

## ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY.

KENTISH SUFFERERS BY THE  
ACT OF UNIFORMITY.

## INTERESTING DETAILS.

Nonconformists throughout the country marked St. Bartholomew's Day, which fell on Sunday, as the 250th anniversary of the passing of the Act of Uniformity, at the instance of the anti-Puritan Parliament of Charles II., of the anti-Puritan Parliament of Charles II., by which over 2,000 Church of England clergy- men were driven out of their livings. The occasion was one of special interest to the Nonconformists of Kent, as some 80 incumbents were ejected from their livings in the county.

MINISTERS WHO WERE EJECTED IN  
KENT.

From the "Church History of Kent," published in 1859, and from other sources, we are enabled to give the following list of Kentish ministers who were ejected:—

Adisham—Mr. Charles Nicols.  
Ash—Mr. William Nokes, of Cambridge University. Was intimate with Dr. (afterwards Bishop) Stillingfleet. An able preacher, and continued to preach frequently until his death a few years later.

Ashford—Mr. Nicholas Prigg. Had eminent talents and was a celebrated preacher. Married a Mrs. Scott, with whose means he purchased an estate, by which they were supported after his ejection.

Barham—Mr. John Barton. After his ejection he and two other ministers (Rev. Mr. Quintin, of Adisham, and Rev. Mr. Thoroughgood, of Monkton), with two Members of Parliament (Mr. John Boys, of Betteshanger, and Colonel John Dixwell, of Broom, in Barham), and Mr. (afterwards Sir Harry) Oxenden, of Wingham, with their relatives, were accustomed to hold meetings fortnightly on a weekday in a private house, and the Lord's Supper monthly on a Sunday.

Barming—Mr. Nicols.  
Benenden—Mr. Joseph Osborne. The patron, finding Mr. Osborne beloved by the people and with a small living would not present anyone in his place, but with others of importance urged him to conform. Mr. Osborne's reply was that "faith and a good conscience would stand him in more stead than a hundred livings," and he quitted in 1662. At the time of his ejection he had six children. For a time he lived at Staplehurst, and afterwards at Heathfield, where four more children were born. For nine years he preached at Brighton, where he was sued for £20 a month on account of his Nonconformity. He then preached for a time at Peckham, in London, and later lived at Ashford and about nine years at Tenterden, and afterwards at Bearsted, where infirmities caused his retirement, and he died at Staplehurst in 1714, aged 85 years.

Betteshanger—Mr. Dod.  
Biddenden—Mr. William Horner.  
Birling—Mr. Thomas Gunns.  
Bromley—Mr. Henry Arnold.

Canterbury Cathedral—Mr. John Durant, author of a number of theological works.  
Canterbury Cathedral—Mr. John Player, M.A., born and educated at the City Free School. Brother to Sir T. Player, Chamberlain of London. Was a public preacher in the cathedral after the fall of Archbishop Laud.

Canterbury (St. Margaret's)—Mr. Thomas Ventress, M.A., born in St. Alphege parish and educated at King's School. Was imprisoned, but found so much favour as to be permitted to go home nightly upon his parole of returning to prison every morning. Sir Robert Hales and his family at Bekesbourne were his constant attendants and friends.

Canterbury (St. Alphege)—Mr. Francis Taylor, M.A., son of Rev. Francis Taylor, M.A., of Yalding, a member of the Assembly of Divines. Received first education in Canterbury and afterwards went to Cambridge, where he lost his sight with small-pox. He was imprisoned for his principles, but did not long survive such treatment, and lies buried in St. Alphege church.

Canterbury (St. Stephen's)—Mr. Robert Beak, M.A., native of Canterbury. When he was silenced in 1662 he assisted Mr. Ventress and others, and having private means took nothing for his labours.

Challock—Mr. Corker. After his ejection supported himself by keeping a school in the parish.

Chart Magna—Mr. Edward Line.  
Chatham—Mr. Thomas Carter, M.A., Mr. Roswell and Mr. Adderley.

Chatham Dock—Mr. Lawrence Wise. Afterwards became a Baptist and was one of the five ministers sent for by Charles II., when about to grant liberty to Dissenters.

Chatham—Mr. Sampson Horne, M.A. After his ejection was entertained by Sir John Fagg at Chatham, who lodged and supported him.

Cliffe—Mr. Henry Holcroft, son of Sir Henry Holcroft.

Cranbrook—Mr. William Goodridge. No less than ten ministers were ejected from this and adjacent parishes, and a number of worshippers for supporting them were prosecuted and fined, and for non-payment were imprisoned for three months in Maidstone gaol.

Chiddingfold or Denton.—Mr. Thomas Seylard.

Deal—Mr. Hezekiah King and Mr. Samuel Seylard.

Denton—Mr. Clement Barling.  
Deptford—Mr. Mallory.

Dover—Mr. John Davis and Mr. Nathaniel Barry.

Egerton—Mr. Palmer. He continued preaching until he was forced to desist by being beset with a troop of horse soldiers and two or three hundred men. Also Mr. Latnam.

Eltham—Mr. Overton.  
Fairlane—Mr. Darby.

Faversham—Mr. Nathaniel Wilmot. After his ejection became a pastor at Dover.

Folkestone—Mr. Baker. After ejection became very poor and lived afflicted and distressed until his death. Also Mr. Rolles.

Godmersham—Mr. Robert Ferguson, a man well known in his time, but he fell under general censure by his behaviour, which was such that ministers were ashamed of him.

Goudhurst—Mr. Edward Bright. Had the reputation of a good man and endowed with considerable patience, which he needed, being afflicted with a "forward and clamorous" wife. Fortunately his hearing was not of the best.

Gravesend—Mr. Sharp.  
Hawkhurst—Mr. Ephraim Bothel.

Hever—Mr. John Peter. After his ejection he retired to Sevenoaks, where he died.

Horsmonden—Mr. Edward Rawson.  
Hunton—Mr. Latham.

Ivychurch—Mr. Oswanton.  
Ickham—Mr. John Swan.

Ightham—Mr. Alexander.  
Lamberhurst—Mr. Steed.

Langley—Mr. Tilden. Belonged to a noted Kent family.

Lee—Mr. William Hickocks, M.A.  
Lenham—Mr. Thomas Shewell, M.A. After ejection kept a private school at Leeds (Kent).

Linton—Mr. Nichols.  
Loose—Mr. William Lock.

Lydd—Mr. Hemmings.  
Maidstone—Mr. Joseph Whiston. After ejection continued some years in Kent and was then called to a pastoral charge at Lewes.

Maidstone—Mr. John Crump. Was greatly beloved and was so moderate in spirit that after his ejection the minister of Boxley often admitted him into his pulpit.

Malling—Mr. Samuel French. Suffered for his Nonconformity in both the ecclesiastical and civil courts. In 1684 had his goods distrained, and his person imprisoned for six months in Maidstone gaol under the Five Mile Act for the alleged crime of preaching the gospel. In prison he was not allowed privacy, fire or candle.

Nettlestead—Mr. Deacon.  
Newchurch—Mr. Spencer.

Norborne (Northbourne)—Mr. Lane.  
Plaxtol—Mr. Matthew Darby.

Penshurst—Mr. Maudett.  
Ramham—Mr. Carter.

Rochester—Mr. Ackworth.  
Rolvenden—Mr. Richard Gyles. After being ejected the parish minister of Sandhurst requested him to preach for him one Sunday, which he did. The Sandhurst clergyman, however, being threatened for having done so joined with the informers and prosecuted Mr. Gyles for holding a conventicle.

Sandhurst—Mr. Elliston.  
Sandwich—Mr. Robert Webber.

Shoreham—Mr. Duke.  
Smarden—Mr. Vaughan.

Smeeth—Mr. Singleton.  
Southfleet—Mr. Henry Symons, M.A. Published an "Assize Sermon" delivered at Maidstone in March, 1657.

Speldhurst—Mr. Draper.  
Staplehurst—Mr. Daniel Poyntel, known as the "Learned Mr. Poyntel." He offered to the new rector to take his pulpit one part of the day without fee. After Charles II. granted licences he began preaching at Staplehurst, the meetings being crowded. On the occasion of a funeral in the meeting house it became necessary to take down a window to let in air, which caused Mr. Poyntel to take a chill, which carried him off in a few days.

Stone—Mr. Henry Price.  
Stourmouth—Mr. Richard Bures and Mr. Dury.

Strood—Mr. Daniel French.  
Tenterden—Mr. George Hawes.

Town Malling—Mr. Samuel French.  
St. Lawrence (Thanet)—Mr. Peter Johnson, M.A. Member of a respectable family having a seat in Thanet. After ejection he removed to Ramsgate, where he taught some pupils and preached to a congregation of Dissenters he had gathered together.

Minster—Mr. Richard Culmer, M.A. After leaving Cambridge, settled as minister at Goodneston, from which he was driven by Archbishop Laud because he would not read the "Book of Sports." After being silenced for 3½ years he became assistant to Dr. Austin at Harbledown, near Canterbury, where he preached for several years, but many clamoured against him for his opposition to the prevailing drunkenness, cricket playing and other sports on the Sabbath, and he removed to Canterbury, where he was appointed, by authority of Parliament, "to detect and cause to be demolished the superstitious inscriptions and idolatious monuments in the cathedral; of which therefore he broke the great window by which he provoked many." He was afterwards placed in the living of Minster, but was greatly opposed, one person resolving to spend £500 in driving him from the place.

Monkton—Mr. Nicholas Thoroughgood. After taking his degree at Cambridge he went as chaplain to the Earl of Warwick (Lord Admiral) on board the "Happy Entrance," but in 1644 went to Hawkhurst on the pressing invitation of the parishioners, where he laboured until 1651, when he went to Monkton at the invitation of two magistrates (Major Foch and Mr. Thomas Paramor). While at Monkton one of his parishioners, being reproved in a sermon against swearing, twice attempted to shoot him, but his gun failed to go off, and the conscience-stricken man afterwards became a consistent Christian. In 1662 Mr. Thoroughgood, while riding towards Canterbury, was arrested at Sarre and forced to give two bonds of £40 each to appear at the Maidstone assize and the Canterbury sessions for not reading the Common Prayer, while in 1668 for preaching (in spite of the Conventicle Act), he and three other ministers were apprehended and imprisoned in the Westgate, Canterbury, for six months. After further troubles with the authorities he died at Godalming in 1691.

St. Nicholas—Mr. William Jacob.  
St. Peter's—Mr. Wingfield.  
Ulcomb—Mr. William Belcher.  
Wickham—Mr. Edward Alexander, M.A. Born at Canterbury. Held the living of Wickham (a considerable one) from 1654 to 1662, when he was ejected. He afterwards gave his labours in and around Canterbury.

Woolwich—Mr. John Hawkes.  
Wootton—Mr. Edward Coppin, M.A. Born at Bekesbourne and educated chiefly at Canterbury. On Bartholomew Day, 1662, he complied with the law in order to continue his public charge of the ministry, but he was not easy afterwards under the change, and left his living and returned to his native village, where he lived on his own estate, and in great esteem with Sir Robert Hales, his family and neighbours. When liberty was given he preached in his house to all who would come, but he frequented the Established Church for worship.

At uncertain places—W. Williamson, W. Hoadley, Mr. Rolls and Mr. Edmund Trench. Mr. Daniel Hayes, of Preston, afterwards conformed.