalkley.

[Next year accepted a transfer from White's Alley General Baptist Church, which does not expressly say this is "of the same faith and order."]

*Pilgrim's Hatch near Brentwood, and Aveley near Hornchurch. 200. John Paine, Coomes.

*[Saffron Walden].

Terling near Witham. 200. John Ward, then Nathaniel Wiles.

*Upminster. Richard Robinson in 1709.

GLOUCESTER. Fourteen Presbyterian, eight Independent, six unclassified.

Ashton upon Carron. 20. Seventh-Day. John Purser [Compare Natton].

Bourton on the Water. 500. Joshua Head.

Bristol. 1200. Andrew and Emanuel Gifford, Jonathan Owen.

Bristol. 500. [Peter] Ketterell, Caleb Job [or Jope].

Broad Marston near Evesham. 150. Monthly.

Cheltenham. 200. Supplied from Tewkesbury.

Chipping Sodbury. William Clisson.

Cirencester. 150. William Freeman.

Coleford. 50.

Dymock. William Drew.

Kingstanley. 150. Benjamin Britton.

Maizey hampton near Fairford. 50. Thomas Lovel.

Oxenton. 40. Purser [whose house at Ashton was headquarters].

Stow on the Wold and Longborough. 100. Job Greening.

Stroudwater. 400.

Tewkesbury. 150. Joseph Price.

HAMPSHIRE. Fourteen Presbyterian, eleven Independent, eight Quaker.

Blackwater.

Broughton and Wallop. 100. Henry Steell.

Fareham. Seven Families.

Fordingbridge. 118. Thomas Eastman.

Gosport. 40.

*Isle of Wight [Newport]. 55. [George] Clark.

Lymington. [Richard] Chalk.

*[Lyndhurst. George Jackman].

Nately near Basingstoke. 10.

*[Portsmouth. George Kelly and Walter Addis].

Portsmouth. John Howe.

Ringwood. Nathanael Lane.

Romsey. 48.

Southampton. [Richard] Ring.

[Whitchurch. Edward Mumford].

HEREFORD. Eight Presbyterian.
Leominster. 200. Thomas Holder.

HERTFORD. Six Presbyterian, four Independent, four Quaker.

*Barnet. 50.

*Berkhampstead, "Bednam Pond and Coney Street, near."
[John] Cooke.

Caldecote, Buckland and Braughing. 600. Daniel Skingle.
Chorley Wood. Served from Watford. [Entered under Bedford].

Hemel Hempstead, Marlowe near. 320. Thomas Hancock.
Hitchin. 500.

Market Street. [Samuel?] Marsom junior [of Luton].

Saint Alban's, Wheathampstead and Tittenhanger. 200.
James Harding, Hugh Smith.

Theobalds [near Cheshunt]. Joseph Maisters coming monthly from London.

Tring. Richard Sutton.

Ware. Henry Goldring.

Waltham Abbey, founded 1729. John Auther.

Watford. 500. [Anthony] Burgess, [Richard] Carter.

HUNTINGDON. One Presbyterian, three Independent, one Baptist.

*[Fenstanton and Warboys. 63 members. Jonathan Denne. John Cropper].

*[Godmanchester].

Kimbolton. 200. William Custing, Peter Gurry.

[St. Neots. William Rawlins and John Nutter in 1709.]

KENT. Twenty Presbyterian, three Independent; seventeen Baptist.

*Ashford. [George] Ellis, Henry Longley.

*[Biddenden. Nicholas Rich, James Cooper.]

*[Boughton. John Pantry, John Saunders.]

*Canterbury [Blackfriars]. Samuel Ongley, Serles German.
Canterbury, Northgate. Samuel Newman, Linacre.

*Chatham. William Leakey.

[Chatham, Heavyside Lane].

*Cranbrook. [David] Chapman.

*Deal. [Christopher] Fulford, [Stephen] Lacy.

*[Deptford, Church Street. Adam Holden, John Yeomans].
Deptford. John Biddle.

*Dover. John and David Simpson.

- *[Eythorn. John Bush, David Rutter].
- *Folkestone. [William] Kennett.
- *[Frittenden. John Tassall].
Gravesend. Lamb.
- *Hawkhurst. Andrew Robins.
- *Maidstone. Francis Carpenter, [Nicholas Mole].
Maidstone. John Smith.
- *[Marden. George Garrett, William Holenbey].
- *Ramsgate. Richard Godfrey.
- *[Rolvenden. Samuel Chillenden].
Sandhurst. Samuel Potter.
- *Sandwich. [James] Knott. (Linked with Deal.)
- *Sevenoaks. [James, not] John Calverley, Joseph Brown.
- *Smarden. Thomas Gillam.
- *[Speldhurst and Pembury. Thomas Benge, William Ash-down].

LANCASHIRE. Forty-four Presbyterian, one Independent,
one Baptist.

- Low Hill, near Liverpool. Peter Davenport.
[Manchester, Coldhouse].
- [Rossendale. Richard Ashworth].
- [Torver. George Braithwaite just gone].
- [Tottlebank open church. Thomas Richardson].

LEICESTER.

- Arnesby. 200. Benjamin Winckles.
- Desford. 50. Thomas Storer.
- *Earl Shilton, with Leicester.
- *Leicester. General and Particular mixed [?], Thomas Davye,
Henry Trail and Zacharias Staughton.
- *Mountsorrel and Wymeswold. 80. William Johnson, Richard
Cooper.
- Mowsley, with Arnesby. Benjamin Boyce.
- *Shepshed, with Rempston in Notts. 100. Thomas Matthews,
William Christian.
- *Somerby, near Rutland, with Twyford. John Jeffreies.
- Sutton, near Lutterworth. 150. Benjamin Moore.
- *Tur Langton near Hallaton. 45. John Hollyday.

LINCOLN. Three leaves have been cut out of the Evans
manuscript containing the returns for this shire.

- *[Alford, South Marsh. Edward Wood, Edward Makins,
Joseph Dent and J. Hursthouse].
- *[Boston. Ebenezer Hall].
- *[Bourn and Hackenby. Joseph Hooke].

- *[Burgh and Monksthorpe].
- *[Coningsby and Tattershall. Leonard Isaac].
- *[Elsham and Killingholm. Thomas Ulliott].
- *[Epworth and Crowle. J. Grant, J. Woodward, J. Anderson].
- *[Fleet. G. Turrington].
- *[Gosberton. William Roberts].
- *[Kirton in Lindsey].
- *[Lincoln. Benjamin Sharp, John Hill, Samuel Ellis].
- *[Spalding and Long Sutton. Joseph Pickerton, John Hursthouse, Edward Hardy].

LONDON. I. Within the walls; eleven Presbyterian, twelve Independent, five Baptist.

Curriers' Hall, Cripplegate. John Skepp.

Pinner's Hall, Old Broad Street.

[1. Morning. Open membership. Jeremiah Hunt, D.D.]

2. Afternoon. Joseph Maisters.

3. Seventh-Day. Supplied, especially Nathaniel Wiles.

Tallowchandlers' Hall, Dowgate. John Noble.

Turners' Hall, Philpot Lane. Jonathan Owen.

II. Within the liberties, though without the walls; five Presbyterian, six Independent, five Baptist.

Devonshire Square. Richard Adams, Mark Key.

*Dunning's Alley, Bishopsgate Street. John Taylor [according to John Evans; but he was signing the Assembly book year by year as Elder of Park church, this having no elder].

*Glass-house-yard, Aldersgate Street. Thomas Kirby.

Paul's Alley, Redcross Street. Richard Allen.

*White's Alley, Little Moorfields. Abraham Mulliner.

III. Within the bills of mortality, but outside the liberties; fourteen Presbyterian, five Independent, ten Baptist in Middlesex.

Angel Alley, Whitechapel. Thomas Ridgway.

Artillery Lane, Spitalfields. Nathanael Hodges.

Broad Street, Wapping. Edward Eliot.

*Hart Street, St. John's Court, Covent Garden. Benjamin Ingram.

*High Hall, Cow Lane, Smithfield. Joseph Jenkins.

Limehouse. David Rees.

Little Wild Street. Thomas Harrison.

*Mill Yard, Goodman's Fields. Seventh-day. John Savage.

Swallow Street, Westminster. Thomas Ely.

*Virginia Street, Ratcliffe Highway. Lewis Douglas.

IV. Southwark.

Back Street, Horsleydown. Benjamin Stinton.
Branch of Back Street.

- *Fair Street, Horsleydown. Nathanael Foxwell.
- Flower de luce Court, Tooley Street. Edward Wallin.
- *Queen Street, Park. [John Taylor].
- White Street, near St. George's. Richard Parkes.

MIDDLESEX. beyond the bills of mortality. Eight Presbyterian, two Independent, one Baptist.

- *Brentford. John Darvel.

NORFOLK. Five Presbyterian, nine Independent, three Baptist.

[Ingham. James Brewster].

- *[Lynn?]

Norwich. William Baker, Henry Austin.

- *Norwich. John Reeves.

[Pulham St. Mary, united with Norwich 1714]

- *[Smallburgh. Richard Culley just about to secede and found
Worstead Particular Baptist Church].

- *Yarmouth. John Bending.

NORTHAMPTON. Six Presbyterian, twelve Independent, twenty Baptist, Mr. Jennings of Kibworth being the informant.

Ascote. Mixt as to Baptism. John Payne.

Brafield on the Green. 60. Robert Page.

- *Braunston, East Haddon and Buckby. General. 70. John
Painter of Moulton.

- *Byfield and Chipping Warden, Wood End Weston [-by-
Weedon] and Bradden, with Banbury and Horley in Oxon
make one church. Nathanael Kinch of Horley, John
Britain and Philip Cherry.

Clipston. Austin Taylor, George Brinklow.

Dallington St. James. 400. John Collis.

Floore. 80. John Foster.

- *Isham Haringworth. 70. Painter, Garret, &c.

Kettering. 60. Thomas Wallis.

Naseby. 30. Ralph Wright.

- *Northampton. 50. Thomas Garret.

Northampton. 300. John Moore.

Peterborough and Eye. 40.

Ringstead. 160. Curtis.

Road, Particular. 200. Joseph Palmer.

- *Scaldwell, Brixworth and Spratton. 80. Painter, Garret, &c.

Slapton. Mixt as to Baptism. Simon Harcourt, Austin
Taylor.

Walgrave. William Barker.

[Weedon Beck. Rudd].

*Welton, Staverton and Braunston. 100. [John Shenston 1723].

Wollaston and Rushden. Particular. 200. John Woolaston.

*Yardley [Gobion] with Stony Stratford and [Castle] Thorpe in Bucks. 240. John Britain of Cosgrave.

NORTHUMBERLAND. Sixteen Presbyterian, three Independent, one Baptist.

Newcastle, one church, Thomas Barnes Independent, and a Baptist Minister.

NOTTINGHAM. Nine Presbyterian, three Independent, one Baptist.

*[Collingham].

*Nottingham. George Eaton.

*[Rempstone, with Shepstead in Leicester. 100. Thomas Matthews, William Christian].

OXFORD. Eight Presbyterian, one Independent, six Baptist.

*[Banbury. See Byfield, Northampton].

Burford. 200. Asher Humphreys.

Coate. Joseph Collet.

Hook Norton. Daniel Wilmer.

*Horley. 100. Nathanael Kinch.

Oxford. A lecture from Fuller of Abingdon and Collet of Coate.

Witney. Thomas Barefoot.

RUTLAND. Two Presbyterian, one Baptist.

Oakham, Uppingham, Braunston, and Empingham. 80. Thomas Bull and John Gibbons.

SALOP. Twelve Presbyterian, one Independent; two Baptist. Bridgnorth. 40. John Sing.

*Salop. 50. Robert Watkins. [Received a member from White's Alley in 1708, "of the same faith and order."]

SOMERSET. Thirty-nine Presbyterian, two Independent, eight unspecified.

?Axbridge. 200.

Bridgewater. 200. [Eliot had recently left for Wapping].

Chard. 72. Thomas Meacham.

Frome. 300. Sharp.

Frome. 400. Hendy.

Ilminster. 54. Bragg.

*[Milborne Port. Thomas Bosher?]
 Minehead. 46. Lancelot Spurrier.
 Stogumber. 54.

*Taunton. 830. Thomas Winnell.
 [Wellington, branch of Taunton. John Cuff].
 Wrantage. 50. William Tisé.
 *[Wrington? die out with Amory?].

STAFFORD. Fourteen Presbyterian, one Baptist.

*[Colton and Lichfield in 1708 asked help from White's Alley,
 and was refused as a disorderly church].
 Delves [Darleston?] near Walsall and Wednesbury. Ben-
 jamin Hands [ordained Thompson at Shrewsbury 1720].

SUFFOLK. Twenty-two Presbyterian, seventeen Indepen-
 dent; no Baptist.
 [Woodbridge. Seventh-Day. Rutland preached at Col-
 chester 1711].

SURREY outside Southwark. Nine Presbyterian, eight Inde-
 pendent; five Baptist.

*Croydon. Amos Harrison.
 *Farnham. William Jackson [just succeeded by Richard
 Webb].
 Frimley. John Seley.
 Guildford. Petto.
 Richmond. Thomas Flood.

SUSSEX. Fifteen Presbyterian, five Independents; eight
 Baptists.

*Chichester. General. 164. William Smith [and Matthew
 Randall].

Chichester. Particular. 69. Isaac Hanns.
 *[Ditchling. Nathanael Webb, Thomas Coule].
 *Horsham. 350. [Matthew Caffin junior, Thomas Souton].
 *Lewes. [Henry Wood].
 *Lingfield [really in Surrey].
 *Steyning. 50. John Jefferys.
 *[Turners Hill. Richard Plaver].
 Wadhurst. 60.

*Warbleton. 120. [Henry Miller, George Shepherd, Robert
 Mercer].

WARWICK. Twelve Presbyterian, three Independent;
 five Baptist.

Alcester. 150. John Bedham, [Beddome].
 *Coventry. 200. Samuel Essex.
 Coventry. [John Brine, or] Bryan [soon of Cripplegate].

The Baptist Interest under George I.

Henley in Arden. 150. Bernard Fosket.

Warwick. 200. Benwick. [Philip James was at the Particular church, but this year White's Alley dismisses a member to a church here].

WILTS. Fourteen Presbyterian, three Independent, eight not classed; eight Baptist.

Bradford on Avon. 350. Brouse.

[Calne].

Devizes. 300. John Filkes.

*[Downton. Benjamin Miller].

[Earl Stoke. Edward Froude just dead].

Melksham. 300. James Earle.

*Salisbury. 200. Abraham Flood.

Salisbury. John Lane.

[Southwick and] Bradley. 300. James Taunton.

Trowbridge. 600. John Davison.

Westbury, Leigh. 650. William Wilkins.

WORCESTER. Seven Presbyterian, one Independent; eight Baptist.

Bengeworth. 60. Fortnightly.

Bewdley. 100. William Thompson.

Bromsgrove. 150. William Peart.

Inkberrow. 60. [George] Yernold.

*Netherton near Dudley. 300. Richard Clark.

Pershore. 700. Timothy Thomas.

Upton on Severn. 50. William Hankins.

[Upton Seventh-day. Philip Jones?].

Worcester. 400. Isaac Poynting.

YORK. Thirty Presbyterian, twelve Independent, eighteen others.

[Barnoldswick. Daniel Slater resigned in 1713].

[Bridlington. George Braithwaite].

[Gildersome. David Crosley?]

[Rawdon. John Wilson].

*[Sheffield had recently applied to the Lincolnshire Association].

*[York was vaguely referred to in the Assembly in 1697].

ANGLESEA. One Pædobaptist church only.

BRECON. One Presbyterian, two Independent, one other.

Olchon, Trosgoed [four miles north-east of Brecknock] &c.

400. Richard Williams.

CARDIGAN. Three Presbyterian, four Independent.

CARMARTHEN. Nine Presbyterian, one Independent; one Baptist.

Felinfoel near Llanelly. Morgan John, John Davies.

CARNARVON. One Pædobaptist church.

DENBIGH. Two Presbyterian.

FLINT. One Pædobaptist church.

GLAMORGAN. One Presbyterian, four Independent; five Baptist.

Argode [? Argoed in Monmouth].

Cavenhengode [Cefn Hengoed in Gelligaer]. 700. Morgan Griffith.

Hendraff [Hendre near Bridgend]. 300.

Llanvalon [? Llanfabon near Gelligaer].

Near Config [Kenfig]. Lewis Thomas.

Swansea. Morgan John.

MERIONETH. Two Pædobaptist churches.

MONMOUTH, classed in England, information from Joseph Stennett on 28th January, 1717-8. Seven Independent; seven Baptist.

Aberystroth. 880. William Phillips.

Argoed in the parish of Bedwellty. Morgan Griffith.

Castleton. 60. Timothy Lewis.

“Cromindee. Rice Davies.”

Llanwenarth near Abergavenny. 420. Joshua James.

Mynyddislwyn. 120. John Harry.

Usk and Llangunie [Llangeview or Llangwm?]. 200.

Nathanael Morgan.

MONTGOMERY. Four Pædobaptist churches.

PEMBROKE. One Presbyterian, two Independent; three Baptist.

Deu??

Kilvowie [Thomas spells Cilfowyr].

Rhydwlilm. John Jenkins.

and Llanglydwen. Thomas Matthias.

and Clynderwen[?]. Philip John and David James. 900.

[These three places are really in Carmarthen. The entry appears to read, “Rhydwlilm and Llanglotton and Clombrawn.” The second name is given by Joshua Thomas as Llangloffan.]

RADNOR. Four Pædobaptist churches; two Baptist.

The place-names appear to read as follows:—New Radnor, Llanvihangel Pantmelin, Breynelis and Glasgow, Cobin Llanthewi Lanbadarn, Blaneclay in Montgomery and Pentre in Brecon.

Joshua Thomas writing in 1790, under the date 1717 speaks of three meeting places; Cwm in Radnor, Garth in Montgomery, Pentre in Brecknock. Hence the modern names may be:—

New Radnor, Llanfihangel Nant Melan, Bronllys and Glascwm. 400. Thomas Lewis.

Cwmelan or Cwmbreeth, Llandewi Ystradenny, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Blaenglesyrch, and Pentrefelin. 600. Nathan Davies, Caleb Evans, John Evans.

The figures given by Evans for England, excluding Monmouth seem to sum up as 837 Pædobaptist churches and 244 Baptist, though it would not be easy to count accurately in some cases. As a Pædobaptist himself, and all his associations being with Pædobaptists, who were usually his correspondents, the information there is likely to be complete. And for Baptists in London, where he resided, it stands excellently in comparison with the contemporary diary of Benjamin Stinton. But elsewhere Evans had no special means of getting Baptist information, and it has been easy to add many more items, though none have been added except from direct contemporary information. Summing up what is thus presented, and neglecting a few doubtful cases, there are at least 310 Baptist churches, of which some had four or five centres with three or four ministers. Of these about 111 were General Baptist, but here it is impossible to say precisely when the transition, which sometimes occurred, was really accomplished.

Stating results in round numbers only, there were at this time, in England and Wales, about 9,000 parishes. Outside the State Church there were Roman Catholic recusants, Jacobite Non-jurors, and Protestant Nonconformists. Of these latter, there were in England and Wales about 880 Calvinistic Pædobaptist congregations, 220 Calvinistic Baptist, and 110 Arminian Baptist. Thus in 82 parishes, there might be expected eight Presbyterian or Independent churches, one General Baptist church, and two Particular Baptist churches.

The returns of people, not of churches, furnished to the bishops in 1676, about forty years earlier, sum up that the

population over sixteen years of age numbered 2,477,254 conformists, 13,856 recusants, and 108,476 Nonconformists. This led them to believe that they were to the Nonconformists as 23 to 1. That result was not plausible; the enquiries of Evans seem quite as trustworthy for figures, which however he rarely obtained for Baptists, and far more trustworthy for the number of congregations.

The value, however, of this return will not be in these figures, but in the definite picture given of the state of the two Baptist denominations at a given period, their distribution, their ministers. Companion pictures are already available; earlier in the Assemblies of 1692, both General and Particular, in the licenses of 1672 studied already in these pages, later in Rippon's enquiries of 1790-1798. Similar pictures ought to follow; for the earliest period 1650-55, and for 1773; materials for both these exist in abundance.