

STOCK REGISTERS 1563 TO 1804

And the same style of entries continues until the Great Rebellion, no entry calling for any particular comment; the average was, during that period, the same as it is at the present day, viz., about 3 or 4 per annum.

On page 51 we have the following :—

“The Buryials performed in Harvard Stock Parish, year of our Lord 1581 and so forward.”

“Robert Brocke was buried the xvi of June.”

The entries continue in regular order, and without any notes or comments of interest till the time immediately preceding the common wealth. The average from 1581 to 1585 being about 9 per annum and from 1600 to 1619 (inclusive) about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per annum, which is less than at present, but in the three years 1622-4 it rises to no less than 23, and in 1625 and 1626 comes to 27, about double what it is now ; while in 1638 it rose to 31. The number of births and marriages keeping at about the normal rate.

There is an interesting notice on p. 75, which was afterwards filled up with notices of briefs, viz.,

“1632. Mr Coo & his wife in regard to their sickness & illbeing were licensed according to statute to eat flesh this lent by me William Pindar parson—received for ye entering (?) of both 8^d”

Underneath which is added—

“Valeat ut valere potest”

On p. 69 (1st col.) is the following :—

“Hic incipit Anno Dom. 1643. Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Wood (an anabaptisticall & factious separatist) & Eleanor his wife (the grave being ready made) was (by the companie that came with the child) interred & layed into the ground before the minister came, and without praies : or the righte of Christian burial according to the order of the church of England on Satterday May 7, 1642.”

This is a plain indication of the troublesome times in store.

On the 2nd col. we read the following curious entry : “That vertuous : religious : humble : & trulie charitable Gentlewoman, Mrs Juliet Coo, the wife of William Coo Esquire, departed this mortall life in the cittie of London on Wednesday May 18. 1642. And was from thence conveyed in a coach to this Towne of Harvard Stocke, where she dwelt. And was there solemnly interred (as beseemed her ranke) In the chancell belonging to this Parrish Church on Friday may 20. 1642. Where her worth & eminent vertues (to her eternall Memory, were both elegantlie & trulie related in a learned-funerall-sermon. By that Reverend Man of God Mr William Pindar Rector there.”

The man who made this entry was evidently very proud of it, for he adds—

“This breefe commemoration was entered By Thomas Chitham church Clarke of Harvard Stock.”

The last entry of Mr. Pindar's is the burial of a “Smith” (the 1st time the trade of the deceased is mentioned) June 24, 1643 (p. 70), and on this page, in more modern handwriting, is the following :—“Mr William Pindar was now sequestered & put out of this living, lived to ye Restoration & dyed Rector of Springfield Boswell about 1694 or 5 very old and D.D.” He is said to have been rector also of Laindon

Hills from 1661. He must have been about 100 years old, as he had been "Rector" for 76 years.¹

There are no entries of burials from 1643 to 1653, nor of marriages for the same time. Some pages being cut out seem to indicate that they were wilfully destroyed.

On p. 76 is the following interesting entry:—

"Memorand 9th of April 1631. M^r William Coo Esquire did give unto ye parishioners of Harvard Stock a faire standing gilded cup with a cover weighing [obliterated].

"The same gentleman gave unto ye church a pulpitt with a cover.

"Ye old communion cup did weigh 11½ oz & was sold for 5s & 1d the ounce, with which money & seaven shillings laid unto it by the parishioners, there was bought a gilt plate for the bread weighing 5oz 7d 12g at 7s ye ounce which came to 01/ 18s, and 2 yards ¾ broad cloth at 10s the yard which came unto 1/ 07s 06d, and so was the money taken for the said cup disposed of by the appointment of the minister & churchwardens."

This entry is in old handwriting (perhaps Mr. Pinder's) in the centre of the page, written crossways; afterwards the page was filled up with notices of briefs from Jan. 1664, to June 1665 (21 in all). The gilt service is not now in existence, probably it was stolen by the Parliamentarians or sacrificed to the exigencies of the civil war. On the next page are entries of collections on Briefs from April 1666, to Aug. 1673. On p. 78, there are four similar entries ending Sep. 1677, when the custom seems to have been given up. I shall enter more fully into the matter of these Briefs in the third part of this paper, when I come to their proper dates.

We come now to a consideration of the period of the commonwealth, and the first entry is as follows:—

"Baptismata, 1643.

"Thomas the sonne of Edward Hurrell of Margaretting & [] his wife was (upon entreaty) baptized in the parish church of Harvard Stock on the Saboth day June 18. 1643 By M^r Nehemiah Holmes."

This Holmes was appointed by the Nonconformists on Mr. Pinder's sequestration. We notice great carelessness and confusion in the dates of the entries, viz., one baptism for 1649, one for 1650, one for 1651, then one for 1647, followed by one for 1652.

During the period 1654 to 1682 the entries of births and baptisms were made in a small book; the same was the case with Ramsden Bellhouse. This small book was inserted in the middle of the old one, and on the cover is the following:—

"The Register Book of Harvard Stock & Buttsbury April ye 11th 1654."

By which we see that Buttsbury was united to Stock for registration, and I suppose for all other purposes also. On the first page is written April 5th, 1654:—

"According to the election of the inhabitants of Stoecke & Buttsbury, I doe nominate & appoint Jonathan Spier of the said parish of Stock

¹ According to some authorities he had been Rector only 56 years.