

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF STOCK HARVARD CUM  
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, ESSEX.

By the Rev. E. P. GIBSON, B.A.

The old Register Book of Stock embraces a period of 241 years (viz., from 1563 to 1804), and would have lasted up to the present day, had the same style of entries been continued as they were at the beginning, but the later Rectors seemed in a hurry to fill up the old book and start fresh ones for baptisms and burials, as they were compelled to do in the case of marriages.

For the sake of clearness and simplicity, I intend to make my remarks in three distinct divisions—(1) from 1563 to the Great Rebellion; (2) from the Great Rebellion to the Restoration; and (3) from the Restoration to the end of the Book.

The first thing to be noticed is the list of rectors, 12 in number, covering a period of 311 years, and giving an average of about  $26\frac{1}{2}$  years to each.

The only ones known to fame are Charles Hood, the famous school-master and grammarian, instituted rector 1660 (Dec. 10) and buried 1666 (March 5)—for whose life see *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, vol. iv.; and William Cawthorne Unwin, the friend of the poet Cowper, who wrote the well-known piece, entitled, "Tithing time at Stock," most probably during one of his visits at Stock Rectory between 1769 and 1786.

Mr. Newton, who is styled "Curate," seems to have had sole charge of the Parish from 1563 to 1622, when he resigned his curacy. The rectors of the parish during that time were Oliver Clayton 1556, Will. Pindar 1580, Will. Symonds 1587, who were probably also rectors of Springfield, as was the case with Dr. Pindar, who was instituted in 1619 (or according to some authorities 1639).

I regret to have to state that the first few pages, containing, doubtless, the title of the book, &c., have been cut out, so that it begins abruptly as follows :—

1563, 5 Eliz.

(1st Entry.) Chrystened Charles Hedgeman, sonne to John Hedgeman, ye xvii<sup>th</sup> of April.

Each right hand page being signed at the bottom, "Pr me Johannem Newton, Curat."

There are 34 entries on this page (from Ap., 1563, to July, 1584) viz., 15 christenings, 6 marriages, and 13 burials. The christenings, marriages, and burials being entered promiscuously till the end of 1580 (p. 10), when they are arranged under their several headings.

There appears to be nothing very striking or remarkable in these

entries till we come to Dr. Pindar's time, when the custom of making notes seems to have come into fashion, but we learn that the number of births, marriages, and deaths is very much the same as at the present day, shewing conclusively that the population of the place has been about the same for at least 300 years.

I would here remark that there is no notice whatever of the burial of Mr. Twedye in the Register Book, although there is a brass tablet erected to his memory. This brass consists of the coat of Arms at the top, then a full length effigy, and at the bottom the following inscription :—

The corpse of Richard Twedye Esquire lieth buried here in tombe  
Bewrapte in claye and so reserved untill the joyefull dome  
Whoe in his lyffe hath servd well against the Ingleshe foes  
In forren lands and eke at home, his cuntrye well yt knowes  
The prince he served in courte full long a pensioner fitt in psonage  
In his county, a Justice eke, a man full grave and sage  
Foure almshouses here hath he built for four poore knightes to dwell  
And endowed with stipends large, enough to kepe them well  
In ffifty eyghte yeares his course he ran and ended ye 28 of Januarye  
1574.

In the year 1634 there were 24 entries of baptisms signed per me, Richardum Cole Mr Pindar Rectoris coadjutorem sine curatum, among which occurs the following rather curious one :—

"John ye sonne of John Fisher (as was sayed) & of Margaret a stranger brought to bed at ye Cocke some four days before was baptized ye same time being ye 15<sup>th</sup> of March pdet : on which day in ye night ye said Margaret as they called her, & her sayed sonne were together with one whom they called her sister secretly conveyed away—ye host & hostesse not knowing hereof—*Meretricium certe hoc fuit facinus*"—

Also we notice the following, which shows how careful the Clergy were in those days not to trench in any way on the rights or duties of their neighbours :—

"Clemens ye daughter of John Harris of Westhanningfield & of Clemens his wife (uppon expresse leave given by their owne minister or curate in regard of his absence and other occasions) was baptized May y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1635."

And one which seems to denote great care in noting bastardy cases—

"William ye sonne of Jane Sharp singlewoman and of William Collin singleman (as she confessed and hee likewise) bapt<sup>d</sup> May 27."

On p. 35, A.D. 1641, we notice the use of the expression "Sabaoth day," *e.g.*

"Thomas the sonne of Richard Witham & Anne his wife was baptized on the Sabaoth day being November 7, 1641."

This being about the time of the Great Rebellion, I shall now, according to the plan I have laid down, direct attention to the marriages and burials up to the same date.

As I said just now, the baptisms, marriages, and burials were entered together till 1581, when they were placed under their separate headings. On page 43 we have the following entry, which will serve for a sample :—

"Zachary Graunte & Dorothe Ditle was married ye xxiii of October."

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<sup>d</sup>”

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 praires: 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, Mr<sup>s</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1631. M<sup>r</sup> 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 01l 18s, and 2 yards ¾ broad cloth at 10s the yard which came unto 1l 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 Harward Stock on the Saboth day June 18. 1643 By M<sup>r</sup> Nehemiah Holmes."

This Holmes was appointed by the Nonconformists on Mr. Pindar'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 Harward Stock & Buttsbury April ye 11<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 1654:—

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

<sup>1</sup> According to some authorities he had been Rector only 56 years.

to be the parish Registrar of Stock & Buttsbury aforesayed. And he was this day sworne before me well & truly to execute the said office (of register of the) said Parish to the best of his skill & power according to the Act of Parlim<sup>t</sup> in that case made untill he be thence duly discharged by order of Law."

(signed) Peter Whitcomb "

In 1656 a new Act of Parliament respecting marriages came into force, as we find by the following entries on p. 2 :—

"April 1654—

Marriages

"John Grub the sonne of John Grub of Stock in the county of Essex Yeoman was married unto Rode Sherife of South Hanningfield according to the Act of Parlm<sup>t</sup> the eighteenth day of Aprill 1656."

Also,

"John Gearson the sonne of Robert Gearson was married unto Elizabeth Read the daughter of Thomas Reed by M<sup>r</sup> Negus the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1654."

Who Mr. Negus was I cannot make out, nor can I understand why the entry bearing date 1654 was made by him after the one for 1656. This is another instance of the careless and confused manner in which the Registers were kept.

On p. 7 (A.D. 1655) there are 14 entries of *births*, baptisms not being permitted in the church, or at all events not allowed to be entered in the Register Books. The only entry of any interest among the marriages during the time of the Commonwealth is the following :—

"M<sup>r</sup> Philologus Sachererell minister of the Gospel of Eastwood was married unto M<sup>rs</sup> Anna Barnaby of All Hallows Barking in London Spinster the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April according to the Act of Parliament by M<sup>r</sup> Martin Simson Person of Stock in the yeare 1658."

The burials were regularly entered at the end of the small book (turned upsidedown), and show an average of 32 per annum, from 1654 to 1660. The following may be of some little interest :—

- (1.) "George Stathum a recusant of Buttsbury drowning himself in one of the Park ponds was buried the 24<sup>th</sup> of May (1655)"
- (2.) "That vertuous religious woman, M<sup>rs</sup> Anne Babington widow was buried in Stocke Chancell the 28<sup>th</sup> day of Aug. (1658)"

We now come to the third part of the subject, viz., from the Restoration to the end of the book, and the first thing to be noticed is the custom of collecting sums of money on "briefs," which appears to have been very common.

I have selected a few, as found on p. 74, as specimens, though by whose authority they were ordered I have not been able to find out.<sup>1</sup>

"February the 10<sup>th</sup> 1660."

*Memorandum.* "there was collected in Stocke church by John Grubb sen<sup>r</sup> & Thomas Allen churchwardens for a briefe which came from Milton Abbas in the county of Dorset the somme of eight shillings & too pence entered by mee Andrewe Reade church Clarke of Stocke."

"November ye 10<sup>th</sup> day 1661."

*Memorand.* "There was collected in Stocke church by John Grubbe

<sup>1</sup> I believe either by Royal or Episcopal Authority.

Jun<sup>r</sup> & Thomas Allen churchwardens for a briefe which came concerning his Majesties Royall fishing ye somme of eight shillings & foure pence."

"December ye eighth day 1661."

*Memorand* : "there was collected in Stock church by John Grubb Jun<sup>r</sup> & Thomas Allen churchwardens for a briefe concerning ye Dukedome of Lithuania, John de Kraino Krainsby (or Krainsly) ye somme of 3 shillings & 3 pence."

There are altogether 39 similar entries up to March, 1663, most of them from towns in different parts of the kingdom, but two were for the benefit of private individuals—the average amount collected being about 4s 6d to 5s. The same was the case with Buttsbury, where many collections were made for the same objects as in Stock. Also in 1707 there are 12 entries for briefs, entitled, "lost by fire," four of which bear the same date May 11, and three more appear in 1708. The following is a sample :—

"Anno Domini 1707."

"collected as follows to Briefs in ye prsh. & church of Harward Stock John Laver churchwarden."

- (1) "May ye 4<sup>th</sup> Towcester Brief lost by fire 1057l. collected nine pence halfpenny."
- (2) "1708. April 25<sup>th</sup> Lisborne in Ireland, lost by fire 31770l, collected seven pence."

A sad falling off in the amount—the custom appears to have been given up about this time.

On p. 53 of the little book is a list of "Christenings since Charles Hoole was Rector," who acted as minister for the united Parishes of Stock and Buttsbury till 1664. The Register is pretty regularly kept, and calls for no comment, the average of baptisms being about 12 per annum ; and of marriages three per annum.

About this time the custom of excommunicating offenders appears to have been pretty common, for in 1660, Oct. 7th, "Thomas Allen churchwarden was excommunicated," and "Robert Bundock was excommunicated the same day."

Thomas Allen, we find, "was absolved" Oct. 17th day, but nothing is recorded further about Robert Bundock. There is also an entry in the Register of burials that a woman named Elizabeth Perrin, dying excommunicate, was buried on the "Comon."

In 1664, "Edward Philips was excommunicated May 3rd," and in 1665 the above Elizabeth Perrin was similarly treated on April 9th.<sup>1</sup>

The entries of baptisms in the little book end with the year 1682, and are then continued in the old book as before.

In the year 1678 "A Register book for burying in woollen was bought at the Parish charge. Zeph. Pierse Rect de Harward Stock." This was in compliance with an Act of Parliament, which required that affidavits should be produced in all cases that the corpse was wrapt in woollen cloth. It remained in force till 1782, and was probably enacted in order to encourage the woollen trade ; and consequently affidavits to this effect were duly entered in all cases. These entries continue in the affidavit

<sup>1</sup> Among the burials during the first few years of the Restoration we find the following rather curious one :—

"Ralf Boyce was buried 10th day of February (1661), and it thundered at the same time (p. 14 little book)."



book, which is bound up with the old book to A.D. 1769. The only ones of any interest being the following :—

- (1) "*Mr.* Zephoniah Pierse late Rector of this Parish was buried July ye 23<sup>rd</sup> 1703,"

from which we see that the custom of styling all clergymen "*Reverend*" was not then introduced.

(2) "*Susannah Alleyn* was buried Jan ye 17<sup>th</sup> 170 $\frac{3}{4}$ ," which shows that the custom of considering the year to commence in January seems to have gained ground 50 years before Lord Chesterfield's Act for authorizing the same.

- (3) "Four sons of John Maskell in June 1745." (Perhaps all at one birth)

- (4) "The *Rev.* Philip Chetwode Rector of Stock was buried 28 Jan 1769 by Sam Howe M.A. Rector of West Hanningfield."

in which we notice the titles of "*Reverend*" and M.A., and

- (5) "Richard Billing from Crondon Park a Romish Priest ye 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1769."

The affidavit book is now turned upsidedown, and contains a regular list of baptisms, marriages, and burials till 1705.

Returning to the old book, p. 79, we find the following :—

"A Register for the parish of Harward Stock 1683," and a table of the fees of the parish "as formed by immemorial custom."

In 1695, we find that an Act of Parliament was passed taxing all Registers of Births and Marriages, for on p. 95 is the following notice :—

"A Register Book 1695 ffor the Parish of Harward Stock, pursuant to an Act of Parliament taxing of Marriages & Births beginning from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May in this present year 1695 & to continue five years."

In 1785, when it was no longer compulsory to wrap dead bodies in woollen, a tax was collected on all registers of burials, as we find by the following entry :—"Accounted for the above (burials) to the collector 1785."

Mr. Pierse, who died in 1703, seems to have been very careless in filling up the Registers during the latter years of his life, as we find on p. 104—

"The following Marriages were celebrated in Mr Pierse's time left only on a paper."

These consisted of 4 entries in 1702, and 1 in 1703, and again,

"Mr Zephaniah Pierse late Rector of this parish left the following acct. of the baptisms of 1702 & part of 1703 to his death in a foule book which whether exact or no I cannot tell, but as I find it, have set it down to supply the defect. (signed) Thomas Cox, Rector."

These entries comprise 12 baptisms for 1702 and 12 for 1703.

Then follow on the succeeding pages a regular list of baptisms and marriages, the former from May 19<sup>th</sup> 1706, to December 16<sup>th</sup> 1807. The latter from Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1714 to Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 1754.

At the bottom of page 136 is the following note :—

"Here end the marriages by Rubric & Canon. For marriages by a thing called an act of Parliament see the other book. [entered by Thos. Cox, senr.]"

From this page to the end of the book is a continuous list of baptisms till the end of 1806. The only one of any special interest being

"Mary Dr of William Butt born Sep. 14 1700. William son of William Butt born aug 24 1702. Ann the dr of William Butt &

Ellen his wife was born Nov 21. 1707. mem<sup>d</sup>. These children were born in Stock Parish, but not baptized by ye minister, their parents being Papists."

#### RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE.

The old Register Book of this parish is smaller than that of Stock, and contains no "affidavit" book, and at present no "little" book—which appears to be lost—but the entries were copied into the large book by Joshua Nun, Rector, 1696.

All the entries are very clearly written, and continue in unbroken order (with the exception of some very serious omissions in the latter half of the seventeenth century) from 1562 to 1779.

It seems as if the remoteness of the place protected it to a great extent from the troubles and confusions which happened to the adjacent Parish of Stock. We see no references to sequestrations, and but few upsets of existing customs—but the Rectors followed one another in unbroken order, each succeeding to the living on the *death* of his predecessor. And even the Roman Catholic Rector (as it was supposed he was) Father Spayne, died peaceably in possession, and was buried Feb. 15th, 1562 (this being, curiously enough, the first entry in the Register Book). I may add, also, that there are no notices of "Briefs" or "Excommunications," as in the case of Stock; and the baptisms, marriages, and burials are kept quite distinct and separate from the very beginning.

On the cover of the book is a list of the rectors of the parish, the average duration of each being just over 23 years.

On the top of the first page is the following title of the book:—

"This is the Booke of Register of Ramsdon Bellhowse made in the fourthe yeare of the rayne of our Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queene of Englande Fraunce & Ierlande Defender of the faythe &c Christennings weddings & buringes made by me Richard Spenser Priest & Curate there in the yeare of our Lorde God one thousande five hundred & sixti Two."

The 1st entry is "John Hobson was baptized the viii day of February A<sup>o</sup> prdet," and the same handwriting continues in all the succeeding entries up to the 7th of June, 1598, certainly, and perhaps till April 1st, 1605. This leads me to suppose that Mr. Spencer was Curate-in-charge during the latter half of the sixteenth century, and that the rectors were, partially at all events, non-resident; as we know was the case with Mr. Nun, who held Misty and Manningtree with Ramsden Bellhouse.

The average number of baptisms during his time was about ten per annum, an indication that the population was very much the same as it is at present.

On page 26 we notice an indication of the Nonconformist supremacy in the following entry:—"Elizabeth daughter of John Brampome & Judi his wife was born ye 12 of August 1652." The date of baptism not being entered. This same page begins with *four* entries of baptisms for the latter part 1653, and *three* for 1654. Then follows *one* for 1653, and *two* for 1652. These irregularities and the above-written entry of Elizabeth Bramsome as born and not baptized, in different handwriting and out of chronological order, were no doubt caused by the disturbance which took place during the Commonwealth.



Mr. Thomas Clopton, who was instituted in 1616, was the first Rector who signed his name to the Registers.

At the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, we notice the custom of baptizing infants at a very early age. For instance, in 1699 we have :

- (1) "Mary ye daughter of Joshua Nun & Mary his wife was born April 3<sup>rd</sup> about 3 of ye clock in (the) afternoon, being Monday, & baptized the same day anno p<sup>de</sup>cto."

This entry is an exception to Mr. Nun's rule, which was to make his entries in Latin.

- (2) "Edward son of David Jones & Anne bap. 11 day of April, 8 days old."

- (3) "Elizabeth daughter of Robert & Jane Mead was baptized on ye 27 day of June 1708. 4 days old."

There are three more entries in the same year of infants who were baptized at *three, four, and one* day old respectively. None of the succeeding entries seem to call for much notice, except perhaps these two :—

"1717. | Diana dau. of John Billy & Diana Waker Bap Jan ye 13.  
| Proles spuria."

"1712. | John son of Thomas Drason & Martha Shuttleworth bap 8<sup>ber</sup>  
| 12. Proles spuria."

—which are the first two entries so designated.

Page 52 contains "The Weddings in Ramsdon Belhowse," from 1565 and onwards.

The first thirteen years average two and a-half circ. (about what it is now) and are entered in this form, "Philip Williams & Alice Hammond were married ye vii of Aug A° 1565."

No entries of weddings appear from 1610 till 1676 ; and those of the latter date and following years were copied out of another book by Joshua Nun, Rector, 1696. Whether the Registers were wilfully destroyed or only "lost" cannot now be determined, but are at any rate a sign of the confusion consequent on the events of the Great Rebellion.

I notice that Joshua Nun was the first Rector who attested marriages by his signature.

The "Buryings in Ramsdon Belhowse" begin on p. 62. The first entry being, "Father Spayne was buried the xv day of February A° 1562."

He was probably a Roman Catholic Rector put in during the Romish supremacy in Mary's reign, and not disturbed by her successor. This page contains 39 entries in about eight years, among which is that of the death of "John Spayne minister buried the xxvii day of November A° (1570)," where we notice the difference of title between "Father" and "Minister."

On p. 84 is the following :—"The under-written were posted out of another book by Joshua Nun, Rect. 1696."

It contains a list of forty-nine entries from June 1654 to June 1658, more than *twelve* per annum, there being no less than twenty funerals in 1657. Also in the three years—1678-80—there are fifty-six entries, a very high average, and consequent doubtless on some epidemic, the average of baptisms and marriages being about the same as usual.

From the entries of 1654 to 1707, I have extracted the following rather curious ones :—

- (1) "1662. Mr Thoms Clopton Rector of Ramsden Belhouse was buried Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1662.

Testante uxore Roberti Clark Rectoris quondam ancilla."

—where we notice the title "*Mr.*" and the witness to the death or burial.

- (2) "1660. Amy Faux, servant to the family of the Gerrards 59 years, was Buryed in the chancel in honour to her faithful service & for encouragement to others."

- (3) "Aff: Susan the daughter of Edward & Susan Osborne. Buryed aug 16<sup>th</sup> (1667)."

This is the first notice we find of the affidavit that the corpse was wrapt in woollen a year later than at Stock.

- (4) "Aff: Sarah Hills Widow; inhumaniter a liberis tractata tandem tempestiva morte Redempta est, buried November An<sup>o</sup> prdcta. (1680)"

- (5) "Aff: Mis Sarah Rice, pia et annora vidua denata 74 an: oet. et novem mensis ultra sepulta prope limen cedis superioris (vulgo det the chancel) occedentem versus Jan 4<sup>th</sup> (1681)"

- (6) "Aff: Grace ye wife of George Gratye pia mater et obediens uxor, et pro facultate tenui bonorum operum ferax, was buried Jan 16 (1681)."

- (7) "Aff: John Buck Grandis professor tandem regis metu et multa conversus. Buryed Jan. 28 (1683)."

At the bottom of page 90 is the following note:—"P<sup>d</sup> for buryals to Oct 8. 1698 to the King," which has reference to the law then enacted taxing all Registers, and which was to be in force for five years.

On page 92 (A.D. 1707) is an elaborate entry concerning the burial of Mr. Nun, written by his successor, Mr. Jephson:—

"Joshua Nun, olim Ecclesiae hujus Rector (In Rectoriam vero de Misley et Maningtree admissus et inductus per octenium ultimo elapsum Parochiae hujus coram duntaxat gessit) Sepultus est Decimo die Decembris anno praedicto.

Ast anima in coelis fulget praecelior astris

Et quem dilexit, nunc videt ipse Deum."

And on the next page is one containing rather a good Latin pun—

Anno Domini 1708

"Aff: Maria Feast sepulta est } Epulam (si deus voluerit) vermibus  
4<sup>th</sup> calendarum Aprilis. } nimis delicatum. Erat Enim satis  
} venusta."

The terms "goody," "cousin," "goodman," &c., now appear in the Register, and one Ann Wood is spoken of as a "virgin daughter," who was born A.D. 1720. In 1730 we notice the first use of the title of "Reverend." "The Reverend Mr Alexander Jephson late Rector of this parish was buried May 14<sup>th</sup> 1733."

There were no entries of burials for the years 1767 to 1769 and only one 1770. In the next few years I notice some not very flattering epithets.

- (1). "1771. Payne Voyce buried April 14<sup>th</sup> (prave vivens miserrime moriens)."

- (2). "1772. Aug. 24. Samuel Douset (Ebrius, iracundus, inops, miserandus abivit)."

The last entries in the book (except those for 1778 entered on the reverse of the baptismal registers) are the following:—

" 1777. 4 october. Abram Bannister, aff. }  
11 october. Isaac & Jacob Bannister, aff. } All three at one birth."

This concludes my remarks on the old Register Book of Ramsden Bellhouse, and although the entries are not perhaps very interesting to strangers, yet they are to a certain extent indicative of the times in which they were made, and are remarkable for the very clear and legible manner in which they are written.

I cannot help remarking, in conclusion, that a great deal of valuable information might be culled out of the old registers of the parishes in this country, and which are at present, with few exceptions, "hidden treasures."