

**Minute Book of the Wirksworth Classis,
1651—1658.**

EDITED BY J. CHARLES COX.

IN the voluminous collections of the late Mr. Bateman, of Middleton-by-Youlgreave, we found, some four or five years ago, a reference to a MS. Minute Book of the Classical Presbytery of Wirksworth during the Commonwealth. Knowing how exceedingly rare are any documents pertaining to the ecclesiastical history of that period, no pains were spared in the endeavour to ascertain if such a book were now extant. But it was not until 1879 that the book was traced to the possession of Philip Hurt, Esq., late of Wirksworth, who inherited it from his uncle, Mr. Charles Hurt. Mr. Hurt most kindly placed the MS. at the service of the Derbyshire Archæological Society, and it was decided by the Society to print it *in extenso*.

The book is a small quarto, consisting of ninety-four leaves of paper, and covered with a single thickness of parchment. It begins with the date December 16th, 1651, and from that time to February 21st, 1652, the entries are in the handwriting of Roger Coke, the official scribe of the Presbytery. Then follow eleven blank pages. The entries are resumed on January 16th, 1654, by John Rudyard, who succeeded Coke in the office of scribe, and are continued in his handwriting to the end of the volume, the last date of which is November 17th, 1658.

On a fly leaf at the beginning of the book is the following record:—

“The Rev^l Nathaniel Hubbersty* bought this class book of Wirksworth Church at Mrs. Holland’s sale, August 8th, 1806, and gave it to Charles Hurt, jun^r.”

This is followed by a long extract from Hume’s *History of England*, vol. vii., p. 261, descriptive of the state of affairs under the Commonwealth.

On the outside of the cover, in bold black-letter characters, are the words “**Wirkesw Class,**” *i.e.*, Wirksworth Classis.

Before reproducing the contents of this note book, or making any further analysis of its contents, it will be well to give a brief description of the form of Presbyterian worship as then established in England, for without some knowledge of that description, much that is therein concisely and technically recorded might be unintelligible.

On Sunday, July 1st. 1644, there met for the first time, in Henry VII.’s chapel, Westminster Abbey, that body known as “The Westminster Assembly of Divines.” This assembly consisted of about one hundred and twenty “divines,” and thirty laymen, capriciously called together from the different counties of England by the majority of the two Houses of Parliament, in order to form a council for the nation on such subjects pertaining to ecclesiastical affairs as might be submitted to them by the Parliament. The members of this body originally consisted of three sections—Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Independents. The central section very largely preponderated in numbers, and the Episcopalians were speedily excluded, by being called on to take the solemn league and covenant. The Independents were not only few in numbers, but their representatives were men of little weight or influence, and when their antagonists coalesced with the Scotch, the Westminster Assembly became, to all intents and purposes, a purely Presbyterian organisation.

* Mr. Hubbersty was at that time curate to the Rev. John Challoner, vicar of Wirksworth.

The original Minutes of the Sessions of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, from August 1st, 1643, down to March 25th, 1652, are contained in three folio volumes at the Williams Library, London, and are in the handwriting of Adoniram Byfield, one of the scribes of the Assembly.* The works that the sessions of this Assembly incubated were the Directory of Public Worship, the Confession of Faith, two Catechisms (the Longer and the Shorter), and a form of Presbyterian Church Government. These were all agreed upon and set forth by the authority of the Assembly, but the last named (relating to Church Government) was not formally ratified by the Parliament. Their first work was the Directory, which was confirmed by Parliament in the year after their first assembling. Considering that many copies of this Directory (which superseded the Book of Common Prayer) were circulated in every parish of the kingdom, it is somewhat remarkable how very few are extant at the present time.

The copy of the Directory that is now lying before us is a small quarto of forty pages, prefaced by the declaration of the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, dated March 13th, 1644, ordering its printing and publishing under the direction of "Mr. Henry Robrough and Mr. Adoniram Byfield, the Scribes of the Assembly of Divines." The following is a transcript of the title page :—

* The contents of these valuable volumes, so far as they relate to the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms, were transcribed and published in 1874 for the Established Church of Scotland, under the editorship of Messrs. Mitchell and Struthers—but they contain much that has not yet been analysed. Bound up with the third volume are the rough minutes of the Presbyterian Assembly of London, from Nov. 27th, 1650, to April 24th, 1655, *i.e.* from the eighth Assembly of the third Session to the sixteenth Assembly of the thirteenth Session. This ought to be collated with the minutes for the like period in the volume at Sion College. We found there were certain variations. Our thanks are due to the Williams Librarian for so readily giving us every facility for consulting these MSS.

A
D I R E C T O R Y

for the Publique
WORSHIP OF GOD
Throughout the three Kingdoms
of

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Together with an Ordinance of Parlia-
ment for the taking away of the Book
of

COMMON-PRAYER :

and

for establishing and observing of this present Directory
throughout the Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales.

—:O:—

Die Jovis, 13 Martii, 1644.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parlia-
ment, that this Ordinance and Directory be forthwith
printed and published : Joh : Brown, Cleric. Parliamentorum.
H. Elvyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

—:O:—

LONDON :

Printed by G. M. and J. F. for the Company of Stationers. 1646.

Prefixed to the Directory are copies of the Ordinance of January 3rd, 1644, abolishing the Book of Common Prayer, and of the Ordinance of August 23rd, 1645, "for the more effectual putting in execution the Directory." The latter Ordinance fixes the penalty for using the Prayer Book, either in public or *private*, for the first offence at £5, for the second at £10, and for the third "one whole yeares imprisonment without baile or main-prize."

These are the contents of the Directory :—

“ The Ordinance.

The Preface—

Of the Assembling of the Congregation.

Of Publique reading of the holy Scripture.

Of Publique Prayer before Sermon.

Of the Sacrament of Baptisme.

Of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Of the Sanctification of the Lord's Day.

Of the Solemnization of Marriage.

Of the Visitation of the Sick.

Of Buriall of the Dead.

Of Publique Solemn Fasting.

Of the observation of dayes of Publique Thanksgiving.

Of Singing of Psalms.

An Appendix touching Dayes and Places of Public Worship.”

The Presbytery, according to the Westminster Assembly, was controlled by three grades of officials :—(1) Ministers, who preached and ruled ; (2) lay elders, who ruled but did not preach ; and (3) deacons, who ministered to the temporal necessities of the poor.

Each congregation or parish had its own officers, and was, as it were, a republic complete itself ; for the minister and elders constituted a body politic for the domestic government of the district. Upon the Presbytery (*i.e.*, the pastor and elders) of each parish devolved the oversight of the church, the maintenance of discipline, and the administration of censures.*

Next to the congregational or parish Presbytery, and superior to it, was the Classical Assembly, which was formed of the delegates from the different parochial presbyteries within a certain area. The delegates were to be not more than four and not less than two elders from each congregation, in addition to the minister. The business of the Classical Assembly, or “ Classis ” as it was more usually termed, may be thus summarised :—

(a) To take cognizance of the conduct of ministers and elders.

(b) To admit candidates to office.

* Censures were of three degrees :—admonition, suspension, and excommunication. Notorious offenders had to make public confession before the congregation. If incorrigible, they were cut off from the Lord's Supper, and from the right of bringing their children to be baptized.

- (c) To inquire into the state of congregations.
- (d) To decide cases too difficult for settlement by the parochial elders, or from which there was appeal.
- (e) To discharge such other legislative functions as did not clash with the authority of the higher courts.

The Provincial Synod was the next superior court. It consisted of delegates from the different Classical Assemblies. Appeals from the decisions of the Classis could in certain instances be carried there, and it adjudicated on matters involving the welfare or regulation of the whole province or county. It is a mistake of Stoughton and other historians of Presbyterianism to affirm that candidates for theological examination and ordination had to appear before the Provincial Synod. The power of examination and ordination of candidates for the ministry was distinctly conferred, by a Parliamentary Ordinance of 1646, on each Classis, and we find the Wirksworth Classis regularly exercising that right.

To crown this series of courts, it was requisite to have a General Assembly, composed of delegates from all the Provincial Synods—but to this completeness Presbyterianism in England never attained.*

This elaborate form of Church government was far more perfect on paper than in reality. Even Provincial Synods are only *known* to have been constituted in a complete manner in two districts—London† and Lancashire‡. Historians have, however,

* On the subject of Presbyterianism in England during the Commonwealth, see Neal's *History of the Puritans*, McCrie's *Annals of English Presbytery*, Stoughton's *Church of the Commonwealth*, and especially Hibbert's *History of the Foundations in Manchester*.

† The records or Minute Book of the London Provincial Assembly are contained in a large folio MS. book in the library of Sion College, London Wall. It dates from May 31, 1647, to August 15th, 1660. With it are bound up "a vindication of Presbyterian Government," and two other MS. treatises. London was divided into ten classes. At first the number of delegates from each classis was limited to two ministers and four elders, but this proportion was afterwards increased to three and six respectively. The first meeting of this London Assembly was held in the Convocation House, St. Paul's. Subsequent Sessions were held in Blackfriars Vestry, in Aldermanbury, in Painter Stainers' Hall, but most often at Sion College.

‡ The original Minute Book of the Manchester Classis (the first of the nine Classis into which Lancashire was divided) belongs to the Trustees of Cross St. Chapel, Manchester, and is at the present time in the temporary possession

erred considerably (both Episcopalian and Nonconformist) in representing that it was only in Lancashire and the Metropolis that Presbyterianism was organised. This error, so far as we know, universally adopted and blindly copied into all handbooks and dictionaries of sects, seems to have arisen from there only being extant Ordinances of Parliament establishing Classes throughout districts in these two cases. But it is known that there is no perfect record or catalogue of these Ordinances, and even if no others were passed by Parliament, it by no means follows that the Presbyterian system was not generally adopted, and for a time, at all events, in full operation in many a province without this formal authorisation. For be it remembered that numbers of the staunchest Presbyterians did not want this approval of the civil power, and were all the better pleased if they could establish what they considered a theocracy without its aid.

We are convinced that Presbyterianism prevailed far more widely throughout England than has been generally supposed. Without any particular investigation, evidence has almost casually reached us of the large area over which the Classis system prevailed throughout the counties of Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, and Berkshire; and we think there is considerable probability that Provincial Synods, though, perhaps, unauthorised by Parliament, may have met in several other districts besides London and Lancashire.* So far as Derbyshire is concerned, we are able to state that the organisation was very thorough and complete. A Classical Assembly or Classis was

of Mr. J. E. Bailey, F.S.A., the well-known author of *The Life of Fuller*, etc., who is editing it for the Chetham Society. There is a copy of this in the Chetham Library, Manchester.

There is a copy of the Minute Book of the Bolton Classis (the second Classis of the Lancashire Province) at the Bodleian, among the Walker MSS.; but the original is not extant.

The Provincial Synod for Lancashire usually met in the Church of Preston.

* It is certain that there was such a Synod in the county of Devon, for Flavel was Moderator of the Provincial Synod of the province of Devonshire about 1650. With respect, too, to Parliamentary authority, it should not be forgotten that, on January 29th, 1647-8, an Ordinance was passed "for the speedy dividing and settling of the *several counties* of the Kingdom into distinct classical presbyteries and congregational elderships."

mapped out, and to a great extent definitely established, in each of the six Hundreds into which the county was and is divided.* The Classis for the Hundred of the Low Peak usually met at Wirksworth, and was called after that town (it is the Minute Book of that Classis which is now under consideration); for the Hundred of Scarsdale, at Chesterfield;† for the Hundred of the High Peak, sometimes at Bakewell, and sometimes at Glossop; for the Hundred of Morleston and Litchurch, at Derby; for the Hundred of Repton and Gresley, sometimes at Repton, and sometimes at Melbourne; and for the Hundred of Appletree (which had no place of special importance within its limits, and was termed the Appletree Classis) usually, we believe, at Breadsall. Nor does it appear that a single parish or parochial chapelry was permitted to be unrepresented throughout the county, and every benefice seems for a time to have been in the hands of those who willingly or unwillingly accepted the government of the Classis. The transcript of the Wirksworth book will show that every parish throughout that district was more or less represented at the Classis, and under its control. With all this organisation in Derbyshire, it seems very unlikely that no Provincial Synod for the county was ever held, but we have not any proof to offer of its having been convened, beyond the fact that the Certificates of Ordination granted by the Wirksworth Classis were issued in the name of "the Classical Presbytery of Wirksworth, *in the Province of Derby.*"

So much of the business of the Wirksworth Classis pertained to the examination and ordination of candidates for the ministry, that it will be of interest to give some details of the Parliamentary Ordinance of August 28th, 1646, so often cited in the entries of their Minute Book. For this Ordinance we searched for some time in vain, and at last found a copy among the Commonwealth

* These divisions were not quite strictly adhered to, for Crich and Pentrich, which are chiefly in the Hundred of Morleston and Litchurch, and South Winfield of the Hundred of Scarsdale, were all three included in the district of the Wirksworth Classis. On the other hand, Hartington was excluded from the Wirksworth district.

† The Chesterfield Classis was in active operation, at all events so far as ordination was concerned, right through the Commonwealth.

tracts of the British Museum.* It is a small quarto pamphlet of six pages, and has not, so far as we can ascertain, been reprinted or referred to at any length. It is the more important to give a correct idea of what ordination under the presbytery was, for there has been a singular concurrence of misstatement among historical authorities on this particular point. One text book of English Church history, widely accepted as specially trustworthy, says that "the rules (under the Commonwealth) about ordination are peculiarly indefinite; and the power vested in the hands of the presbytery seemed to lie open to the admission of almost anyone, provided he would take the covenant, and could satisfy his examiners of the evidence of his calling to the ministry, and of the grace of God which was in him."† How far such a statement is accurate can be judged from the following abstract of the ordinance in question.

It is entitled:—

"An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament for the Ordination of Ministers of the Classicall Presbyters within their respective Bounds for the severall Congregations in the Kingdom of England. Die Veneris 28 August, 1646. London printed for John Wright at the Kings Head in the Old Bayley. 31 Aug. 1646."

The preface, after setting out that Presbyter, Elder, and Bishop are all equal, with the usual arguments of Presbyterians, lays down that each Presbyterian Classis is to examine, approve, and ordain, Presbyters within their several and respective bounds. It also enjoins that the candidate must be 24 years of age, and must bring testimonials of (*a*) his having taken "the Covenant of the three Kingdoms," (*b*) his diligence and proficiency in his studies, (*c*) his degrees at the University and time of residence, and (*d*) especially of his life and conversation.

The Presbytery is enjoined to enquire respecting the candidate, (*a*) of the grace of God in him, and (*b*) of his holiness of life; also to examine him touching (*c*) his learning, (*d*) the evidence of

* Collection of Pamphlets, King's Library, vol. 276, No. 4.

† Bishop Short's *History of the Church of England*, ch. xiii. 590.
A work recommended by our Episcopate for candidates for Holy Orders.

his vocation to the ministry, and (*e*) especially concerning "his faire and direct calling to that place to which he is designed."

Then follow the Rules for Examination, which may be summarised as follows:—

1. The candidate to be examined in a brotherly way, and with "mildness of spirit."

2. To be examined in his skill of the original tongues "by reading the Hebrew and Greeke Testaments, and rendering some portions of them into Latine." Inquiry also in "Logick, Philosophy, and other learning."*

3. To be asked what authors in Divinity he hath read, what knowledge he has of ecclesiastical history, and what skill in the chronology of the Scriptures.

4. Trial to be made of his (*a*) ability to defend orthodox doctrine against error, of his (*b*) skill in exposition of the Scriptures, and of his (*c*) "judgment in cases of Conscience."

5. To preach before the Presbytery on a given text (provided he is not already a proved preacher.)

6. To frame a Thesis in Latin on some controversial topic of theology fixed upon by the Presbytery, and to be prepared to maintain a dispute upon it.

7. "The proportion of his gifts in relation to the place unto which he is called shall be considered."

If the candidate successfully passed this somewhat severe ordeal, the next step was to send him to the place to which he was "called," there to preach three several days, and to converse with the people.

On the last of those days, after his future flock had had fit opportunity for testing his "gifts in preaching," etc., the Presbytery sent a public instrument in writing,† to be read before the people

* According to an entry in the Manchester Classis Book (Cheetham Library), candidates were to be examined in "logic, philosophy, ethics, physics, metaphysics, Greek or Latin." "The call of the people and the consent of the patron (where there is one)" were also held by that Classis to be necessary to ordination.

† This written instrument corresponded to the "Si quis" of our Church, indeed we believe it began with those words. The affixing this document to the Church door is now termed in Scotland "Serving the Edict."

and then to be affixed to the church doors, calling on the said congregation to put in what exceptions they had against him.

If no objection was raised on the day appointed for ordination (which was to be performed in the church where the candidate was to serve, "if it may be done with safety and convenience,") (*a*) a solemn fast was to be kept by the congregation, (*b*) the Presbytery (or at least five ministers of the Word) were to come to the place, (*c*) a sermon to be preached by one of them on the office and duty of a Minister, (*d*) the preacher to catechise the candidate before the congregation on his faith, calling, diligence, etc., etc., (*e*) the Presbytery (*i.e.*, the ministers and elders) to lay their hands on the head of the candidate whilst a "short prayer or blessing," solemnly setting him apart for the office and work of the ministry, was said, and (*f*) finally, an exhortation was addressed to the new minister and his congregation, concluding with a prayer, the singing of a psalm, and a blessing.

It was further ordered, that anyone who had been ordained "according to the forme of Ordination which hath been held in the Church of England," need not, if his testimonials were good, be further ordained, but was to be tested in his preaching, and by further examination, if necessary.

Another paragraph provides that "Records be carefully kept by the Register (or Scribe), to be nominated by the Presbytery, of the names of the persons ordained, with their testimonials, etc., etc., and of the charge to which they are appointed"—no money or gift to be paid to the Presbytery except the fee to the Register for the entry, Instrument and Testimonials of his Ordination, which was not to exceed ten shillings.

In forming a due estimate of the state of religious England during the Great Rebellion, it is of no little importance to bear in mind the very great care bestowed by the Presbyterians on their candidates for ordination, the considerable learning that was expected of them, and the laying on of hands by ministers (many of them themselves episcopally ordained) in the rite itself. It was this very question of ordination that drew to the Presbyterians so large an amount of support from timorous Episcopalians, and

brought down on them the severe raillery and scorn of the Independents, who affected to be unable to see the difference between the ordination of the Church and of the Presbytery. An Independent pamphleteer of 1648, writing of the similarity of the two rites, applies to them the well known line of Plautus, thus roughly rendered :—

“’Tween milk and milk the likeness is not greater,
No egg from egg distinguish’d lesse in feature.”

The Wirksworth Minute Book affords proof of the pains taken by that Classis in examining candidates. One was rejected, notwithstanding good birth and repeated applications, for scandalous life, two for insufficient learning, and one apparently for unsound doctrine.

We are not able to say under what precise circumstances the Presbytery of one Classis was considered justified in ordaining a minister who was about to take a charge outside their jurisdiction, but it will be found that this was several times done by the Wirksworth Classis. Ministers were ordained who purposed to serve cures in the counties of Worcester, Warwick, Leicester, Nottingham, Stafford, and York respectively. In several of these cases the reason seems to have been either that the candidate was of Derbyshire birth, or well known to one or more of the Presbytery ; but in the later years, when these foreign ordinations increased, it may possibly have arisen from the collapse of the Classis in their own districts.

According to the paper constitution of Presbyterian government, the elders, usually termed “ruling elders,” ought to have considerably outnumbered, if not doubled, the ministers at the classical meetings. But the keeping up of the lay element, somewhat contemptuously headed in this note book as “Others,” seems to have been the great drawback to the effectual working of their system in England. The Minute Book, at Sion College, of the London Provincial Assembly, abounds in complaints of the absence of a competent body of men to act as “ruling elders,” some of the largest churches being without any. This seems to have been also a characteristic of the Wirksworth Classis. The

ministers almost always outnumber the "Others," the lay element becoming very sparse indeed towards the end of the period. The principal men of the district evidently stood aloof, there being no family of distinction among the elders entered as attending the classical meetings, with the sole exception of various members of the ancient family of Buxton, of Bradbourn. This slack attendance was attempted to be remedied, but not with much success, by a vote of the Classis on May 17th, 1653, when it was ordered that "every congregation presbyterated within this Classis shalbe desired to send to every classicall meeting two (or one at the least) of their congregationall elders to joyne with the Ministers in managing the affaires of the Classis."

This indisposition to take office, no doubt, partly arose from the troublous state of the times, and from fear of identifying themselves with a party whose leaders in Parliament had been forcibly ejected by "Colonel Pride's purge," in December, 1648; but may we not fairly surmise that the influential gentlemen of the district (whether they took the side of the King or the Parliament) clung for the most part, though not with any boldness, to the faith of their fathers? The lay element is essential to the working of the Presbyterian system—indeed, it has been spoken of by one of their recent historians as "the right arm." This right arm, never strong in England, as years passed on, became weaker and weaker. The people, recognising in the Presbyterian ministers men, for the most part, of culture and ability—many of them being half churchmen, and many of them the old Anglican priests of the Low Church party, whose consciences had permitted them to serve under a Presbytery—accepted their services without much reluctance; but they could not embrace with any heartiness the principle of eldership, with its exercise of discipline, and participation in the rite of laying on of hands, which every tradition had taught them to regard as peculiarly the attribute of the priesthood. In Scotland it was otherwise. There Presbyterianism had not to fight with the crude fanaticism of the Independents, and the voice of the Church had, by its own fault, become stifled, by taking the unpatriotic side. Instead of its Parliament being purged of Pres-

byterians, they formed its backbone, and nobles, barons, and gentlemen vied with one another in gathering round the blue banner of the Covenant. The laity were with the Presbytery in Scotland, and in Scotland it became the established faith. But in England the laity held more and more aloof; the various grades of Presbyterian assemblies were left to doctors and divines; they dealt more with books than business; and at last, as has been well remarked, their Classical gatherings “dwindled into little more than clerical meetings for prayer and consultation.”

Many other points of interest will be noticed as referred to in the Wirksworth Minute Book—such as the administration of the Lord’s Supper to non-parishioners, the appointing a day of humiliation on account of the prevalence of “feavers and other sicknesses in divers places within this Classis,” the subscribing for the relief of the widows and orphans of ministers, the marriage of cousins-german, the scandalous lives of elders, etc., etc.—but as brief notes will be given of any matters requiring explanation in the places where they occur, they need not here be more than mentioned.

The Wirksworth Classis met, as a rule, for its regular “Classicall meeting,” once a month.* Wirksworth was almost always the place of assembling, but on three occasions they met elsewhere, viz., once at Ashbourn, once at Crich, and once at Kniveton. These exceptional places of meeting were in each case determined on, when an ordination was to be held in the church of that place on the same day.

The Directory, whilst ridiculing the observance of special seasons and Saints’ Days, and forbidding any notice of them as matters of man’s invention, most inconsistently decreed the observance of a monthly fast.† This monthly solemnity seems to

* The congregational or parochial Presbytery met once a week.

† The Directory lays down that a Religious Fast requires total abstinence not only from all food (unless bodily weakness do manifestly disable of our holding out till the Fast be ended. . . .) but from all bodily delights, rich apparell, ornaments, and such like.

The Presbyterians were also most rigid about fasting in connection with ordination. Both the ordaining Presbytery and the candidates strictly fasted until after the conclusion of the service. By some it was even argued that any breach of this rule was sufficient to invalidate the ceremony.

have been most regularly and religiously observed by the Wirksworth Classis. It was held on the second Thursday of the month, and is usually spoken of as the "Classicall fast," but sometimes as the "monthly lecture." Its secondary title was derived from the fact that part of the observances of the day always consisted in two long sermons or lectures. The preachers were chosen, and the place where the fast was to be held selected at the previous meeting of the Classis. These monthly fasts, in contradistinction to the meetings of the Classis, were held up and down throughout the district. We find records of them being held six times at Crich and Hognaston ; four times at Wirksworth ; three times at Brassington and Pentrich ; twice at Ballidon, Bonsall, Carsington, Matlock, Thorpe, and South Winfield ; and once at Atlow, Kirk Ireton, Parwich, and Tissington.

The Moderator, or Chairman, of the Classical meeting was chosen at the previous meeting. The selection seems to have been chiefly based on age and experience. Of the different ministers who thus officiated, according to this Minute Book, we find that Mr. Coates (S. Winfield) acted as Moderator twenty-one times, Mr. Watkinson (Kirk Ireton) nineteen, Mr. Shelmerdine (Crich and Matlock) sixteen, Mr. Oldfield (Carsington) fifteen, Mr. Porter (Pentrich) nine, Mr. Topham (Wirksworth) four, and Mr. Pole (Bonsall) three times.

Much enquiry, both public and private, has been made with the view of ascertaining the existence of the Minute Books of any other Classis in the kingdom, but so far without any result. With the exception of the Manchester Classis Book, we believe this one of Wirksworth to be the solitary survivor of its once numerous fellows. Trifling and insignificant as it may seem in one light, it is in another of the greatest interest, as it is an invaluable evidence of the far larger extent to which Presbyterianism was organised in England than has hitherto been generally believed.

There seems to us no doubt that, hateful as the system must have been to Churchmen in many of its aspects, that still it had certain points of resemblance—such as that of ordination, already commented upon, wherein a quasi-apostolic succession was

secured—which gained for Presbyterians a half-hearted support, or, at all events, a considerable preference over Independents. The very principles of the latter involved such a segregation into mere knots of worshippers, that those who retained even the smallest leaven of Catholicism were able to see how fatal its general acceptance would be to any chance of the revival of Church feelings. A Classical Assembly, if it did nothing more, secured for the parishes composing it a notion of the advantages of joint action and common Christian fellowship. Hence the certain amount of support that Presbyterians received, in Derbyshire and elsewhere, from those who were never thoroughly with them, and who seized the first opportunity of throwing off their yoke, when the choice lay between the Church and the Presbytery.

The pages of this Minute Book are throughout written in a fairly legible and business-like hand, the writing of Scribe Rudyard being rather the most distinct. The orthography is as capricious as it usually was at that period, even in the hands of scholars; the very name of the county is given in five different varieties—Derby, Derbey, Darby, Darbey, and Darbie.

Our thanks are due to the Dowager Lady Hatherton and to Miss Hurt, for having so carefully transcribed the greater portion of the MS for the press.



Wirkesworth Classis } These present att the Classicall meeting the said 16th
in Com Derb Decemb } day of Decemb 1651.
16th 1651.

	Minist ^{rs}	Oth ^{rs}	
Mr	{ Port ^r * Moderator Tho : Shelm ^r dine† Martine Topham‡ John Otefield§ Tho : Myles Rog : Coke Scribe }	{ Henrie Buxton** John Sclat ^r †† William Storer‡‡ Edward Allen Richard Varden }	Mr. Samuel Hieron§§ this day preached his approbation sermon; and his paines ap- proved.

* Robert Porter was minister of Pentrich, succeeding to Rev. John Chapman, ejected by the Parliament. Calamy gives him a high character:—“His parts were great and quick, his fancy very rich and pregnant, and his wit rendered him the desire and pleasure of gentlemen in conversation. . . . His judgement was solid, and his eloquence natural and greatly Scriptural. . . .”

Mr. Robt^r Port^r being Moderat^r began with prayer.

This day Mr. Samuel Hieron (according to form^r Ord^r *) came and exhibited his Thesis upon this question. An sola fides justificet? wch being

He was looked upon as the greatest oracle of blessing in those parts, and highly valued by his brethren, who used to converse with him upon difficult cases, and paid a great deference to his judgement." He refused to conform in 1662, and consequently had to resign his benefice. From that time, till his death on Jan. 22nd, 1689-90, he resided at Mansfield. His farewell sermon at Pentrich is number 16 in a book called *England's Remembrancer*. A posthumous work of his was published in 1691, called *The Life of Mr. John Hieron, with the Character and Memorials of Ten other worthy Ministers of Jesus Christ*.

The brief particulars given of Robert Porter and other subsequent ministers are taken from Calamy's *Ejected Ministers*, and Cox's *Churches of Derbyshire*, unless otherwise specified.

† Thomas Shelmerdine was instituted to the Vicarage of Crich in 1629. He was of a Lancashire family and educated at Christ College, Cambridge. On the establishment of Presbyterianism, he seems to have taken very kindly to the change, and retained his benefice, which he exchanged in 1652 for the better preferment of Matlock. Thence he was ejected in 1662, when he retired to Wirksworth, and shortly afterwards died. Calamy does not say much about him, but tells us that "he was a kind husband to an holy but very melancholy wife." Of the ordination of his son Daniel, by the Wirksworth Classis, we shall subsequently find an entry under the year 1657.

‡ Martin Topham was minister of Wirksworth. We believe that he was episcopally instituted before the time of the Commonwealth, and was the son of the previous vicar, Robert Topham, who was instituted in 1633. He died in 1660.

§ John Oldfield (as his name is more usually spelt) held, we believe, the rectory of Carsington prior to the Commonwealth, and then conformed to Presbyterianism. Calamy praises him warmly for personal piety and quiet disposition. "The people among whom he laboured was very ticklish and capricious, very hard to be pleased in ministers, and yet they centered in him, and his name is precious amongst them." He published several sermons and lectures. Readers of Mrs. Gaskell's inimitable novel, *North and South*, will recollect the quotation from his eloquent address on his ejection from Carsington in 1662. After his ejection, Oldfield chiefly resided at Alfreton, where he died June 5th, 1682. There is a brass plate to his memory in Alfreton Church.

|| Thomas Myles (or Miles) was appointed minister of Bradbourn in 1650. About 1660, he removed to S. Chad's, Lichfield, when he was ejected in 1662, and suffered much for nonconformity.

** The ancient family of Buxton took their name from the town of that name. We find them holding property at Buxton, Chelmorton, and Youlgreave in the 13th century. Henry Buxton, second son of John Buxton, of Buxton, settled at Bradbourn *temp.* Elizabeth. Henry Buxton here mentioned was one of the elders of the Bradbourn Presbytery. He was great-grandson of the above named Henry Buxton, and held the family property at Bradbourn. He was born in 1610, and married Anne, daughter of Richard Wigley, of Wigwell Grange, Wirksworth. Other members of this family, subsequently mentioned as ruling elders of the Wirksworth Classis, are:—German Buxton, of Kirk Ireton, third son of George Buxton, of Bradbourn, and uncle of the last named Henry Buxton; he died in 1665.

* "According to former order," this proves that the Minute Book now extant is a continuation of a previous one of the same Classis.

p^rused & approved he also maintained a dispute upon the aforesd question & expounded diverse scriptures proposed by several members of the Classis wherein he gave good satisfaction, w^{ch} was voted accordingly.

There appeared this day M^r Anthony Wood, late of Emmanuel Colledge in Cambridge, Student in Divinitie, to be ordained a presbyt^{er} who was ordered to bring with him the next meeting of the Presbyterie his Testimoniale & Tytle; and likewise the next meeting of the Classicall Presbytry to preach.

It was this day ordered that the next Classical fast should be kept at Pentridge, where and when Mr. Robert Porter is desired to have two sermons p^rached.

Ordered that Mr. Robrt Porter be continued Moderator. And this day he being Moderator ended with prayer.

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Wirkesworth Classis in Com. Derbiæ, Jan: 20, 1651.	}	{	These pntē at the Classicall meeting the said 20 th day of Januarie, 1651. viz ^t .
			Others
Minist ^{rs}			
M ^r { Port ^r Moderator Coates* Watkinson† Shelm ^d dine Martin Topham Otefield Myles	}		{ Edward Allen Richard Varden Gilbert Wallis Germane Buxton Richard Buxton de Bradbourne William Jessopp‡

Richard Buxton, another elder of the Bradbourn Presbytery, and a younger brother of German Buxton; Richard Buxton, elder of the Carsington Presbytery, whom we believe to have been a son of German Buxton, by his wife Millicent, daughter of John Burton, of Carsington; and Henry Buxton, of Millhouse, elder of the Wirksworth Presbytery, of whose connection with the rest of the family we are not well assured.

†† John Sclater (or Slater) was an elder of the Hognaston Presbytery. He seems to have been a well-to-do yeoman-landowner and usually has "Mr." affixed to his name. For an action brought against him in 1668 for non-payment of tithes, see *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii. p. 490.

‡‡ William Storer was an elder of the Wirksworth Presbytery.

§§ Samuel Hieron was presented to the benefice of Shirley in 1657, we do not know where he previously served, but probably somewhere within the jurisdiction of the Wirksworth Classis. He was ejected from Shirley in 1662, and died on March 24th, 1687. Samuel was not near so eminent as his brother, John Hieron, of Breadsall. Calamy says of him:—"He made no great figure in the world, but was an honest man and a useful preacher."

* Peter Coates (or Cotes) obtained the benefice of South Winfield in 1646, on the presentation of Christian, Countess of Devonshire. Though so ardent a Presbyterian as to be oftener chosen Moderator of the Wirksworth Classis than any other minister, his principles evaporated at the Restoration, and being episcopally ordained by Bishop Hackett, he retained his vicarage until his death, which occurred on Jan. 26th, 1675, in the 81st year of his age. There

Mr. Rob^t Port^r Pastor of the Church at Pentridge, being this day Moderator, began with prayer.

M^r Anthony Wood this day preached his approbation sermon, & his paines were approved.

Mr. Wood (in reference to his ordinacon and according to this Classis form^r ord^r) pduced two Certificates, one from the neighbouring minist^{rs} concⁿing his ministeriall abillities and godlie conversacon; the other from the pshioners of Addenborough concⁿing his Tytle there, they certifying their choice of him to be their Minist^r. Both which Certificates were approved by the Classis.

Hee also gave Testimony of the Grace of God in him of his inward call to & right ende in undertaking the Ministerie of his competent skill in the originall tongues & Arts: & likewise in Divinitie: All which were well app^ved by the Classis; And so had this Thesis given, viz.: Utrum ordinatio ministrorum sit necessaria, w^{ch} Thesis he was ordered to bring with him to the Classis at their next sitting.

Ordered that Thursday, the 19th of Febuarie next be set apte for ye Ordination of M^r Hieron and M^r Wood, w^{ch} day is also ordered to be the Classicall day; and ordered that Mr. John Otefield preach the said ordination day; and M^r Watkinson make the exhortation to those that are to be ordained, & demand the Questions required to be demanded of all such as are to be ordained by the Ordinance of Parliamt for Ordinacon of Ministers, August 28, 1646, and lastly to end with prayer.

Ordered that Mr. John Hieron's* request be granted, viz^t., that y^e next Classicall Fast be kept att Bredsall, & M^r Watkinson & Mr. Porter there to preach.

used to be a gravestone to his memory in the centre of the chancel of S. Winfield Church; on which was inscribed:—"Here lieth the body of Mr. Peter Cotes, late Vicar of South Wingfield, who departed this life the 26th of January, 1675, being 81 years of age." This inscription we fortunately copied in 1873, for we greatly regret to say that a careless builder, acting under careless instructions, buried this and other slabs beneath a mass of concrete. This was effected in 1877, when the east end of the chancel was raised by the impropriator of the rectorial tithes.

† Peter Watkinson was appointed minister of Kirk Ireton in 1647. In 1653, as we shall subsequently see, he was invited to the pastorate of Chesterfield, but eventually refused it, after the matter was submitted to the Classis. In 1660, on the death of Martin Topham, he succeeded to the Church of Wirksworth, but only held it for two years.

‡ One William Jessopp was minister of Beighton, Derbyshire, during the Commonwealth; probably this elder was a relative.

* John Hieron's life was written by Robert Porter, the minister of Pentrich. It is a quaint production and thus opens:—"Mr. John Hieron was a Prophet and the son of a Prophet." He was educated at Repton and Christ College, Cambridge. He was ordained at Lichfield in 1630, and soon after held the Ashbourn Lectureship. In 1644, he was appointed to the living of Breadsall, and served there till his ejection in 1662. He died at Loscoe in 1682,

Voted that Mr. Porter be continued Moderator; after which vote he ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis } These being p^rsent at the Classicall Meeting for the
 Februarie 19, 1651 } Ordination of the afore mentioned Mr. Samuel
 Heiron and Mr. Anthonie Wood, the said 19th day
 day of Februarie, 1651.

	Ministers		Others
Mr	Port ^r Moderator Coates Watkinson Shelm ^r dine Pole* Oldfield Machin† Myles Coke, scribe	}	M ^r , Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclat ^r Edward Allen William Storer John Rudyard Henrie Buxton of Wirkesworth

Mr John Otefield preached this day the Ordinacon Sermon, w^{ch} ended Mr Peter Watkinson demanded the Questions of the said M^r Samuel Hieron, and M^r Anthonie Wood required to be demanded of them by the Ordinance for the Ordination of Ministers of the 28 of August 1646. Who both publickly answered the said Questions, whereupon the said M^r Hieron & M^r Wood were ordained by prayer & Imposition of hands.

The said M^r Watkinson made the exhortacon & concluded with prayer and the blessing.

After the Congregation was dismissed; The scribe was ordered to make ready their Lres of Ordinacon agst the next Classicall meeting, to the end they may be signed by the Ordain^{rs} & so delivered to the said M^r Samuel Hieron & Anthony Wood.

The sevall pages of their Testimonialls & Theses are remaining in the custodie of the Scribe.

Voted that M^r Robert Porter continue Moderator.

aged 73. Mr. Hieron was celebrated as a preacher and a divine throughout the Midlands. He published an abridgment of Poole's *Synopsis* and several other theological works. His biographer says:—"His study was his paradise, and the swallowing of books his most delightful meat and drink." For further particulars respecting him, see *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. iii. pp. 55, 56.

* Edward Pole appears to have held the rectory of Bonsall both before and after the Commonwealth, as well during the time when Churchmanship was penal. The Parliamentary Commission of 1650, described him as "a man able and of good conversation."

† John Machin, who graduated at Jesus College, Cambridge, was ordained presbyter by the Whitchurch Classis (Salop) in 1649. In 1650, he came to Ashbourn, "where for the space of two years he was a painful and laborious preacher, and exceedingly useful." In 1652, he moved to Atherstone, in Warwickshire, and subsequently to Astbury and Whitley, in Cheshire, whence he was ejected in 1662. He was a man of considerable mark among the nonconformists.

Wirkesworth Classis
in Com[̄] Derbiæ } There being present the said 16th day of March,
March 16th 1661 } 1652, viz^t.

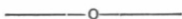
	Ministe ^{rs}		Others	
M ^r	}	Shelm ^d ine Mod ^r ator	}	M ^r John Sclat ^r
		Martine Topham		Edward Allen
		Otefield		Richard Varden
		Pole		John Rudiard
		Coke, scribe		Richard Buxton

M^r Thomas Shelm^dine being this day chosen Mod^rator, in the absence of M^r Robert Porter, began with prayer, having first preached orthodoxie & seasonably before the Classis, &c.

Ordered that the next Classicall fast be kept att Carsington, the 2nd Thursday of the next Moneth, where and when M^r John Otefield, Pastor, ibid hath p^rised the Classis to p^rcure two sermons preached.

Ordered that M^r Martin Topham, pastor of Wirkesworth, preach the next meeting of the Classis.

Voted that M^r Shelm^dine continue Mod^rator, after which vote he ended with prayer.



Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darb. } These being present att the Classicall meeting the
April 20th 1652. } said 20th day of Aprill, 1652, viz^t.

	Minist ^{rs}		Oth ^{rs}	
M ^r	}	Shelm ^d ine Mod ^r ator	}	Edward Allen
		Edward Pole		Gilbert Wallis
		Otefield		Richard Varden
		Myles		German Buxton
		Coke, scribe		Henrie Buxton
				John Rudiard
				Richard Buxton

M^r Thomas Shelm^dine, pastor of the Church at Matlock began with prayer [being Moderator].

M^r Martin Topham, Pastor of the Church att Wirkesworth preached this Classicall meeting & his sermon being Orthodoxe and seasonable, had therefore the thanks of the Classis returned &c.

Whereas complaint was made this day to the Classis of Mr. John Wiersdale* a member of this Classis for administering the sacram^t of the Lord's

* John Wiersdale (or Wyersdale) held the benefice of Bradley before the establishment of Presbyterianism, and he seems to have reverted to his Churchmanship at the Restoration, for we believe that he held the living till 1669.

Supper to some Parishion^{rs} of Wirkesworth* not only to ye offence of the Minister and Godlie people there but also to the great hinderance of Reformacon &c. It is therefore ordered that the Scribe of this Classis give special notice to the said M^r Wiersdale to make his appearance before the Classis at their next meeting &c.

It is this day voted that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (being long neglected in most Congregacons within this Classis) be therefore seriously considered of by the Classis &c.†

Ord^d that the next Classicall fast be kept att Bonteshall the second Thursday of the next moneth where and when M^r Edward Pole Pastor ibid hath p^rised the Classis to p^rure two Sermons preached.

Ord^d that M^r Pet^r Cotes Pastor of the Church att South Wingfield moderate the next Classicall meeting.

Ord^d that M^r Edward Pole Pastor of Bonteshall preach the next meeting of the Classis.

M^r Thomas Shelm^ddine being this day Mod^rator ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in Comitatu Derbiæ May 18, 1652.	}	These psnte att the Classicall meeting the said 18th day of May 1652, viz ^t .
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	Minist ^{rs}		Others
M ^r	Coats Mod ^r at ^r Shelm ^d dine Watkinson Wiersdale Topham de Wirkesworth Pole Otefield Myles Coke scrbe	}	M ^r John Sclat ^r William Storer Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis Richard Varden Germane Buxton John Rudiard William Jesopp William Alsopp

M^r Pet^r Coates past^r of the Church att Southwingfield being Mod^rator began with pray^r.

M^r Edward Pole pastor of the Church att Bonteshall p^rached this Classicall meeting & his Sermon being orthodoxe & seasonable had therefore the thanks of the Classis returned &c.

* The Presbyterians were peculiarly jealous of the interference of the minister of one congregation or presbytery with the members pertaining to another. According to the form of government agreed upon by the Westminster Divines, excommunication from the Lord's Supper could be pronounced by the ministers and elders (*i.e.* the Presbytery) of any parish or congregation, and that excommunication held good for all other Presbyteries, unless the condemned person could successfully prosecute an appeal before the Classis of the district.

† With regard to the Lord's Supper, the Directory laid down that it was "frequently to be celebrated" after the morning sermon—"the Table being decently covered and so conveniently placed that the Communicants may orderly sit about it or at it . . . the Bread in comely and convenient vessels . . . the Wine also in large Cups."

Upon the request of M^r Thomas Shelm^ddine pastor of the Church att Matlock M^r Edw : Pole pastor of the Church att Bonteshall & M^r John Otefield Pastor of Carsington That whereas they were not in a capacitie to admitt to the Sacram^t of the Lords Supp such of their Congregations as desired to communicate because they had no Congregationall Eld^r (they & others of their said Congregations being desirous to enjoy that Ordinance in their respective Churches) & it being form^ly ord^d by the Classis August 20, 1650, that the Classis should upon such request assigne two or more of their members to assist the minist^{rs} of any such Congregation (being a man approved by the Classis) in that worke It is this day ord^d that M^r Martin Topham Pastor of the Congregacon or Church att Wirkesworth M^r Henrie Buxton Eld^r of the Church att Bradbourne & William Storer an Eld^r of the Church att Wirkesworth shall assist M^r Otefield aforesaid in tryall & examination of such of that Congregation as desire to be received to the Sacrament Also that M^r Pole Pastor of Bonteshall & M^r John Sclat^r an Elder of the Church att Hognaston be assistants to M^r Shelm^ddine aforesaid, & the said M^r Shelm^ddine & M^r Slater shall in like manner assist the said M^r Pole in the said worke when they shall be thereunto called by the ministers of those Congregations respectively.*

This day M^r John Wiersdall Minist^r of Bradley upon summons according to form^r Ord^r appeared before the Classis ; where it was Layd to his charge that he had (contrarie to the forme of Govmt established) admitted not onlie only his owne people p^miscouslie to the Sacrament of the Lords Supper but also some others of the Parish of Wirkesworth who were not thought fitt to be received in their own Congregacon. And also that he had spoken disgracefully of some private meetings of Godly & peaceable men & women who joyning wth the publicke Congregacons in all Ordinances did yet desire to meet together in the weeke daye for their mutuall edifications spending the time in fasting and pray^r

The said M^r Wiersdale did ingenuously confesse and acknowledge y^t the said charges were true. That being importuned by his people he had administered the Sacrament of the Lords Supper without tryall of the Communicants being destitute of Congregationall Eld^{rs} & having forgotten the form Ord^r of the 20th of August, 1650. But that he was surprisid by those of other Congregations who intruded into their Communion without making him at all acquainted before wth their desire so to doe ; & that he being straitened in that exigent did too suddenly & inconsiderately admit of them, for w^{ch} he was sorrie y^t he had therein offended promissing for the future to be more carefull.

* Before any one could become a Communicant, it was necessary that he should obtain a certificate of his fitness from his own local Presbytery. The minister himself did not constitute a Presbytery, but required the assistance of at least two others, who ought properly to be elders of his own congregation. Hence the necessity, in the absence of elders, of passing this resolution.

Likewise he (upon conviction of the lawfulness & usefulness of such private meetings) declared his mistake in the second offence p'missing hereafter that he would both think and speake more charitablie of such meetings, desireing (as he said) that they would call him into their number ; whereupon the Classis taking the promises into consideracon ordered (he being withdrawne) that M^r Peter Watkinson should, in the behalfe of the Classis in all Brotherlie manner give him some gentle reproof for his form' miscariage in the premises* earnestlie exhort him according to his pmise to act more carefully and regularly in the administracon of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper & to have a more tend^r respect to Godly people in reference to their private meeteings being no wayes in contempt of or prejudice to the publicke.

Which was done accordinglie ; and he dismissed.

Ord^d that the next Classical fast be kept att Kirk Ireton the second Thursday of the next moneth where & when M^r Peter Watkinson Pastor ibid hath p'mised the Classis to p'cure Two Sermons preached.

Voted that M^r Pet^r Coates Pastor of the Church att South Wingfield preach y^e next meeting of the Classis : And likewise voted that he be continued moderator. And this day moderating ended with pray^r

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Wirksworth Classis }
in the County of Derby, }
June 15, 1652. }

{ These Pn'te at the Classical Meeting
the said fifteeneth day of May Anno
Dni 1652, viz^t

Minist^{rs}

Oth^{rs}

Mr {
Coates Mod^ratr
Shelm^rdine
Watkinson
Wiersdale
Martin Topham
Porter
Pole
Otefield
Miles
Coke scrb

{
William Storer
Edward Allen
Richard Buxton, an Eld^r of Brad-
bourne
Henrie Buxton
John Rudiard

M^r Pet^r Coats pastor of the Church at Southwingfield (having first preached orthodoxly & seasonably) being mod^ratr began with prayer.

This day appeared M^r Samuel Beresford† Bachel^r of Artes of Queenes College in Cambridge to be ordained as an Assistant to M^r Blake pastor of the Church at Tamworth, who produced a Certificate from his neighbouring

* The words underlined are erased in the original.

† Samuel Beresford was appointed minister of S. Werburgh, Derby, on May 21st, 1657. He was ejected in 1662. Calamy speaks of him as "a good scholar, a fine preacher, a curious orator, and a very holy man."

Minist^{rs} concerning his ministeriall abilities and godly conversation, which Certificate was approved by the Classis, & he ord^d to preach before the Classis at their next Meeting; & likewise then to bring with him a Certificate of his age and Tytle &c.

Voted that M^r Robert Port^r preach the next Ordinacon sermon.

Ord^d that (in regard of the Nationall fast to be houlden the next moneth) the Classicall fast be not kept the next moneth.

Voted that M^r Pet^r Watkinson Past^r of the Church att Kirke Ireton manage the business of Examination of the aforesaid M^r Samuel Berisford the next Classicall meeting, and likewise voted to moderate next Classicall meeting.

After M^r Pet^r Coats being mod^t ended wth prayer.

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Wirksworth Classis, in the County of Derby, July 20th, 1652.	}	}	These p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting the said Twentieth day of July 1652 viz ^t .
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Ministers.

Others

M ^r	{	Peter Watkinson, moderator Shelm ^d dine Topham of Wirksworth Wiersdale Otefield Myles Coke scribe	}	M ^r Henrie Buxton Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis Germane Buxton John Rudiard
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M^r Pet^r Watkinson Pastor of Kirke Ireton being this day moderat^r began with Prayer.

M^r Samuel Berisford this day preached his approbacon sermon, & his paines were well approved. After he p^rduced two Certificates One from M^r Blake Pastor of the Church at Tamworth, signifying that the said M^r Blake hath made choice of the said Mr. Berisford for his Assistant in the worke of the Ministrie: The other from the Bailiffes & Capitall Burgesses of the said Towne of Tamworth certifying that they doe approve of the said choyce Both w^{ch} certificates were approved by the Classis.

He also gave Testimonie of the Grace of God in him, of his inward call to & right ende in undertaking the Ministrie, of his competent skill in the originall Tongues & Artes: and likewise in Divinitie: All w^{ch} being well approved by the Classis; he was ord^d to exhibit his Thesis given him the last sitting of the Classis to be brought in this day w^{ch} was An Ministerium Anglicanum sit vere Evangelicum, w^{ch} being perused & approved he also maintained a dispute upon the aforesaid Question; and expounded some text of Scripture p^rposed by some members of the Classis, wherein he gave good satisfaction which was voted accordingly by the Classis; & therefore resolved (according to form^r vote) to p^rceed to the Ordinacon of him tomorrow in Wirkesworth Church.

Ordered that the next Classical fast be kept at Wirksworth the second Thursday of the next moneth where & when Mr Martin Topham Pastor there has p'mised the Classis to p'cure Two sermons preached.

Whereas some persons under the power & inspection of this Classis have requested this Classis to give theire oppinion whether it be lawfull (or the least expedient) for Cousen-Germanes to marrie or no? Therefore it is this day voted by the Classis that this point be debated in the Classis att their next meeting.

Voted that Mr Pet Watkinson Pastor of the Church at Kirk Ireton be continued Moderator, and he this day moderating ended with prayer.

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Wirksworth Classis } July 21 st 1652.	}	{ These being p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting for the Ordinacon of the aforementioned Mr Samuel Berrisford the said 21 st day of July 1652, viz.
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		Ministers		Others
Mr	{	Watkinson Mod ^r Shelmerdine Wiersdale Porter Martin Topham Pole Otefield Myles Coke scrb.	}	Mr Henrie Buxton Mr John Sclat ^r William Storer Edward Allen Germane Buxton John Rudiard John Heapie Henrie Buxton of the Mill-house

Mr Robrt Port^r Pastor of the Church at Pentridge preached this day ye Ordination Sermon; w^{ch} ended Mr Petr Watkinson demanded the Questions of the said Mr Samuel Berisford required to be demanded of him by the Ordinance for the Ordinacon of Minist^{rs} of the 28th of August 1646, who publickly answered everie the said Question & gave good satisfaction thereby; whereupon he was ordained by prayer & imposition of hands.

The said Mr Watkinson made the exhortation and concluded with prayer & the blessing.

After the Congregacon was dismissed the Lres of Ordinacon were signed by the Ordainers & delivered to him the said Mr Samuel Berisford by the Scribe.

The sev^rall papers of his Testimonialls & Thesis are remaining in the custodie of the Scribe.

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Wirksworth Classis } in the countey of Darbie } August 17 th 1652	}	{ These p ^r sent att the Classical meeting the said 17th day of August 1652, viz ^t .
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	Minist ^{rs}	Others
M ^r	Watkinson Mod ^r t ^r	M ^r John Sclat ^r William Storer Gilbert Wallis German Buxton John Rudiard
	Shelm ^r dine	
	Wiersdale	
	Martin Topham	
	Porter	
	Otefield	
	Coke, srb.	

M^r Pet^r Watkinson Pastor of the Church at Kirk Ireton being Moderator began with prayer.

This day appeared M^r Nich: Hill to be ordained a preaching presbyter who this day preached his Approbacon Sermon & his paines approved: was examined of the Grace of God in him, his call to the Ministrie, his studies, skill in y^e Tongues & other Sciences & was approved. Had this Thesis given him . . .

And lastly was ordered to appeare the next sitting of the Classis on Tuesday the last day of this instant & to bring with him his Testimonials & Tytle.

This day the case of Cousen-Germanes marryng was debated, according to the ord^r of the Classis at their last meeting; & upon a full debate it was determined that though it might be lawfull, yet it was not expedient in regard of the offence that many Godlie Ministers did take thereat it being the verie next degree to those that are expressly p^hibited in Scripture.

Ordered that the next Classicall fast be kept at Tissington the second Thursday of the next Moneth, And that the Scribe of the Classis be carefull to write unto M^r Stubbs minist^r of Blore & M^r Rock* minist^r of Mathfield signifying unto them that it is the desire of the Classis that they would afford their paines in preaching there & then for the Classis.

Voted that M^r Pet^r Watkinson preach the next Ordinacon day intended to be this day five weekes being the Classis usual meeting day.

Voted that M^r Pet^r Coates pastor of the Church at Southwingfield moderate the next Classicall Meeting & likewise manage the business of Ordinacon if in case it be on that day solemnized.

M^r Pet^r Watkinson being Moderator ended with prayer.

* Joseph Rock subsequently left Mathfield for Rowley, Staffordshire. Calamy describes him as "a very calm, humble, sober, peaceable, godly, and blameless minister, and of very good abilities."

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the Countey of Darbie }
 August the last 1652. } { A meeting of Minist^{rs} & Elders the said
 last day of August, 1652, viz^t.

	Minist ^{rs}		Others
M ^r	{ Watkinson, Mod ^r ^t Shelmerdine Martin Topham Porter Pole Otefield Coke, scribe }		{ William Storer Edward Allen Henrie Buxton }

Mr Pet^r Watkinson being moderat^r began with prayer.

This day appeared Mr. John Barrett* Bachel^r of Artes of Clare Hall in Cambridge to be ordained a Presbyt^r. Who this day preached his app[']bacon sermon and his paynes approved and in reference to his Ordinacon p[']duced a certificate from his neighbouring Ministers concerning his Ministeriall abilities & Godlie conversacon w^{ch} was approved of; & he ord[']ed to appeare y^e next meeting of the Classis & to bring with him two other certificates viz^t one concerning his age & another from the parishioners of Wimeswold in the Countey of Leicester conc[']ning his Tytle there; & lastlie he is ordered to bring this Thesis the said meeting—An gratia sufficiens ad conversionem concedatur omnibus?

Mr Rob^r Smallie Bachel^r of Artes of Clare Hall in Cambridge to be ordained a presbyt^r. Ordered to preach before the Classicall presbyterie att their next meeting, and then to bring with him this Thesis—An Crist['] p[']omnibus et singulis intentionalit['] sit mortuus—together with his Testimonials & Tytle.

Mr Nicholas Hill (according to form^r order) this day appeared & exhibited his Thesis upon this question w^{ch} being p[']used & approved he also maintained a dispute upon the afores^d question & expounded some places of Scripture p[']posed by sev^rall members of the Classis wherein he gave good satisfaction, w^{ch} was voted accordinglie.

The meeting adjurned till the next occasion.

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the Countie of Derb }
 Sept^r 21, 1652 } { These p[']nte at the Classicall meeting the
 said 21st day of Sept. 1652, viz^t }

* John Barrett, M.A., removed from Wimeswold to S. Peter's, Nottingham, in 1656, and was thence ejected in 1662. He published several sermons and theological treatises.

	Minist ^{rs}		Others
M ^r	Coates moderator Watkinson Shelmerdine Mart ⁿ Topham Porter Otefield Myles Coke s ^{rb}	}	M ^r John Sclat ^r William Storer Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis German Buxton Henrie Buxton

M^r Pet^r Coates being mod^{rat} began with prayer.

This day M^r Rob^t Smallie p^rached (according to former Ord^r) his approbacon sermon & his paines approved.

And the said M^r Smally and the aforesaid M^r Barret in referrence to their ordinacon & according to form^r Order of the Classis p^rduced (either of them) a Certificate fro their neighbouring minist^{rs} concⁿing their Ministeriall abilities & Godly conversacon w^{ch} said Certificates were approved by the Classis. After they were both examined of the Grace of God in them, their call to the Ministrie, their studies, skill in the Tongues & other Sciences; & likewise in Divinitie, all w^{ch} were well appved by the Classis, whereupon they exhibited their Theses w^{ch} being p^rused & app^rved they also maintained a dispute upon the aforesaid questions, and expounded some places of Scripture p^rposed by sev^rall members of the Classis wherein they gave good satisfaction, w^{ch} was voted accordingly; & the Classis have resolved to p^rceed at their next meeting to the ordaining of them & the aforesaid M^r Hill.

Voted that M^r Coates continue moderator & this day moderating ended with prayer.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis October 19 th 1652	}	These p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting for the Ordaining of the aforesaid M ^r Robert Smally, M ^r John Barrett, & M ^r Nicholas Hill, the 19 th day of October, 1652.
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	Minist ^{rs}		Others
M ^r	Coates Mod ^{rat} Watkinson Shelm ^r dine Topham of Thorpe* Topham of Wirkesworth Port ^r Otefield Miles Coke Sch	}	M ^r Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclat ^r William Storer Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis German Buxton

* Francis Topham was instituted to the rectory of Thorpe in 1633. He must have conformed to Presbyterianism, but seems to have concerned himself but seldom with the business of the Classis.

This day the said M^r Smally & M^r Barrett p^duced (according to form^r Ord^r) of the last Classis their Tytles which were allowed of.

After the Classis went to the Congregacon where M^r Watkinson preached the Ordination sermon, w^{ch} ended the said Moderator demanded the questions of the aforesaid M^r Smally, M^r Barrett, & M^r Hill, required to be demanded of them by the Ordinance for Ordination of Ministers of the Eight & Twentieth of August 1646, who all publickly answered the said Questions; and sev^rally ordained by prayer & imposicon of Hands.

The said Moderator made the Exhortation, concluded with prayer and the blessing.

After the Congregation dismissed the Lres of Ordination were signed by the hands of the Ordainers and delivered to them by the Sch.

The sev^rall pap^rs of Their Testimonials are remaining in the Custody of the Sch.

Their Theses remaine in the custodie of the s^d Mod^rat^r.

Mr. Wiersdale voted to preach the next Classicall meeting.

Voted that M^r Coates continne Mod^rat^r.

Wirksworth Classis } Those Pⁿte at the Classicall Meeting the
in the County of Darbie } said 16th day of November, 1652, viz^t.
Novemb 16, 1652. }

Ministers			
M ^r {	Coates Mod ^r tor	{	Edward Allen
	Shelm ^d ine		Gilbert Wallis
	Watkinson		Germane Buxton
	Wiersdale		Richard Buxton
	Francis Topham		William Alsopp
	Martin Topham		Henrie Buxton
	Porter		
	Pole		
	Otefield		
	Miles		
Coke scb			

M^r Coates being Mod^rat^r began with prayer.

M^r John Wiersdale Pastor of the Church of Bradley preached this Classicall meeting and his Sermon being orthodox & seasonable had therefore the thanks of the Classis returned, etc.

This day Mr. Tho: Hill Bachelore of Artes of Bennett Colledge in Cambridge addressd himselfe to the Classis for ordinacon, who p^duced two Certificates, one from his neighbouring Minist^{rs} concerning his Ministeriall abillities & godlie conversacone; the other from the Parishion^{rs} of Orton on the hill concⁿing his Tytle there, they certifying their choice of him to be their Minister; both which Certificates were approved by the Classis.

He also gave Testimony of the Grace of God in him, of his inward call to & right ende in undertaking the Ministerie ; of his competent skill in the Originall Tongues, all which were well approved by the Classis ; & soe had this Thesis given him viz^t. *Posita præteritique divina media quibus atitur deus conversionem non sunt delusoria*—which Thesis he was ordered to exhibit to the Classis at their next meeting ; & also to preach their before the next Classis.

It is this day voted by the Classis that the Classicall assembly shall meet immediately after the sermon [ended preached on the Classicall day at the house of John Wheatley in Wirkesworth.

It is this day ordered by the Classis that the next Classicall Fast shall be kept at Crich the first Thursday of December next when & where M^r Robert Porter & M^r Edward Pole are ord^ded to p^rach.

It is this day ordered that M^r Thomas Shelm^ddine Pastor of the Church at Matlock mod^rate the next meeting of the Classis : And M^r Peter Coates this day moderating ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie December 21 st 1652.	}	}	These p ^r nt at the Classicall meeting the said first day of December, 1652, viz ^t .
Minist ^{rs}			Others
Mr { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelmerdine Mod^rator Martin Topham Porter Pole Otefield Miles Coke scb 	}		{ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M^r Henrie Buxton M^r John Sclater William Storer Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis

M^r Tho : Hill preached (according to form^r Order of the Classis) his approbacon sermon, & his paines very well approved.

M^r Shelm^ddine being mod^rat^r began with prayer.

After the aforesaid M^r Thomas Hill exhibited (according to former order of the Classis) his Thesis which being p^rused and approved by the Classis, he also maintained a dispute upon the aforesaid Question ; moreover he was examined concerning his knowledge of skill in Logick, Philosophie, and other Learninge ; & Lastlie, expounded some places of Scripture proposed by several members of the Classis, in all which he gave good satisfaction, which was voted accordinglie.

It is this day ordered that the next Classicall fast be houlded att Hognaston the second Thursday the next Moneth where and when Mr. John Sclater hath pmised to p^rch two sermons preached.

Voted that Mr. Shelm^ddine be continued Mod^rat^r & this day moderating ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the County of Darby }
 Januarie 18 1652 } { These p'nte at the Classicall meeting the said
 18th day of Januarie 1652 viz.

Minist ^{rs}		Others		
M ^r	}	}	Shelm ^d dine Mod ^r at ^r	M ^r Henrie Buxton
			Watkinson	M ^r John Sclat ^r
			Martin Topham	Gilbert Wallis
			Otefield	German Buxton
			Myles	Edward Allen
	Coke scb			

M^r Thomas Shelm^ddine Pastor of Matlock being moderator began with prayer.

This day M^r John Hingley p^rached his app[']bacon sermon (in order to his ordinacon) & his paines app[']ved. The said M^r John Hingley p[']duced two Certificates one from his neighbouring ministers concerning his ministeriall abilities & godlie conversacon, the other from the Parishion^{rs} of Shuttington in the Countie of Warwick concerning his Tytle there; they certifying their choice of him to be their Minist^r both which Certificates were appved by the Classis.

He also gave testimony of the Grace of God in him, of his inward call to & right ende in undertaking the Ministrie, his studies, skill in the Tongues of other Sciences, & likewise in Divinitie all which were approved by the Classis; wherenfore he had this Thesis given him vizt—Utrum Pœdobaptismus in Scripturis habet fundamentum—which Thesis he was ord^d to exhibit to the Classis on the fiveteenth day of March next ensuing at Ashbourne being intended (god assisting) for the ordinacon day of him the said M^r Hingley & others. He also this day expounded some places of Scripture proposed by several members of the Classis in which he gave good satisfaction, which was voted accordinglie.

It is this day ordered that whereas M^r Samuel Moore Bachel^r of Arts of Saint Johns College in Cambridge hath addressed himselfe to this Classis to be ordained a Presbyter, he therefore preach before the Classis at their next meeting at Wirkesworth in order to his Ordinacon.

Voted that M^r Thomas Shelm^ddine be continued moderator, who this moderating ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the Countie of Darbie }
 Februarie 15th 1652 } { These p[']sent at the Classicall
 Meeting the said fiftenth day of
 Februarie, 1652, viz.

	Minist ^{rs}		Oth ^{rs}
Mr	Shelm ^r dine Watkinson Martin Topham Porter Myles Coke scb Otefield	}	Mr Henrie Buxton Mr John Sclater Edward Allen

Mr Thomas Shelm^rdine Pastor of the Church at Matlocke being moderator began with prayer.

This day Mr Samuel Moore p^rached (according to the appointment of the Classis) & his paines approved. After he was examined of the Grace of God in him, his call to the ministrie, his studies, skill in the Tongues &c., likewise in Divinitie all which were approved by the Classis; whereupon he had this Thesis given him vizt—Utrum Gratia convertans sit resistibilis—which Thesis is this day ordered to exhibit to the Classis att their next meeting.

It is this day ordered that the next Classicall fast be holden at Ballidon on Thursday the 17th day of March next & that the scribe of the Classis be carefull forthwith to send to Mr John Hyron pastor of the Church att Bredsall signifying unto him that it is the desire of the Classis that he would be pleased to do them that favour as to p^rach at Ballidon the said fast day.

It is this day voted & ord^red by the Classis that Mr Peter Coates Pastor of the Church att South Wingfield moderat^r at the Classicall meeting to be holden at Ashbourne on the fifteenth day of March next and likewise to manage the business of Ordinacon &c. And likewise it is this day voted that Mr Robrt Porter preach the Ordinacon Sermon the said 15th day of March.

Mr Thomas Shelm^rdine being this day Moderator ended with Prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie March 1 1652	}	These p ^r sent at an Extraordinarie meeting of the Classis conc ⁿ ing the examinacon of one Thomas Leadbeat ^r Bachel ^r of Arts & late Student of Christ Colledge in Cambridge, who this day addressed himselfe unto the Classis for to be ordained a Presbytr vizt—
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	Minist ^{rs}		Oth ^{rs}
Mr	Shelmerdine modrat ^r Martin Topham Porter Otefield Coke scb	}	Mr John Sclat ^r William Storer Edward Allen

Mr Thomas Shelm^rdine being mod^rat^r began with prayer.

This day the said Mr Tho. Leadbeat^r* preached his approbacon sermon (according to the appointm^t of the Classis) & his paines verie well approved.

* Thomas Leadbeater remained minister at Hinckley until his ejection in 1662, when he retired to Nantwich, Cheshire, his birthplace. He died Nov. 4th, 1679.

Aft^r he p^{ro}duced (in reference to his ordinacon) two Certificates, one from his neighbouring Minist^{rs} conc^{er}ning his Ministeriall abilities & godlie conv^{er}sacion, the other from the Parishioners of Hinckley in the Countie of Leicester conc^{er}ning his Tytle there; they c^{er}tifying their choyce of him to be their Minist^r; both w^{ch} Certificates were approved by the Classis. Then he was examined of the Grace of God in him, his call to the Ministrie, his studies, skill in the Tongues, & likewise in Divinitie all which were approved by the Classis: whereupon he had this Thesis or Position given him vizt—Utrum Sacra Scriptura sit divinæ autoritatis—which Thesis he was appointed to exhibit to the Classis att their next meeting.

M^r Thomas Shelm^dine being this day mod^{er}at^r ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Derby }
 March 15th 1653 } { These present att the Classicall meeting
 } { houlden att Ashbourn the 15th day of
 } { March 1653.

	Minist ^{rs}	Oth ^{rs}
M ^r	Coates Mod ^{er} ator Shelm ^d ine Watkinson fira : Topham Martin Topham Pole Otefield Myles Coke scb Port ^r	M ^r Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclater Gilbert Wallis German Buxton Richard Buxton Henrie Buxton

M^r Pet^r Coates being Mod^{er}at^r began with prayer.

After M^r Samuel Moore* & M^r John Hingley aforesaid exhibited (according to form^r order of the Classis) their Theses which being p^{ro}used & approved they also maintained a dispute (either of them) upon the aforesaid Questions; wherein also they gave good satisfaction: whereupon the Classis went unto the Congregation where M^r Porter pastor of the Church att Pentridge p^{re}ached the Ordinacon Sermon, w^{ch} ended the said Moderator demanded the Questions of the aforesaid M^r Moore M^r Thomas Hill & M^r Hingley required to be

* Samuel Moore was ordained as lecturer in the Church at Ashbourn; hence the ordination was held in that Church, in accordance with the regulations of the Parliamentary Ordinance. We find him attending the Wirkesworth Classis as a minister within two months of his ordination, but his presence there was evidently somewhat irregular, as he had no parochial charge, and it seemed necessary that a formal vote should be passed before he could be admitted to the full privileges of a member of the Classis.

demanded of them by the Ordinance for Ordination of Ministers of the 28th of August 1646. Who each of them publickly answered unto all the said Questions; And then severally ordained by prayer & Imposicon of hands.

The said Moderator made the Exhortacon concluded with prayer & the blessing. After the Corgregation dismissed the Lres of Ordinacon were signed by the ordainers and delivred to them by the scbe.

The sev^rall pap^{rs} of their Testimonialls are remaining in the custodie of the scb.

M^r Moore & M^r Hille Theses remaine in the custodie of the scb. M^r Hingleys Thesis is in the hands of the said Moderator.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbey Aprill 19 th : 1653	} {	These present att the Classicall Meeting the said 19 th day of April 1653 viz ^t
Ministers		Others
M ^r { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coates mod^rator Watkinson Shelm^rdine ffrancis Topham Martin Topham Port^r Otefield Myles Coke scb. 	}	{ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr John Sclat^r Edward Allen Gilbert Walles Henrie Buxton de Millhouse.

Mr Peter Coates pastor of the Church at South Wingfield being this day mod^rat^r began with prayer.

This day M^r Josiah Whiston addressed himselfe to this Classis to be ordained a presbyt^r; & in order to his ordinacon was appointed to preach his approbacon sermon this day, which he accordingly p^rformed & his paynes verie well approved.

After he p^rduced (in reference to his Ordination) a Certificate und^r the hands of some of his neighbouring Minist^{rs} conc^rning his ministeriall abilities & godly conversation, w^{ch} Certificate was allowed of by the Classis: Then he was examined of the grace of God in him his call to the Ministrie his studies skill in the Tongues & likewise in Divinitie; all w^{ch} were approved by the Classis: whereupon he had this Question or Thesis given him viz^t An Christus sit Deus? w^{ch} Thesis he is ordered to exhibit to the Classis on the third Tuesday in June next being the usuall monethly meeting day of the Classis.

Whereas M^r Henrie Allsopp Bachel^r of Artes late student of St. Johns Colledge in Cambridge hath this day addressed himselfe to the Classis to be ordained a Presbyter; it is therefore ordered that he preach before the Classis att their next meeting in ord^r to his ordination.

It is this day Ordered that the next Classicall fast bee houlden at

Wirkesworth the second Thursday of the next moneth where & when M^r Martin Topham Pastor there hath p^rised the Classis to p^rcure two sermons preached.

It is this day voted that M^r Pet^r Watkinson be Moderator the next meeting of this Classis. M^r Peter Coates this day moderating ended with prayer.

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Wirkesworth Classis in the } { These p^rsent at the Classicall meeting the
 Countey of Darby 17th May 1653 } { said 17th day of May 1653. Viz^t

	Ministers		Oth ^r s
M	Watkinson Mod ^r at ^r Coates Porter Oatefield Myles Moore Coke scb	}	M ^r Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclater Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis Germane Buxton Edward Storer

M^r Peter Watkinson pastor of the Church at Kirk-Ireton being Mod^rator began with prayer.

This day M^r Henrie Allsop (according to form^r order of the Classis) p^rached (in order to his ordination) his approbation sermon & his paynes approved.

After he produced his certificates one from some of his neighbouring minist^{rs} concerning his ministerial abilities and Godly conversation; the other from the Parishioners of Crich (a Congregation within this Classis) concerning his Tytle there; they signifying their choyce of him to be their minister; both w^{ch} Certificates were approved by the Classis. Then he was examined of the grace of God in him, his call to the Ministrie, his studies, skill in the Tongues & likewise in Divinitie; All w^{ch} were approved by the Classis; whereupon he had this Thesis given him viz^t * which said Thesis he was ord^red to exhibit to the Classis on Tuesday the ffourteenth day of June next.

The Classis have this day voted and resolved that M^r Samuel Moore Lecturer to the Church at Ashbourne be from henceforth admitted not only as an Assistant to the Classis but also to act as a member of the Classis.

It is this day ordered that every Congregation presbyterated within this Classis shall be desired to send to every Classicall meeting two (or one at the least) of their Congregationall Elders to joyne with the minist^{rs} in managing the affairs of the Classis.

It is this day ordered that the next Classical ffast be houlden at Thorpe the second Thursday of the next moneth where and when the minister there is desired to p^rcure two sermons preached.

It is this day ordered that M^r Pet^r Watkinson pastor of the Church att Kirk-Ireton moderate at the next Classical meeting to be houlden at Crich on the

* In this place, and elsewhere, when a dotted line is given, it is to be understood that there is a hiatus in the MS.

21st day of the next moneth being the Classis usuall meeting day & also to manage the busines of the Ordinacon &c. And likewise it is this day voted that M^r John Otefield preach the Ordination Sermon the said 21st day of the next moneth.

M^r Watkinson this day moderating ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darbey } June 21 st 1653 }	}	These p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting holden at Crich the said 21 st day of June 1653 viz ^t
Ministers		Others
M ^r { Watkinson moderator Coates Shelmerdine Martin Topham Port ^r Pole Otefield Myles Moore Coke scb }		{ M ^r John Sclat ^r Richard Varden Edward Allen Robert Newton John Sutton }

M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderat^r began with prayer.

After M^r Henrie Allsopp M^r Josiah Whiston & M^r Thomas Leadbeater aforesaid exhibited their Theses formerly given them by the Classis, which being p^rused & approved by the Classis, they also maintained a dispute (each of them) upon the aforesaid Questions; wherein also they gave good satisfaction: Whereupon the Classis went unto the Congregation where M^r Otefield Pastor of the Church att Carsington preached the Ordinacon Sermon, which ended the said Moderator demanded the Questions of the aforesaid M^r Henrie Allsopp M^r Josiah Whiston & M^r Thomas Leadbeat^r required to be demanded of them by the ordinance for ordination of Minist^r of the 28th of August 1646, who (each of them) publickly answered unto all the said Questions: & then were they severally ordained by prayer & imposition of hands.

The said moderator made the Exhortation, concluded with prayer and the blessing.

After the Congregation dismissed Lres of Ordination were signed by the Ordainers and delivered unto them by the scbe.

The several papers of their Testimonials are remaining in the custodie of the Scbe & their Theses are in the hands of the said moderator.

M^r Joseph Trueman, * Bachel^r of Artes & late Student of Jesus Colledge in

* Joseph Trueman, B.D., was ordained as assistant minister at S. Peter's, Nottingham. He soon afterwards became minister at Cromwell in that county, where he remained till his ejection in 1662. Calamy says much of his remarkable abilities as a scholar. His nonconformity was of a mild character, and he was on friendly terms with Archbishop Tillotson and Bishop Stillingfleet. He died in 1671.

Cambridge addressing himself to the Classis for to be ordained a Presbyter p'duced (in reference to his ordinacon) a certificate under the hands of his neighbouring M^rs of Nottingham concerning his ministeriall abilities & godly conversacon : w^{ch} said Certificate was allowed of by the Classis ; & he ordered to preach before the Classis att their next meeting ; & to bring likwise on the said day his Tytle to the Classis to be p'used by them.

It is this day voted by the Classis that M^r Robrt Port^r Pastor of the Church at Pentridge moderate the next Classicall meeting. M^r Peter Watkinson this day moderating ended with prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Derby
19 July 1653.

These p^rsent at the Classicall Meeting the
said 19th day of July 1653, viz^t.

Minist^s

Others

M ^r	{	Porter	}	{	William Storer
		Carter			Edward Allen
		Watkinson			
		Martin Topham			
		Oatefield			
		Myles			

M^r Robert Port^r Pastor of the Church at Pentridge being Moderator began with Prayer.

This day the aforesaid Mr. Joseph Trueman p'ached his approbaton sermon (according to the appointm't of ye Classis) and his sermon being orthodox & edifying was approved.

After a certificate was read from M^r Richard Whitchurche desiring that the said M^r Joseph Truman may be ordained as his assist^{nt} at Peter's Nottingham, which was approved.

The said M^r Trueman was examined conc^rning the worke of grace upon his soule ; & an account taken of his skill in the Originall tongues & in the arts : Logick & Philosophie, as also of his knowledge in Divinity, in all which the Classis received good satisfaction. The question p'ounded to the said M^r Truman upon which he is required to bring his position the next Classicall day—*i.e.*, Verum peccatum traducatur p' generationem vel inducatur p' imitaconem vel audetur peccatum originalie. (*sic.*)

One M^r Thomas Broad, Bachel^r of Arts & late student of John's College in Cambridge desires to be admitted to ordination & exhibited one from ye Parish of Alveton in the Countey of Stafford signifying that they desire him to be their minister ; another from divers ministers conc^rning the abilities and conversacon wh second certificate being defective in the concern^s of Religion the Classis returned it to the subscribers desiring to be further satisfied before they could proceed any further.

Ordered: that the said M^r Thomas Broad p^rach the next Classicall-Sermon.

Ordered, that the next Classicall Fast be observed at Pentridge, August 11th M^r Port^r providing p^rachrs.

Tuesday fortnight being August 2^d appointed for a Classicall meeting to debate M^r Watkinson's case concerning his call to Chesterfield. Whereas the Parishioners of Chesterfield have desired M^r Peter Watkinson, a member of our Classis to be their minister. It is this day ordered upon the desire of M^r Peter Watkinson of the advice of the Classis about the business that the said M^r Watkinson doe declare his judgm^t about that living & likewise exhibit the reasons of his judgm^t to the consideration of the Classis, & the elders & people of Kirk Ireton are also desired to be there p^rsent to declare their judgement in reference to his removall.

M^r Port^r ordered to continue Moderator & this day moderating ended with Prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in }
the County of Darby }
August 16. 1653. }

—o—
{ These p^rent at the classical meeting the
said 16th day of August anno Dmi 1653,
viz

Ministers

Mr. { Porter Moderator
Shelm-dine
Watkinson
Martin Topham
Myles
Otefield
Coke Scr. }

Others

{ M^r Henrie Buxton
William Storer
Edward Allen
German Buxton
Henrie Buxton
de Wirksworth }

Mr. Robert Porter being moderator began with Prayer.

The aforesaid Mr. Thomas Broad having preached before the Classis this day & his sermon being orthodox & edifying was approved.

After was read a certificate from divers ministers of the County of Stafford on the behalf of the said Mr. Thomas Broad concerning his religious and gracious conversation ; wch was approved.

The said Thomas Broad was examined concerning the worke of grace upon his Soule & an account taken of his skill in the originale tongues & and in ye artes. In Logick and Philosophy as also of his knowledge in Divinitie, in all wch the Classis received good satisfaction.

The question p^rposed to the said Mr. Thomas Broad upon which he is required to bring his Position the next Classicall Fast day Sep^r 15 next is utrum obediencia Christi est justitiæ divinæ satisfactoria.

Mr. Joseph Trueman aforesaid this day exhibited according to the appointm^t of the classis, his Theses w^{ch} being p^rused & approved he also maintained a dispute uppon the said question, wherein also he gave good satisfaction which was noted accordingly.

One Mr. Samuel Ogden* Bachil^r of arts and late student of Christs College in Cambridge, desiring to be admitted to ordina^m was this day ordered to p^rach before the Classis at Brassington Sep^t 15th next being their monthly fast day & likewise then to bring with him his Testimonials & title & to expect to be p^rceeded with in examination according to the ordinance of direction of Parliam^t for the ordinacon of ministers.

The question p^rounded to M^r Samuel Ogden upon which he is required to bring his position the 27th day of September next is utrum Liceat unicuique ex dictamine p^ria^e conscientia^e deum colere.

Ordered that M^r Samuel Moore a member of the Classis prach at Brassington Sep^t 15 next being the Classis monethly fast day.

Ordered that M^r Martin Topham moderate the next Classicall meeting at Brassington the said 15th day of Sep^t.

Mr. Porter this day moderating ended with Prayer.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie Sept ^r 27 1653	}	{ Those p ^r nt at the Classicall meeting the said 27 th day of September 1653 viz ^t
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* Samuel Ogden served the Chapels of Buxton and Fairfield up to 1657, when he accepted the position of minister of Mackworth Church. On his ejection thence in 1662, he taught a private school in Derby; but in 1685 the master of the Free School there proceeded against him in the Court of Arches for teaching to the prejudice of that School, and won his case. Thereupon Sir John Gell, of Hopton, gave him the Free School of Wirksworth, and he taught there until his death in 1697. He was buried in the Church of Wirksworth. Calamy gives a copy of the Certificate of his ordination, and it is worth reproducing here as a sample of those granted by the Wirksworth Classis:—"For as much as Samuel Ogden, B.A., hath Address'd himself to "the Classical Presbytery of Wirksworth, in the Province of Derby, according "to the Ordinance and Direction of Parliament, for the Ordination of Ministers "by the Classical Presbyteries; desiring to be Ordained Preaching Presbyter, "for that he is called to the Work of the Ministry, in the Chappelry of "Buxton; and hath exhibited unto the said Presbytery sufficient Testimonials "(now remaining in their Custody) of his competent Age, of his unblameable "Life and Conversation, of his Diligence and Proficiency in his Studies, of his "fair and direct Calling unto the aforementioned place, by the People there, "in whom the choice belongs, as is Certified.

"We, the Ministers of the said Presbytery, have by the Appointment "thereof, Examined him according to the said Ordinance; and finding him to "be duly Qualified and Gifted for that Holy Office and Employment (no just "exception being made against his Ordination and Admission) we have "approved him: And accordingly in the Church of Wirksworth, upon the "Day and Year hereafter express'd, we have proceeded Solemnly to set him "apart, to the Office of a Preaching Presbyter, and Work of the Ministry, "with Fasting and Prayer and Imposition of Hands; and do hereby, as far "as concerneth us, actually admit him unto the said Charge, there to perform "all the Offices and Duties of a faithful Minister of Jesus Christ.

"In Witness whereof, We have hereunto subscribed our Names, the 27th "Day of September, in the Year of our Lord, according to the Computation "of the Church of England, 1653.

"Robert Porter, Minister of Pentridge,
Moderator.

Edward Pole, Minister of Bonteshall.
John Oldfield, Minister of Carsington.

"Tho. Shelmerdine, Minister of Matlock.

Samuel More, Minister of Ashborn.

"Martin Topham, Min. of Wirksworth.

Thomas Miles, Minister of Bradburn.'

Ministers		Others	
M ^r	Port ^r Moderat ^r	}	M ^r Henrie Buxton
	Shelm ^r dine		Mr John Sclat ^r
	M ^r Topham		William Storer
	Pole		Edward Allen
	Otefield _i		John Heapie
	Myles		German Buxton
	Moore		Henrie Buxton J ^{unr}
Coke Scrib	John Rudiard		

M^r Martin Topham being Moderat^r began with prayer.

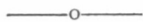
After the said M^r Thomas Broad & M^r Samuel Ogden exhibited (according to the appointment of the Classis) their Thesis w^h being p^used & approved they also maintained a dispute upon the said question wherein also they gave good satisfaction w^{ch} was voted accordingly : whereupon the Classis went into the Congregat^on where the said moderator preach^d the Ordinacⁿ Sermon w^{ch} ended. M^r Port^r pastor of the church at Pentridge (being chosen to manage the business of Ordination) demanded the questions of the aforesaid M^r Joseph Trueman & M^r Tho^s Broad & M^r Samuel Ogden required to be demanded of them by the ordinance for ordination of ministers of ye 28th of August 1646—who (each of them) publickly answered unto all the said questions and then were severally ordained by prayer & imposition of hands.

The said M^r Robert Porter made the Exhortation concluded with Prayer & the Blessing.

After the congregation dismissed the L^res of Ordinacon were signed by the ordained and delivered unto them by the hands of the Scribe.

The severall Papers of their Testimonials are remaining in the custodie of the Scribe. M^r Broad's and M Ogden's theses remaine in the hands of the Scribe. M^r Joseph Trueman's thesis is in the hands of the said M^r Robert Porter.

It is this day noted that M^r John Otefield pastor of the church at Carsington moderate the next Classicall meeting.



Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie October 18. 1653.	}	{	These present at the Classicall meeting the said 18th day of October, 1653, viz ^t
Minister ^s			Other ^s
M ^r	Otefield Mod ^r at ^r	}	William Storer
	Shelme'dine		Edward Allen
	Watkinson		Germane Buxton
	Martin Topham		Henrie Buxton
	Pole		John Heapie.
	Myles Coke Scb.		

Mr. John Otefield Pastor of the church at Carsington being Mod^rat^r began with Prayer.

Mr. Edward Pole Pastor of the church at Bontishall preached this classical-meeting & his sermon being orthodox & edifying had therefore the thanks of the Classis returned.

This day one M^r Jonath^an Staniforth* Bachel^r of artes late student of Christs Colledge in Cambridge addressing himself to this Classis to be ordained as an assistant to M^r Thomas Bakewell of the church of Warburghe in Darbey was ordered to preach this approbation sermon before the Classis at their next meeting.

Ordered that the next Classicall-Fast be holden at Parwich the second Thursday of the next month & it is this day noted that M^r Robert Porter preach there the said Fast day.

It is this day noted that Mr. John Otefield be continued Moderator and this day moderating ended with Prayer.

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Wirkesworth Classis } November 15 th 1653 }	{ Those present at the Classicall Meeting the said 15 th day of November 1653 viz ^t —
Ministers	Others

M ^r	{	Otefield Mod ^r at ^r Watkinson Martin Topham Moore } Myles } { Coke Scb. Shelme ^r dine	}
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{	M ^r Henry Buxton M ^r John Sclater William Storer Edward Allen Gilbert Wallis Germane Buxton Henrie Buxton William Jessopp	}
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M^r John Otefield Pastor of the Church at Carsington this day being moderator began with Prayer.

The aforesaid M^r Jonathan Staniforth preaches this day his appobation Sermon (according to the appointment of the Classis) & his sermon being orthodox and edifying was approved.

After was read a certificate from divers ministers on the behalfe of the said M^r Jonathan Stanyforth touching his ministeriall abilities & Godly conversation which was app^rved.

The said M^r Jonathan Stanyforth was this day examined concⁿing the worke of Grace upon his Soule; And an account taken of his skill in the Originall-Tongues; & in the artts; in Logicke & Philosophie, as also of his knowledge in Divinitie; in all which the Classis received good satisfaction.

* Jonathan Staniforth became minister at Hognaston, and his brother Timothy at Allestree. They were both ejected in 1662. Calamy says of them:—"Two brothers, sons of an ancient godly minister; both good men, who gave much attendance to reading, and had a good library."

The question pposed to the said M^r Jonathan Staniforth upon which he is required to bring his positon their next meeting December the 8th next is . . . An Christus hypostaticus vivatur Sanctis.

It is this day noted that M^r Edward Pole Pastor of the church at Bontishall preach the Ordination Sermon at Wirksworth December 8th next.

The Classis have this day noted M^r Thomas Shelmerdine Pastor of the Church at Matlock to moderate and manage the businesse of ordination the said eight day of December.

M^r John Otefield this day moderating ended with prayer.



Wirkesworth Classis } in the Countey of } Darbey Decb 8 th 1653 }	{ These p th at an extraordinary meeting of the { Classis for ordaining of the aforesaid M ^r { Jonathan Staniforth, a p ^r aching presby ^{tr} , the said 8 day of December, 1653, viz ^t .
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	Ministers		Oth ^{rs}
M ^r	{ Shelmerdine Moderat ^r Martine Topham Porter Pole Otefield Coke, scrb.	}	{ M ^r Sclater William Storer Edward Allen Germane Buxton Henrie Buxton John Heapie John Rudiard

M^r Thomas Shelmedine being Moderat^r began with prayer.

After the aforesaid M^r Jonathan Staniforth exhibited (according to the appointment of the Classis) his Thesis formerly given him by the Classis which being passed & approved by the Classis he also maintained a disputation upon the said question wherein also he gave good satisfaction whereupon the Classis went unto the congregation where M^r Edward Pole, the Pastor of the Church of Bonteshall preached the ordination sermon, which ended the said Moderator demanded the Questions of the aforesaid M^r Jonathan Staniforth required to be demanded of him by the ordinance for ordination of Ministers of the 28th of August 1646, who publicly answered unto all the said questions, and then were ordained by prayer and imposition of hands.

The said Moderator made the Exhortacon concluded with Prayer and the Blessing.

After the congregaton dismissed the L^res of Ordination were signed by the ordained and delivered unto him by the hands of the Scribe.

The severall pap^{rs} of his Testimonials together with his Thesis are remaining in the custodie of the Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the Countie of Darbey }
 Januarie the 17th 1653 } { These p'sent at the Classial Meeting the
 sayd 17th day of Januarie 1653 viz.

Minist ^{rs}		Othe ^{rs}	
Mr	{ Shelmerdine Moderator	{ M ^r Henrie Buxton	
	{ Watkinson		
	{ Martine Topham		{ M ^r John Sclater
	{ Port ^r		{ German Buxton
	{ Myles		{ John Heapie
	{ Coke Scb.		{ John Rudiard

M^r Thomas Shelmerdine Pastor of the Church of Matlock this day moderating began with prayer, who also this day preached &c.

It is this day ordered that the next Classiall shall be holden at Hognoston the second Thursday of the next month where & when M^r John Sclater hath under-taken to p'cure two sermons preached

It is this day noted that M^r Peter Coates Pastor of the church at South Wingfield preach the next Classical meeting.

It is this day ordered and noted that M^r Thomas Shelmerdine Pastor of the Church at Matlock be continued Moderator and he this day moderating ended with Prayer.

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Wirkesworth Classis in }
 the Countie of Derby }
 Februarie 21th Anno 1653 } { These p'sent at the Classical meeting the
 sayd 21th day of Februarie 1653 viz

Minist ^{rs}		Oth ^{rs}	
Mr	{ Coates	{ M ^r Henrie Buxton	
	{ Shelm ^r dine Moderat ^r		{ Edward Allen
	{ Martine Topham		{ Gilbert Wallis
	{ Otefield		{ William Storer
	{ Myles		{ Germane Buxton
	{ Coke Scb ^r		

M^r Peter Coates Pastor of the Church at South-Wingfield p^rached this Classiall meeting & his sermon being orthodox & seasonable had therefore the thanks of the Classis returned &c.

One M^r John Chest^r* of Witherlie in the Countie Leicst^r Student in Divinitie this day addressing himself to the Classis for ordination was therefore ordered to preach before the Classis at their next meeting.

* John Chester remained minister of Witherley till the Restoration, when the clergyman that he had dispossessed again gained possession of the benefice. He then moved to Southwark, and died in 1696.

It is this day voted that M^r Thomas Shelm^dine be continued Moderat^r who this day Mod^rating ended (as he began) with prayer.

[Here follow twelve blank leaves, and then the entries are in the hand of Scribe Rudyard. The fact of these pages being left shows that there was no break in the Classis Meetings, but that it was intended to fill in the omitted minutes at some future date—an intention never realised. The suspension of entries in the regular Minute Book probably arose from the illness and death of Scribe Coke.]

Wirkesworth Classis
in the county of Darby
Januarie 16. 1654.

Those p^rsent at the Classicall meeting
the 16 day of Januarie 1654 viz.

Ministers

M^r { Peter Watkinson
Martin Topham
Robert Porter
John Otefield
Thomas Myles

Others

{ M^r Henrie Buxton
Richard Buxton
Henry Buxton
John Rudyard

M^r Peter Watkinson being this day chosen Moderator in the absence of M^r Edward Pole began with prayer.

This day M^r Thomas Ford* Bachelour of arts late Student of Trinitie Colledge in Cambridge appeared before the Classis in order to his ordination, & his sermon being orthodox was therefore approved. The said M^r Ford produced one certificate from his neighbouring Ministers concerning his Ministerial abilities and pious conversation, and another that he is to be ordained as an assistant to M^r Geo. Crosse in the Chappel of Harleston in the Countie of Stafford which were also approved and he ordered to give an account to the Classis of his Ministerial abilities the next Classical meeting.

This day M^r Richard Chantrey† Bachelour of Arts late student of St. John's Colledge in Cambridge who desireth to be ordained a preaching-presbyter was therefore ordered to preach his approbacon sermon before the Classis at their next meeting the third Teusday in Feb next.

It is this day ordered that the next Classical lecture be kept at Brassington

* Thomas Ford was a native of Willington, Derbyshire. He was educated at Repton and Trinity Colledge, Cambridge. He never obtained any benefice, but was preaching at Gresley, Derbyshire, in 1662. Refusing to be silent, he was committed to prison, and spent some time in the gaols of Derby and Stafford. Calamy says of his death, that "by his extraordinary pains upon a day of fasting and prayer he broke a vein, which brought him into a consumption, whereof he dyed, in a little village near Burton-upon-Trent, about the year 1677."

† Richard Chantry was minister at Weeford, near Lichfield. He was ejected in 1662, and forced by the Oxford Act to remove from the county. He died July 22nd, 1694, at Hartshorn, Derbyshire.

the second Thursday in Februarie next, when and where Mr Thomas Shelmerdine Pastor of the Church at Matlocke & Mr Samuel Charles,* Teacher of the word at Kniveton are to preach.

Voted, that John Rudyard who is a ruling Elder of the congregaton of Wirksworth be also register of this Classis.

Ordered that Mr Edward Pole, Pastor of the Church at Bonteshall be continued Moderator the next Classicall meeting.

Mr Peter Watkinson pastor of the church at Kirk Ireton, being Moderator this day ended with praier.

John Rudyard, Scribe.

{ Wirksworth Classis in the countie of Darby Februarie 20, 1654 }	{ Those p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the said 20 day of Februarie 1654. viz ^t .
Ministers.	Others.
Mr. { Peter Watkinson Martin Topham John Otefield Tho. Myles }	{ Gilbert Wallis Richard Buxton Edward Storer John Rudyard }

Mr Watkinson being this day chosen Moderator in the absence of Mr Edward Pole began with praier.

The said Mr Richard Chantrie (according to former order) preached before the Classis and his sermon being orthodox & edifying, was approved.

Afterwards Mr Anthonie Buxton† Bachelour of Arts late student of Trinitie Colledge in Cambridge addressing himself to ye Classis for ordination, was appointed to preach the second Thursday in March next at Bradley, it being the monthlie Lecture appointed by the Classis, when & where Mr John Otefeild is likewise to preach.

The aforesaid Mr. Anthonie Buxton had this Thesis given him : An Christi meritis sit satisfactio divinæ Justitiæ pro peccatis.

Mr Humfrey Waldron‡ having formerlie addressed himselfe to the Classis for

* Samuel Charles, M.A., was a native of Chesterfield, and educated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He was not formally ordained until August, 1655. He was first minister at Kniveton, and then resided with Sir John Gell's family at Hopton. He was afterwards presented to Mickleover by Sir John Curzon; thence he was ejected in 1662, and after a short residence at Belper, proceeded to Hull. For persisting in officiating as a minister he was there imprisoned for six months in 1682. After his release he continued to reside at Hull, and died there in 1693.

† We believe Anthony Buxton to have been a son of German Buxton, of Kirk Ireton, who so often attended the Wirksworth Classis as an elder of that Presbytery. He was appointed minister to Hayfield, Derbyshire.

‡ Humfrey Waldron was ejected from Broom, Staffordshire, in 1662. Calamy describes him as "a man of good learning and utterance."

ordinacon, appeared this day & produced (in order to his ordinacon) two certificates one from his neighbouring Ministers concerning his soundness in judgm^t & pious & unblameable conversation, another from the inhabitants of Broome in the Countie of Stafford concerning his title there; they certifying their choice of him to be their Minister, both which were approved. After he was examined of the Grace of God in him; his skill in the Originall tongues & in the Arts, Logick, and Philosophie, also of his knowledge in divinitie which were also approved by the Classis.

The said M^r Humfrey Waldron exhibited his thesis to the Classis this day.

After, M^r Richard Chantrey aforesaid (in order to his ordinacon) produced a certificate from the neighbouring Ministers that he is orthodox & pious & fit to be employed in preaching the Gospell which was approved. Then he was examined concerning the worke of grace upon his soule, his call to the Ministrie, his skill in the original tongues & in the Arts, Logick, and Philosophie, likewise of his knowledge in divinitie, in all which the Classis received satisfaction, whereupon he had this Thesis given him *An in hac vita homo possit esse certus de salutæ suæ eternæ certitudine fidei.*

M^r Thos Ford being ordered to appeare before the Classis this daie but disabled by sickness had this Thesis sent him *An Christi obedientia tollat obedientiam Christianam.*

Ordered that forthwith intimation be sent to the severall congregations where the afore mentoned M^r Rich Chantrie M^r Anthonie Buxton, M^r Humfrey Waldron, & M^r Tho^s fford, are to be admitted ministers concerning their proceedings in & about the matter of their ordination.

It is likewise ordered that M^r Robert Porter moderate the next Classicall meeting at Wirkesworth, the third Teusday in March next, and that M^r Thos Myles preach before the Classis that day.

Wednesday the 21 of March appointed a day of Ordination at Wirkesworth & that M^r Tho. Shelmerdine preach the ordination sermon & give the exhortaton. M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderator this day ended with praier.

John Rudyard Scribe

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the countie of Darbie }
March 20. 1654 } { Those present at the Classicall meeting the
said 20 day of March 1654.

	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{ Peter Watkinson Martin Topham John Otefield Samuel Moore Thomas Myles	}	{ M ^r Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclater Henrie Buxton William Jesoppe John Rudyard

Mr Peter Watkinson being this daie chosen Moderator, in the absence of Mr Robert Porter, began with praier. Mr Tho. Myles pastor of the church at Bradbourne preached this Classicall-meeting, and his sermon being orthodox & edifying was approved,

This day Mr Anthonie Buxton produced a certificate from his neighbouring Ministers of his godlie conversaton, that he is orthodox in judgm^t faithfull & painfull in the work of the ministry which was approved, he also returned to the Classis the intimaton that was sent to the congregation at Heyfield in the countie of Darbie concerning his proceeding in the matter of ordination and admission to be their Minister, which said intimacon was certified to be published in the congregation at Heyfield aforesaid by Mr William Bagshaw* Pastor of the church at Glossop who was present in the Classis at the same time, and that there was no exception against him.

Afterwards he was examined concerning the work of Grace upon his soule, his call to the ministrie, & to the congregation at Heyfield, & an account was taken of his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke, and philosophie, likewise of his knowledge in divinitie in all which the Classis received good satisfaction; then the said Mr Anthonie Buxton exhibited his thesis which being perused & approved, he maintained a dispute upon the question: wherin the Classis was also well satisfied. This day likewise the Classis took an account of Mr Tho fford aforesaid concerning his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie, wherein also he gave good satisfaction.

Mr. Richard Chantrie also exhibited his Thesis & maintained a dispute upon the said question wherein he gave good satisfaction.

It is this day noted that Mr William Bagshaw, Pastor of the Congregation at Glossoppe in y^e countie of Darbie, be desired to be Assistant to this Classis as often as he can convenientlie—And that the said Mr. Bagshaw be also desired to preach, the next classicall meeting at Wirksworth the third Teusday in April next.

Noted this day that the Congregation at Hognast'n being destitute of a Minister, for the p'sent do joyn themselves to the Congregation at Kniveton till further order.

Ordered that the next Classicall lecture be kept at Carsington the second Thursday in April when and where Mr John Otefield Pastor of y^e Congregation is desired to procure two sermons.

Noted, that Mr Peter Watkinson be moderator the next Classicall meeting & this day moderating ended with praier

Jo: Rudyard

Scrib.

* This was a celebrated Nonconformist minister of North Derbyshire, who by his zeal obtained the title of "The Apostle of the Peak." For an account of him, see *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii. p. 144.

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the Countie of }
 Darby March 21 1654 } { These present at an extraordinarie meeting of
 the Classis for the ordination of M^r Anthony
 Buxton M^r Richard Chantrey M^r Humfrey
 Waldron & M^r Thomas Fford

Ministers		Others	
M ^r	Peter Watkinson moder.	}	Mr. John Sclater
	Martin Topham		William Storer
	John Otefield		Edward Allen
	Edward Pole		William Alsop
	William Bagshaw		Henrie Buxton
	Samuel Moore		John Heapie
	Thomas Myles		John Rudyard

This day M^r Thomas Shelmerdine preached the ordinacon sermon before the congregation assembled in the Parish Church at Wirkesworth which ended the questions were demanded of the aforesaid M^r Anthonie Buxton, M^r Richard Chantrey M^r Humfrey Waldron & M^r Thomas Fford required to be demanded of them by the Ordinance for Ordination of Ministers of the 28 August 1646 who each of them answered unto all the said questions And then were severallie ordained by praier & imposition of hands. The said Mr. Thomas Shelmerdine gave the exhortation concluded with praier and the blessing. After the congregation dismissed the Lres of ordination were signed by the ordainers and delivered to them by the Scribe The severall papers of their Testimonials are in the custodie of the Scribe, their Theses in the hands of the said Moderator

John Rudyard
 Scribe

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Wirkesworth Classis }
 Aprill 17, 1655. } { These present at the Classical Meeting, the said
 17 April, 1655.

Ministers.		Others.	
M ^r	Peter Watkinson	}	M ^r John Sclater
	Martin Topham		John Rudyard
	John Otefield		
	Thomas Myles		

This day M^r William Bagshaw Pastor of the Church of Glossopp in the County of Darby (according to the desire of the Classis) formerly preached & his sermon being orthodox & seasonable was well approved.

There being but small appearance this day, the Classis was adiourned untill the next ordinarie meeting (*viz.*) the third Tuesday in May next.

Jo : Rudyard Scribe.

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Wirkesworth Classis
in the County of
Darby May 15, 1655

{ These p'sent at the Classis meeting
the said 15th May 1655.

Ministers.

M. { Peter Watkinson, Mod
Thomas Shelmerdine
John Otefield
Samuel Moore
Thomas Myles

Others.

{ Mr. John S^clater
Gilbert Wallis
Richard Buxton
William Jessopp
John Rudyard

This day M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderator began with praier M^r William Yates student in Divinitie, having formerly addressed himself to the Classis for ordination preached this day before the Classis & his sermon being orthodox and edifying was approved.

The aforesaid M^r William Yates* (in order to his ordination) this day likewise produced a testimonie of his approved doctrine and also of his life and conversation, under the hand of M^r Thomas Stubbing† minister at Cubley a Marston-Montgomerie in the County of Darby, to whom he is to be ordained an assistant in the worke of the Ministrie at Cubley & Marston-Montgomerie aforesaid according to ye desire of the aforesaid M^r Tho: Stubbing.

The said M^r William Yates also produced two certificates one from his neighbouring ministers that he is orthodox in Doctrine, pious and exemplary in life and conversacon: another from the Parishioners of Cubley and Marston aforesaid, concerning their approbation of him & desire he may be admitted into the worke of the Ministry, as is aforesaid, all which were approved by the Classis.

Afterwards the Classis took an account of the said M^r William Yates concerning the Grace of God in him, also of his skill in the originall tongues, and in the Arts Logicke Philosophie, likewise of his Knowledge in Divinitie; wherein they received satisfaction; whereupon the said M^r William Yates had this Thesis given him

An anima humana sit mortalis

Voted, and accordingly ordered this day, that each Classicall Meeting the Moderator do make an oration to the Classis, for the space of about a quarter of an hour upon some subject, what he thinketh fit, tending to the edification of the Assemblie.

Also it is noted and ordered, that each Classicall-Meeting, some one be

* One William Yates was ejected from Cherton, Hertfordshire, in 1662, and was probably the same person as is here mentioned.

† Thomas Stubbings (or Stubbins) held the livings of Cubley and Marston Montgomery from 1654 to 1660.

chosen to bring in to the Classis the next meeting after, a Thesis upon some point controverted betwixt us & the Socinians.*

Voted, that Mr Peter Watkinson declare their errors at the next Classicall Meeting.

This day Mr James Sutton Student in Divinitie addressing himselfe to the Classis for ordination was ordered to preach his approbation Sermon in the Parish Church at Wirksworth uppon Tuesday the 29 of May next.

Ordered that the next monthlie Lecture be kept at Hognaston the second Thursday in June next, M John Sclater desired to procure two Sermons.

Voted that Mr Thomas Shelmerdine be Moderator the next meeting, and that Mr Peter Watkinson preach the Classicall Sermon, who being Moderator this day ended with Praier.

John Rudyard, Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the County of Darby }
June 19, 1655 }
Ministers }

—o—
{ These p'sent at the Classical meeting the said
19 day of June 1655

M^r { Tho : Shelmerdine Mod^r
Peter Watkinson
Peter Coates
Martin Topham
Robert Porter
John Otefield
ffrancis Topham
Samuel Moore
Thomas Myles

Others

{ Mr. Henry Buxton
Gilbert Wallis
John Heapie
John Rudyard

This day Mr Peter Watkinson
preached the Sermon well ap-
proved.

Mr Thomas Shelmerdine being moderator this day began with praier. The said Mr Tho : Shelmerdine (according to former order) made an oration to the Classis.

Afterwards Mr Peter Watkinson (according to former order) declared the Socinian Errors; amongst which this was one; viz: that there is no need of any speciall illumination of the Spirit of God to the right understanding of the Scripture.

* The Socinians were at this time extremely numerous in Poland, but had very few adherents in England. Their leader here was one John Biddle, whom the Presbyterians wished to put to death as a heretic, but Cromwell opposed this, and he passed most of the Commonwealth period in prison or in banishment at the Scilly Isles. He had just now been released from prison and was in the full swing of controversy. It is rather a singular commentary on the Presbyterian zeal against Socinianism, to reflect that in less than one century, viz., about 1730, the great majority of the old Presbyterian congregations in England lapsed into Socinianism or Unitarianism. In 1824, out of 206 Unitarian meeting-houses in England and Wales, no less than 170 had originally been Presbyterian.

Whereupon it was noted and accordingly ordered that M^r Peter Coates Pastor of the Church at South Wingfield shall bring in to the Classis at their next meeting this position, viz^t that the peculiar illumination of the Spirit of God is necessarie to the right understanding of the Scripture.

This day M^r Samuel Charles Bach^r of Arts late student of Corpus Christi Colledge in Cambridge, a man well knowne to the Classis & approved to be of orthodox judgmt & pious life and conversation addressed himselfe to the Classis to be ordained a Preaching Presbyter, in order whereunto an account was taken of his skill in the originall tongues, also in the Arts, Logicke & Philosophie, likewise of his knowledge in Divinitie in all which he gave good satisfaction.

Ordered that the Classical Lecture be kept at Wirksworth the second Thursday in July next M^r Martin Topham to procure two sermons.

Voted & accordinglie ordered, that M^r John Otefield preach, the next Classicall meeting.

M^r Thomas Shelmerdine to continue moderator the next meeting of the Classis who this day moderating ended with Prayer. Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby July 17 1655 Ministers	}	{	The p'sent at the Classical meeting the said 17 day of July 1655 others
M ^r { Tho Shelmerdine moderat : Peter Coates Robert Porter John Otefield Tho: Myles	}	{	John Rudyard

M^r Tho: Shelmerdine being moderator began with Praier, and afterwards made the Oration to the Classis.

This day M^r John Otefield preached and his sermon being orthodox and seasonable was well approved.

M^r Peter Coates (according to order) proved the position given him by the Classis against the Socinians, for wh he had thanks of the Classis. And whereas the Socinians hold this error viz^t That the plainest consequences drawne from Scripture, are not equivalent to Scripture, it is therefore ordered that M^r Tho: Shelmerdine bring into the Classis at the next meeting this position viz^t That consequences drawne from Scripture are rightly equivalent to Scripture.

M^r Samuel Charles in order to his ordination had this Thesis given him Utrum in via detur perfectio graduum which Thesis he is to exhibit to the Classis the 21 day of Aug next.

It is this day noted and accordinglie ordered that the 22 day of August next be set apart for the ordinacon of M^r Samuel Charles & M^r William Yates in the Parish Church at Kniveton; & that M^r Peter Watkinson preach the Ordinaton Sermon & give the Exhortaton.

Ordered; that M^r Edward Pole preach ye next Classicall Meeting.

Voted & accordinglie ordered, that M^r Peter Coates be moderator the next Classicall Meeting.

Ordered that the Monthly Lecture be kept at Wirksworth upon the second Thursday in August next M^r Martin Topham to procure two Sermons.

M^r Tho: Shelmerdine being moderator this day ended with prayer.

John Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby
August 21. 1655

These p^rsent at the Classicall meeting the said
21 day of August 1655

Ministers

Others

M^r { Peter Coates, Moderator
Thomas Shelmerdine
Martin Topham
Robert Porter
Edward Pole
John Otefield

{ M^r John Sclater
John Rudyard

M^r Peter Coates being Moderator this day began with praier, and afterwards made the oration to the Classis.

This day M^r Edward Pole preached and his sermon being orthodox and edifying was well approved.

This day M^r Tho: Sheldermine proved the position against the Socinians which was given him by the Classis.

M^r John Greensmith* B^{ch}r of Ats,^r late Student of Maudline Hall, in Oxford (having addressed himself to the Classis for ordinacon since the last Classicall meeting) this day gave an account of the work of grace upon his Soule, & of his skill in the Originall tongues, also in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie in all which he gave good satisfaction. The said M^r Greensmith likewise this day produced a certificate from his neighbouring Ministers of his pious life and conversion, declared his ends in entering into the Ministrey, and his call to the worke of the Ministrey in the congregacon of Coll-wich, in the countie of Stafford, in all which likewise the Classis received good satisfaction. The said M^r Greensmith having formerlie preached his approbaton sermon which being well approved had this thesis given viz: An detur peccatum regnans in eternatis? Which Thesis he exhibited at the Classis this day, and maintained

* John Greensmith was ordained to the ministry of the Church at Colwich, Stafford. He was thence ejected in 1662.

a dispute upon the same, wherein he gave good satisfaction; whereupon it was voted & ordered accordinglie That the said M^r John Greensmith be ordained a preaching Presbyter in the Parish church at Kniveton the next day being the 22 day of August formerly appointed a day of Ordination.

It is this day noted & accordinglie ordered That if anyone address himselfe for ordinacon to this classis upon anie day which is not a Classicall meeting; he shall there address himselfe to the Moderator pro tempore to acquaint him with the business.

This day Mr. Samuel Charles exhibited his Thesis to the classis, which being perused and approved, he maintained a dispute upon the same wherein he gave good satisfaction.

Ordered that the Monthly Lecture be kept at Matlocke the second Thursday in September next, and that M^r Tho. Shelmerdine procure two sermons.

Voted that M^r Peter Coates preach before the Classis at their next meeting. Likewise that Mr. Peter Watkinson be Moderator the next Classicall Meeting M^r Peter Coates being Moderator this day ended with Praier.

John Rudyard. Scribe.

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Wirksworth Classis in the countie of Darby August 22 1655	}	These p'sent at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Classis holden at Kniveton for the Ordina- con of M ^r Samuel Charles, Mr. William Yates & M ^r John Greensmith the said 22 of Aug. 1655
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Ministers		Others
M ^r { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Watkinson Moderat Thomas Shelmerdine Martin Topham Robert Porter John Otefield Samuel Moore 	}	{ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. John Sclater John Rudyard

This day M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderator began with praier. Afterward M^r William Yates exhibited his thesis which being perused was approved. Then the Classis went into the Parish church at Kniveton, where M^r Peter Watkinson preached the ordination Sermon; which being ended the questions were demanded of the aforesaid M^r Samuel Charles M^r William Yates & M^r John Greensmith, required to be demanded by the ordinance of Parliam^t for ordination of Ministers of the 28 of August 1646 who each of them answered to all the said questions & then were severally ordained by praier and imposition of hands.

Then M^r Peter Watkinson made the Exhortation concluded with praier and the Blessing After the congregation dismissed the Lres of ordination were signed by the ordainers & delivered to them by the Scribe.

The papers of their testimonials are in the custody of the Scribe their Theses in the hands of the Moderator for the time when they were exhibited.

John Rudyard Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby September 18, 1655	}	{ These p'sent at the Classicall-meeting the said 18 of September 1655
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Ministers.

Others

Mr	{	Peter Watkinson Peter Coates Robert Porter Tho : Myles	}	}
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This day Mr Peter Coates Pastor of the Church of South-Wingfield (according to former order) preached before the Classis & his sermon being orthodox & seasonable was well approved.

There being but small appearance this day the Classis was adiourned untill the next ordinary meeting viz^t the Third Tuesday in October next.

John Rudyard Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie October 16 — 1655.	}	{ These p'sent at the Classical meeting the said 16 day of October 1655
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Ministers

Other^s

Mr	{	Peter Watkinson Mod ^r Tho : Shelmerdine Martin Topham Edward Pole John Otefield Thos Myles	}	{	Mr John Sclater John Rudyard	}
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This day Mr Peter Watkinson being moderator began with prair, afterwards declared the first use and beginning of the Socinian errors and who have been the chiefe formeters of them in everie age unto these daies.

Then the said Mr Peter Watkinson proved against the Socinians : That Christian religion may be confirmed by the Testimony of the Old Testament.

This day Mr Tho : Shelmerdine preached, & his sermon being orthodox was approved.

Voted that Mr Samuel Charles Pastor of the Congregation at Kniveton be an assistant to this Classis.

Ordered that the monthly lecture be kept at Thorpe ye second Thursday in Novemb. M fFrancis Topham to procure two Sermons.

Voted that M^r Peter Watkinson preach the next Classicall meeting. That M^r Martin Topham be moderator, & y^t M^r Edward Pole exhibit this Thesis viz^t Whether God may be knowne by any, the most diligent contemplacon of the creature.

M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderator ended with Praier.

John Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the Countie of Darby }
November 20 1655 } { These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the said
20 day of November 1655

	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{	{	{
	Martin Topham Modera ^t		M ^r Henri Buxton
	Peter Watkinson		William Storer
	Tho Shelmerdine		Edward Allen
	Edward Pole		John Heapie
	John Otefield		James Addams
	Thomas Myles		Henri Buxton
	Samuel Charles		John Rudyard
	}		}

This day M^r Martin Topham being Moderator began with praier: afterwards made the oration. M^r Peter Watkinson preached before the Classis, & his sermon being orthodox & seasonable was well approved.

This day M^r Edward Pole (according to former order) exhibited the Thesis to the Classis, & proved against the Socinians, that God may be known by the diligent contemplation of the creature.

Voted that M^r John Otefield bring in the Classis the next meeting, this position, viz: that the Name Jehovah is incomunicable.

Voted that the monthlie lecture be kept at Hognaston the second Thursday In December next, M^r John Sclater to procure two sermons.

Voted that M^r Martin Topham continue Moderator; who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo. Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the countie of Darbie, }
December 18th 1655. } { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting,
the said 18 day of December 1655.

	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{	{	{
	Martin Topham Modr ^r		M ^r Henrie Buxton
	Edward Pole		John Rudyard
	John Otefield		
	Tho Miles		
	Samuel Charles		
	}		}

This day

M^r Martin Topham preached the Classicall sermon w^{ch} being orthodox, was well approved.

Because of some urgent occasions this day, the Classis was adiourned untill the next ordinary meeting : at which time M^r John Otefield is to bring in the position given him the last Classicall-meeting. M^r Edward Pole to be moderator, and to preach the next Classicall sermon.

The Monthlie lecture to be kept at Criche, the second Thursday in January next.

John Rudyard Scribe.

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Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darbie
Jan^r 15 1655

{ Those p^sent at the Classical meeting the
said 15 day of Januarie 1655

Ministers

Others

M^r { Edward Pole Mod^r
Peter Coates
Tho Shelmerdine
Martin Topham
John Otefield
Tho Miles
Samuel Charles

{ M^r John Sclater
Edward Allen
Henrie Buxton
James Addams
John Rudyard

This day M^r Edward Pole being Moderator began with praier, and afterwards made the oration.

M^r Michael Edge Bachelor of Arts, late student of Clare Hall in Cambridg, addressing himselfe to the Classis for ordination, this day preached his approbacon sermon, which being orthodox and seasonable was well approved by ye Classis. Where uppon he had this thesis given him, viz^t Utrum Papa sit anti-christus. This day M^r John Otefield (according to former order) proved that the name Jehovah is incommunicable. Because that the Lord hath visited divers places within this Classis with feavers and other sicknesses : it is this day voted that the second Thursday in february next be set apart, & kept a day of humiliation in the Parish Church of Wirkesworth, M^r Martin Topham to procure two sermons.

Ordered this day that M^r Martin Topham, bring in to the Classis the next meeting this position viz^t that there is a Trinitie of persons in the Deitie. M^r John Otefield to be moderator at the next Classical meeting.

M^r Pole moderating this day ended with praier.

M^r Edward Pole to preach next Classicall meeting.)

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis } { Those present at an extraordinarie meeting
in the Countie of Darbie, } of the Classis the said 12 day of ffeb
ffeb. 12, 1655. } 1655.

Ministers		Others
M ^r	John Otefield Mod ^r	
	Peter Watkinson	
	Thomas Shelmerdine	
	Martin Topham	
	Robert Porter	
	Edward Pole	
	Thomas Myles	
Samuel Charles		

This day M^r John Otefield being Moderator began with praier. M^r Amos Shaw Batchelor of Arts late student of _____ in Cambridge preached before the Classis this day & having formerlie addressed himselfe to ye Classis for ordination, & preached his approbation sermon also, which was well approved, the said M^r Amos Shaw produced his certificates of his unblameable life & conversaton &c. which were also well approved.

Afterwards the said M^r Amos Shaw gave an account of the work of grace upon his soule, of his skill in the originall tongues, also in the Arts, Logicke & Phylosophy, & also of his knowledge in divinitie in all which he gave good satisfaction; whereupon he had this Thesis given him viz^t. : An detur justificatio ab eterno.

M^r John Otefield being Moderator ended with praier.

Jo : Rudyard

Scrib.

Wirkesworth Classis } { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said
in the countie of Darby } 19 day of ffeb 1655

Ministers		Others
M ^r	John Otefield Mod ^r	
	Martin Topham	
	Edward Pole	
	Thomas Myles	
	Samuel Charles	
		M ^r Henry Buxton
		James Addams
		John Rudyard

This day M^r John Otefield being Moderator began with praier. M^r Edward Pole preached before the Classis, & his sermon being orthodox was well approved.

Voted that because of the small appearance this day, the exhortation be waved & the position also.

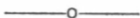
This day Mr. Richard Swynfen* bachelor of Arts late student of Pembroke Hall in Cambridge addressing himself to the Classis for ordination had this Thesis given him, viz^t—Utrum Paulus contradicat Jacobo in articulo Justificationis?

Voted that the monthlie lecture be kept at Criche the second Thursday in March next; Mr Tho: Shelmerdin & Mr Tho: Myles to preach.

Ordered this day that the 18th day of march next be set apart for a day of ordination, & that Mr Rob^t Porter preach the ordination sermon & give the exhortation. Voted that Mr John Otefield continue moderator, who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard

Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of
Darbie March 4 1655

{ These p'sent at an extraordinarie Meeting
appointed by the Classis for the examination
of Mr Richard Swinfen the said 4 day of March
1655

Ministers

Mr { John Otefield Moderator }
{ Thomas Shelmerdine }
{ Martin Topham }

Mr John Otefield being Moderator began with praier.

This day Mr Richard Swynfen preached before the Classis, & his sermon being orthodox was well approved. The said Mr Richard Swinfen also produced two certificates; one from divers pious orthodox ministers concerning his pious conversation; another from the inhabitants & Parisioners of Sandyaere they certifying their choise & desire of him to be their minister which were also approved.

The said Mr Richard Swinfen likewise exhibited his Thesis & maintained a dispute upon the same, gave account of the worke of grace upon his soule, also of his skill in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie & of his knowledge in Divinitie in all which the Classis received good satisfaction.

Mr John Otefield being Moderator ended with Praier.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

* Richard Swynfen was born at Swynfen, in the parish of Weeford. He was first minister of Sandiacre, Derbyshire, but in 1657 was appointed by Mr. Agard, of Foston, to Marston Ridware, Staffordshire. After his ejection from the latter place, he chiefly resided at Barton-under-Needwood. He died at Burton-on-Trent in 1692.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby
March 18, 1655

{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting being
appointed a day for the Ordination of
M^r Michael Edge, M^r Amos Shaw, M^r Rich-
ard Swynfen, M^r Thomas Dresser this said 18
day of March 1655.

Ministers.

Mr { John Otefield Moderator
Peter Coates
Martin Topham
Robert Porter
Edward Pole
Samuel Charles

Others.

{ M^r John Selater
William Storer
Edward Allen
Henry Buxton
John Heapie
John Rudyard

M^r John Otefield being Moderator began with praier.

This day Mr. Amos Shaw exhibited his Thesis and maintained a dispute upon the same wherein the Classis received good satisfaction. Likewise M^r Michael Edge exhibited his Thesis, gave account of the worke of grace upon his soule, also of his skill in the originall tongues, and in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie & also of his Knowledge in Divinitie; in all which the Classis received good satisfaction.

This day M^r Thomas Dresser Student in Divinitie (having formerlie addressed himselfe to the Classis for ordination and also having preached his approbation Sermon) gave an account of the worke of grace upon his Soule, of his skill in the originall tongues & in the Arts Logicke and Philosophie, also of his knowledge in Divinitie; in all which the Classis rec satisfaction.

The question proposed formerlie to the said M^r Thomas Dresser upon wich he brought in his position this day is

An Pœdobaptismus sit in Ecclesia licitus?

herein also he gave satisfaction.

The said M^r Tho Dresser produced (this day) one certificate from his neighbouring ministers of his pious Life & conversation, & of his ministerial abilities; another from the inhabitants of the parish of Woolstarton in the Countie of Stafford concerning his diligence in the ministrie, & of their desire of him to be their minister which certificates were approved.

Whereupon the Classis went into the Parish Church of Wirkesworth where M^r Robert Porter preached the approbation Sermon: which being ended, the questions were demanded of the aforesaid M^r William Edge, M^r Amos Shaw, M^r Richard Swinfen & M^r Thomas Dresser required to be demanded by the Ordinance of Parliament for ordination of Ministers of the 28 of August 1646 who each of them answered to all the said questions & then were severally ordained by praier and imposition of hands.

Then M^r Robert Porter made the Exhortation concluded with praier & the Blessing.

After the congregacon dismissed the Lres of Ordination were signed by the Ordainers, & delivered to them by the Scribe.

The papers of their testimonials are in the hands of the Scribe excepte M^r Amos Shawe's which are in the handes of M^r Martin Topham.

M^r Michael Edge, M^r Richard Swinfen & M^r Tho Dresser their Theses are in the hands of the Scribe. M^r Amos Shawe's Thesis in the handes of the Moderator for the time when it was exhibited.

Jo Rudyard Scribe.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis in the countie of Darbie April 15 1656	}	{	Those p'sent at the Classicall meeting this said 15 day of April 1656	
Ministers			Others	
M ^r {	}	}	Peter Watkinson Moderat ^r	James Addams John Rudyard
Peter Coates				
Thos Shelmerdine				
Martin Topham				
Edward Pole				
Samuel Moore				

M^r Peter Watkinson being Moderator this day in the absence of M^r John Otefield began with praier & made an oration to the Classis.

This day Mr. Samuel Moore preached before the Classis, & his sermon being orthodox & seasonable was well approved, for which he had the thanks of the Classis returned.

Afterward M^r Martin Topham exhibited the position formerlie given him viz^t That there is a Trinitie of persons in the Deitie.

Voted that the Monthlie lecture be kept at Southwingfield, the second Thursday in May next M^r Peter Coates to procure two Sermons.

Voted that M^r Samuel Charles preach at the next Classicall-meeting, also that M^r Rob^t Porter bring into the Classis this position viz That Christ is God.

This day M^r John Spilsbury* having sent his desire by Mr. Thos Shelmerdine to be ordained a preaching Presbyter. By reason of his great distance, from this Classis he living at Bromsgrove in the countie of Worcester had this Thesis sent him, viz An Scriptoris sacri fuerint infallibiliter acti in scribendis libris sacre Scripturæ.

Voted that Mr. Peter Coates be Mod^r the next Classicall-meeting.

Mr Peter Watkinson being Moderator this day ended with praier.

Jo : Rudyard Scrib.

* John Spilsbury was a fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford. He was minister at Bromsgrove from 1656 till the Restoration, when he was ejected. Calamy gives him a very high character. He died June 10th, 1699, aged 71.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie May 20 1656.	}	{ Those p'sent at the Classicall-meeting the said 20 of May 1656.
Ministers		Others
M ^r { Peter Coates, Moderator Peter Watkinson Thomas Shelmerdine Martin Topham Edward Pole John Otefield William Bagshaw Assist : Samuel Charles	}	{ M ^r Henrie Buxton M ^r John Sclater John Rudyard

This day M^r Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier and after made the oration to the Classis.

This day M^r Thomas Mathewes* Bachelor of Arts late Student of Maudlin Colledge in Oxford having addressed himselfe to the Classis for ordination preached his approbation sermon and exhibited a testimoniall from the Comissioners for approbation of publicke Preaching of his ministeriall abilities under the hand of John Wye Register dated April 16, 1656 which were approved, by the Classis. The said M^r Thomas Mathews ordered to give an account of his ministeriall abilities to the Classis, the next Classicall-meeting The question uppon which the said M^r Thos Mathews is to exhibit his position is An sola fide justificemur ?

M^r Robert Porter exhibited the position given him viz^t That Christ is God.

M^r John Beardmore,† Bachelor of Arts late Student of Clare Hall in Cambridge desiring to be ordained a preaching Presbyter was ordered to preach his approbation Sermon the next Classicall-meeting, and had this Thesis given him ; viz^t An vocatio ad Christum et gratiam sit universalis et num bene distinguatur in efficacem & inefficacem.

Noted, that the next Classicall-meeting be kept at Crich M^r Edward Pole & M^r Henrie Also[‡] to preach there.

Voted, that M^r Thos : Shelmerdine be Moderator, the next Classical-meeting. M^r Coates Moderat : this day, ended with praier.

Jo : Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the county of Derby June 17 1656	}	{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting this said 17 day of June 1656
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* One Thomas Mathews was instituted to the vicarage of Alfreton in 1694, and may possible be the same man.

† In 1690, John Beardmore was appointed minister of Hognaston. One John Beardmore was instituted to the rectory of Whitwell, Derbyshire. It is just possible that it may be the same man.

‡ Henry Also[‡] was instituted to the rectory of Shirland in 1666.

	Ministers	Others
Mr	Tho Shelmerdine Moderat	Mr Henrie Buxton Mr John Sclater Edward Allen
	Peter Coates	
	Peter Watkinson	
	Hieron	
	Martin Topham	
	Robert Porter	
	Samuel More ^s	

This day Mr. Thomas Shelmerdine being Moderat^r began with Praier &c.

This day Mr Thomas Matthews (according to former order) gave an account of the worke of grace upon his soule, of his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke & Philosophie, in all which the Classis received satisfaction.

The said Mr Matthews also exhibited a certificate from Diverse ministers of his pious life & conversation & likewise the Thesis formerlie given him, both which were approved.

This day Mr Thomas Gorton Bachelor of arts late student of Trinitie Colledge in Cambridge addressed himselfe to the Classis, desiring to be ordained a Preaching Presbyter & an assistant to Mr George Crosse in the worke of the ministrie in the congregation at Chilcote in the County of Derby : & exhibited a certificate from diverse neighbouring ministers of his godlie life & conversation which was approved : whereuppon he had this thesis given him viz^t—
Utrum subjectio filii ad patrem tollit aequalitatem cum patre ?

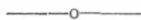
Ordered that the monthly lecture be kept at Hognaston the second Thursday in July next Mr John Sclater to procure two sermons.

Mr Thomas Egerton ordered to preach his approbation Sermon the next Classicall meeting, & to exhibit his Thesis.

Voted, that Mr Peter Coates be Moderator the next Classical meeting.

Mr Tho. Shelmerdine being Moderator this day ended with Praier.

John Rudyard, Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darby	} {	Those p'sent at the Classical Meeting this said 15 day of July 1656		
		Others		
	Ministers			
Mr	} {	Peter Coates Mod ^r	} {	Henry Buxton
		Thos Sheldmerdine		John Heapie
		Martin Topham		John Rudyard
		Robert Porter		
		John Otefield		
		Samuel Moore		
		Samuel Charles		

This day M^r Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier and after made an oration to the Classis

Because of much business this day
the Position was waved.

This day M^r Thomas Gorton (according to former order) preached his approbation Sermon which being orthodox was approved; and likewise exhibited his Thesis, and maintained a dispute upon the same wherein he gave satisfaction.

The said Tho. Gorton likewise gave account of ye work of Grace upon his soul, of his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke, & philosophie, also his knowledge in Divinitie; declared his ends in undertaking the worke of the Ministerie, and his call thereunto, in all which he gave satisfaction.

This day M^r John Beardmore gave an account of the Worke of Grace upon his soule, of his end in entering into the ministerie, of his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke, & Philosophie and likewise exhibited his Thesis, in all which he gave good satisfaction.

Ordered; that the Classical lecture be kept at Brassington, the second Thursday in August next, and that M^r John Otefield & M^r Tricket* preach then and there.

Voted that the 19 day of August next (being the ordinarie Classicall meeting) be set apart for a day of Ordination, M^r Peter Coates to preach the Ordination Sermon and to give the exhortation.

M^r Peter Coates being Moderator this day, ended with praier.

Jo. Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the County of Darby
August 19. 1656.

Minist.

M^r { Peter Coates, Moder
Tho Shelmerdine
Martin Topham
Robert Porter
John Otefield
Samuel Charles

—o—

{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting appointed
a day of ordination the said 19 Aug^t 1656.

Others

{ M^r John Sclater
William Storer
Edward Allen
Henry Buxton
John Rudyard

According to former orders M^r Peter Coates, preached the ordination Sermon, which being ended, the questions were demanded of M^r John Beardmore & M^r Thos. Gorton (who appeared for ordination this day) required to be de-

* Samuel Tricket was first appointed assistant minister at Bradbourn. He was episcopally ordained at the Restoration, and was instituted to the vicarage of Bradbourn in 1661, and transferred to the better preferment of the vicarage of Norton in 1667.

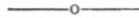
manded by the ordinance of Parliament for ordination of Ministers of the 28 August, 1646. who either of them severallie answered to all the said questions & then were ordained by praier & imposition of hands.

Then the said M^r Peter Coates made the Exhortation, concluded with praier and the blessing.

After the congregation dismissed the Lres of ordination were signed by the ordainers, and delivered to them by the scribe. The papers of their testimonialls are in the hands of the scribe. their Thesis in the hands of the Moderator for the time, when they were exhibited.

The Monthlie lecture to be kept at Crich, the second Thursday in September next. M^r Robert Porter, & M^r Michael Edge to preach.

Jo. Rudyard Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby
Sep^r 16, 1656.

{ Those p'sent at the Classicall-Meeting the
said 16 day of Sep^r 1656

Ministers

Others

M^r { Peter Coates Mod^r
Tho. Shelmerdine
Robert Porter
John Otefield
Samuel More
Samuel Charles
John Beardmore

{ Mr Henry Buxton
John Rudyard

This day M^r Peter Coates began with praier and afterwards made an oration to the Classis.

According to former order M^r Samuel Charles brought in the position given him by the Classis viz^t. that the Holy Gost is God.

Ordered that M^r Samuel More prove before the Classis at the next meeting, that the infallibilitie of Divine prescience may consist with the contingencie of Second causes.

Ordered that the Classicall lecture be kept at Matlocke the second Thursday in Octob next. M^r Tho. Shelmerdine to procure two Sermons.

M^r Edward Pole to preach the next Classicall sermon.

Voted, that M^r Robert Porter be Moderator the next Classicall meeting.

M^r Peter Coates being Moderater this day, ended with praier.

John Rudyard

Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby } { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
Octob 21 1656 } { said 21 Day of October 1656

Ministers

Others

M ^r	}	Robert Porter moderator	}	M ^r Henry Buxton
		Peter Watkinson		M ^r John Sclater
		Martin Topham		Edward Allen
		John Otefield		Henry Buxton
		Samuel More		John Rudyard. Scribe
		Samuel Charles		
		John Beardmore		

This day M^r Robert Porter being moderator began with Praier and afterwards made an oration to the Classis.

This day M^r Thomas Smith M^a of Arts late Student of Christ's college in Cambridge (having addressed himself to the Classis for ordination) preached before the Classis and his sermon being orthodox was approved. The said M^r Tho: Smith produced a certificate from his neighbouring ministers, of his ministerial abilities and pious conversation which also was approved and afterwards he gave account of the worke of grace uppon his Soule; of his knowledge of the Originall tongues & in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie, & likewise in divinitie; also of his skill to the ministrie; in all which he gave satisfaction. Whereuppon he had this Thesis given him, viz'—Utrum filius Dei vere assumpsit humanam naturam?—

This day M^r Robert Horne* Student in Divinitie addressed himself to the Classis for ordination and produced two certificates one concerning his godly conversation from his neighbouring ministers, the other from the parishioners of Nutall in the countie of Nottingham, they certifying their choice of him to be their minister which being approved he was ordered to preach before the Classis, at their next meeting.

Voted accordinglie ordered that the Classicall Lecture be kept at Atlow the second Thursday in November next, & that M^r Martin Topham preach then and there.

Voted and accordinglie ordered that there be some course taken for the reliefe of the widowes & orphans of ministers deceased within Wirkesworth Classis. Which was done as followeth

We whose names are subscribed do contribute & promise to continue the severall summes underwritten to be paid uppon the Classicall day in October yearly to the use aforesaid.

* Robert Horne was afterwards episcopally ordained. He was instituted to the rectory of West Hallam in 1663.

Robert Porter*	0-6-8	John Sclater.....	0-8-0
Peter Watkinson	1-0-0	Geo: Yates	0-8-0
Martin Topham	1-6-8	Hen Buxton	0-12-0
John Otefield.....	0-10-0	George Eyre	0-10-0
Sam: More.....	0-6-8	Hen: Buxton.....	0-10-0
Sam: Charles	0-10-0	Edward Allen	0-4-0
Sam: Trickett	0-10-0	John Rudyard	0-4-0
John Beardmore	0-10-0	Robert Newton	0-2-6
M ^r Edward Pole	0 10-0	M ^r Henry Fern	0-6-0
		Thomas Hudskinson ..	0-5-0

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis }
 in the countie of Darby }
 Novemb. 18 1656 }
 { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
 said 18 day of November 1656

	Ministers		Others	
M ^r	}	Peter Watkinson Moder ^t	}	M ^r Henry Buxton
		Martin Topham		M ^r John Sclater
		Robert Porter		Edward Allen
		John Otefield		John Rudyard
		Samuel More		
		Samuel Charles		

This day M^r Peter Watkinson being moderator begun with praier & afterwards made an oration to the Classis.

According to former order M^r Robert Horne this day preached his approbaton sermon which was orthodox & approved. the said M^r Horne likewise gave an account of the worke of Grace upon his Soule; of his skille in the Originall Tongues, & in the Artes, Logicke & Philosophie; also of his knowledge in Divinitie wherein he gave good satisfaction: whereupon he had this Thesis given him viz^t—Utrum Christus in anima passus est plus quam *συμπαθητικως*.

M^r Samuel Trickett Bachel^r of Arts late Student of Christ's colledge Cambridge minister of the word at Bradbourne within this Classis (desiring ordination) was ordered to preach his approbaton sermon at Wirkesworth upon Teusday next being the 25 day of November; & likewise to prepare to preach the next Classicall Sermon.

Voted & accordingly ordered that Wednesday the 17 day of December next be set apart for a day of ordination at Wirksworth; and that M^r Samuel Charles preach the Ordination Sermon.

This day M^r Samuel More (according to former order) brought in the position

* Most of these signatures are autographs.

Ordered that the Monthlie Lecture be kept at Balladon the second Thursday in December next & that M^r Samuel More preach then & there.

M^r Peter Watkinson to continue Moderator, who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard

Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby }
Decemb 16 1656

{ These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the
said 16th day of December : 1656

Ministers

Others

M^r { Peter Watkinson Moderd :
Martin Topham
Edward Pole
John Otefield
John Beardmore

{ M^r John Sclater
John Rudyard

This day M^r Peter Watkinson being moderator began with Praier & after made an oration to the Classis. M^r John Hicke^s* Bach^r of Arts late student of Peterhouse College in Cambridge, having addressed himselfe to the Classis desiring to be ordained a Preaching Presbyter; preached his approbaton sermon which being orthodox was approved afterwards the said Jo Hicks produced certificate from his neighbouring Minist^rs of his Piety, & abilities for the worke of the ministrie more particularie M^r George Crosse certifying that the s^d M^r Hicke being ordained is to officiate as his Assistant in the Parish of Clifton Camville in the Countie of Stafforde & Darbie which certificate was approved Likewise the said M^r John Hicke gave an account of the worke of Grace upon his Soule of his call to the ministrie: of his skille in the Originall Tongues, also in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie & of his knowledge in Divinitie, in all which the Classis received satisfaction. The said M^r Hicke also exhibited his Thesis viz^t—

M^r John Spilsbury Master of Arts late fellow of Maudline Colledge in Oxforde having addressed himselfe to this Classis for ordinacion produced severall certificates in order thereunto whereupon the Classis tooke an account of the Worke of Grace upon his soule of his endes in entering into the Ministrie, of his skille in the Originall Tongues, & in the Arts Logicke & Philosophie also of his knowledge in Divinitie in all which he gave good satisfaction.

The aforesaid M^r John Spilsbury likewise exhibited his Thesis viz^t—

* John Hicke (or Hicks), after serving for a short time as assistant minister in the parish of Clifton Camville, proceeded into Devonshire, where he held the benefice of Stoke. After his ejection in 1662, he resided at Portsmouth, but joining the Duke of Monmouth's army, he was executed in 1685.

M^r Samuel Tricket (according to former orders) gave an account of the Worke of Grace upon his soule, of his skill in the Originall Tongues & in the arts Logicke & Philosophie; & of his knowledge in Divinitie wherein he gave good satisfaction.

Likewise the said M^r Samuel Tricket exhibited his Thesis viz^t

An fides sit instrumentum Justificationis

M^r John Hill Bachelor of Arts late Student of Pembroke College in Oxforde having addressed himselfe to the Classis for ordination—produced his certificates from his neighbouring Ministers, which was approved; also gave an account of the work of Grace upon his soule, of his skill in the Originall Tongues, & in the Artes Logicke & Philosophie wherein he gave satisfaction. Likewise

M^r Thomas Smith & M^r Robert Horne this day exhibited their Theses, which were approved.

Voted that the next Classical Lecture be kept at Hognaston M^r John Beardmore to preach.

Voted that M^r John Beardmore be an Assistant to this Classis.

Voted that Mr. Martin Topham be Moderator next ordinarie meeting.

Mr. Peter Watkinson being Moderator ended with Praier.

M ^r	{	John Spilsbury Samuel Tricket Thomas Smith John Hill	}	Officiateth	at	{	Bromsgrove, Worcestershire Bradburne, Derbyshire Castle Dunnington Leicestershire Doverdale, Worcestershire	}
							Jo: Rudyard, Scribe.	

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby Dec. 17. 1656	}	{	These p'sent at an extraordinarie meeting of the Classis appointed for ye ordination of M ^r John Spilsbury, M ^r Samuel Tricket, M ^r John Hicques, M ^r John Hill, M ^r Thomas Mathewes, M ^r Thomas Smith, M ^r Robert Horne, the saide 17th Dec 1656
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	Ministers		Others	
M ^r	{	Peter Watkinson Moderat ^r Martin Topham Edward Pole John Otefield Samuel Charles John Beardmore	{	M ^r Henrie Buxton John Rudyard

According to former order M^r Samuel Charles preached the Ordination Sermon in the Parish Church of Wirkesworth, which being ended the questions were demanded of the above said M^r Jo: Spilsburie, M^r Samuel Tricket, M^r Jo: Hicks, M^r Jo: Hill, M^r.Tho: Mathews, M^r Tho: Smith, M^r Robert

Horne required to be demanded by the Ordinance of Parliament for Ordination of Ministers, of the 28 August, 1646 who each of them severally answered to all the said questions, & then were ordained by praier & imposition of hands.

Then the said M^r Samuel Charles made the exhortacion, concluded with praier & the blessing.

After the Congregation dismissed; the L^res of Ordination were signed by the Ordainers, and delivered to them by the Scribe.

The papers of their testimonials are in the custodie of the Scribe, their Theses in the hands of the Moderator.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darby Jan 20 1656 Ministers	}	{ These p ^r sent at the Classicall-meeting the said 20 of January 1656.	
Mr { { Martin Topham Mod ^r { Thomas Shelmerdine { John Otefield { William Bagshaw { Samuel Charles { Samuel Tricket	} } } } } } }	Others { Henry Buxton { Edward Allen { Edward Storer { John Heapie { John Rudyard	} } } } } }

This day Mr Martin Topham being Moderator, began with praier.

M^r Mathias Hill bachelor of Arts & late Student in Catherine Hall in Cambridge, having addressed himselfe to the Classes for ordination, preached his approbacon Sermon which being orthodox, was approued, whereuppon he had this Thesis given him, viz^t Utrum impetratio Christi consistere possit cum omnium damnatione.

Voted, that the next Classicall lecture be kept at Balladon the second Thursday in Februar next and that M^r Samuel More & M^r Thomas Mathews preach then & there. Whereas there is a weeklie Lecture kept at Wirkesworth by certaine Ministers of this Classis everie one of them his month by course it is therefore noted & accordinglie ordered this day that he shall preach the Classicall Sermon within whose month so ever it falleth.

Voted, that M^r Martin Topham continue Moderator; who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie Feb 17 1656.	}	{ These p ^r sent at the Classical-meeting the said 17 Feb 1656
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	Minis ^{rs}		Others		
{	}	Martin Topham Moderat	{	M ^r John Sclater	
		Peter Watkinson		John Rudyard	
		Thomas Shelmerdine			
		Edward Pole	{	M ^r Samuel Tricket is this day	
		John Otefield		voted Assistant to this Classis	
		Samuel Tricket			

This day M^r Martin Topham being Moderator began with praier, and then made an oration to the Classis.

M^r Ffrancis Lowe Bachelor of Arts, late Student of Brasnose Colledge in Oxford, having desired to be ordained a preaching Presbyter produced two certificates, in order thereunto, gave an account of the worke of Grace upon his Soule, of his call to the Ministerie, of his skill in the Originall tongues & in the Arts Logicke & philosophie, likewise of his knowledge in divinitie; in all which he gave satisfaction.

The said Mr. Ffrancis Lowe preached (this day) before the Classis, and his sermon being orthodox was approved.

Ordered that the next Monthlie lecture be kept at Bonteshall & that M^r Edward Pole provide a sermon.

Voted that M^r Peter Coates be Moderator at the next Classicall-meeting
M^r Martin Topham being Moderator this day ended with praier

Jo: Rudyard,

Scribe

—o—

{	}	Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darby March 17 1656	{	These p'sent at the Classicall-Meeting this said 17 March 1656		
		Ministers		Others		
{	}	Peter Coates, Mod ^r	{	}	}	M ^r Henry Buxton
		Peter Watkinson				John Rudyard
		Martin Topham				
		Edward Pole				
		John Otefield				
		Samuel Tricket				

This day M^r Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier & afterwards made an oration to y^e Classis.

M^r Thomas Hutchinson Bachelor of Arts, late student Maudlin Colledge in Cambridge desiring to be ordained a preaching Presbyter, & being a man well knowne to this Classis, and because the place of his aboad is farr distant from this Classis, had therefore this Thesis sent him, vizt An decretum divinum tollat Liberum arbitrium?

Voted, that the 20 day of May next be set apart for a day of Ordinacion.

M^r Peter Coates to continue Moderator the next meeting of the Classis, who this day Moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the Countie of Darby }
April 21. 1657. } { These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting
the said 21 April 1657

	Min ^{tr}		Others
	Peter Coates, Moder; Peter Watkinson Tho. Shelmerdine Martin Topham Edward Pole Saml Tricket Samuel More Samuel Charles John Otefield	}	M ^r John Sclater John Rudyard <hr/> M ^r Peter Coates being the Moderator this day began with praier & made an oration to the Classis.
M ^r			

This day, ——— Boylston* Dr. in Divinitie preached before the Classis; his sermon was well approved.

M^r Ffrancis Low this day exhibited his Thesis which was approved; but because there was a report to the Classis, that the said M^r Ffrancis Low was scandalous in his life and conversacon, therefore it was ordered that intimacon should be forthwith sent unto Marple Chappell in the Parish of Stockport the place of his residence that if any person or persons could object any thing against him, they might exhibit the same unto the above-named Moderator.

M^r Daniel Shelmerdine† Bachelor of Arts, late Student of ———‡

* John Boylston, D.D., was appointed to the rectory of Weston-on-Trent, Derbyshire, in 1648. After the Restoration he became a staunch Churchman and an eminent pluralist. He held the stall of Sandiacre, in Lichfield Cathedral, was rector of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, and also minister of All Saints, Derby.

† Daniel Shelmerdine was son of Thomas Shelmerdine, minister of Matlock. He was born at Crich, when his father held that vicarage in 1636, so that we gather from this that the Wirksworth Classis would ordain at the age of 20. He became minister of Barrow-cum-Twyford, where he remained till his ejection in 1662. He died at Findern in 1699, and was buried in that Church. For further particulars respecting him, see *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. iv, p. 26.

‡ This blank should be filled up with "Christ's College, Cambridge."

being a man well known to this Classis, desiring ordinacon, had this Thesis given him viz^t. An scripturæ sunt perfectæ.

M^r James Sutton having formerly addressed himself to this Classis for ordination, and appearing this day agⁿ had this Thesis given him viz^t An Scripture autoritas pendit ab Ecclesia?

M^r Abraham Smith Student in Divinitie desiring ordinacon, had this Thesis given him (uppon the producing of his certificates) viz^t Utrum successio ministroru' sit ecclesiæ veræ essentialis?

Ordered that the fifth day of May next be set apart for the examination of the ministeriall abilities of such as have desired ordination.

Voted that M^r Martin Topham preach the next ordinacon sermon & give the exhortation.

Voted, that the Monthlie lecture be kept at Southwingfield the second Thursday in May next, & that M^r Peter Coates procure two sermons & moderate the next meeting who this day moderating ended with prayer.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.



Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby May 5 1657	}	These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said 5 day of May 1657
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Ministers

Others

M ^r	{	Peter Coates Mod: Peter Watkinson Thomas Shelmerdine Martin Topham John Otefield Samuel Tricket	}	M ^r John Sclater John Heapie John Rudyard
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This day M^r Peter Coates being moderator began with praier.

This day M^r James Sutton gave an account of the worke of Grace uppon his soule, of skille in the originall tongues, & in the Artes & Logicke & Philosophie, also of his knowledge in Divinitie, in all which he gave satisfaction.

Afterwardes M^r Matthias Hill & M^r Thomas Smith being examined concerning their ministeriall abilities were desired to give further satisfaction to the Classis, the next Classicall meeting.

M^r James Sutton preached & his sermon approved.

M^r Coates moderator ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
 Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the countie of Darbie
May 19 1657

These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
said 19 day of May 1657

Minis ^t		Others	
Mr	Peter Coates Mod;	}	}
	Tho : Shelmerdine		
	Martin Topham		
	Robert Porter		
	John Otefield		
	Samuel Moore		
	Samuel Tricket		Mr Henry Buxton sen ^r
			Mr Henry Buxton jun ^r

This day Mr Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier, but omitted the oration because of other businesse.

This day Mr Thomas Hutchinson gave an account of the worke of Grace upon his soule of his skill in the originall tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke and Philosophie, also of his knowledge in Divinity in all which he gave good satisfaction.

Likewise the said Mr. Hutchinson produced his certificates and exhibited his Thesis, which were approved.

Mr Matthias Hill being examined the second time was not approved at p'sent, but desired to endeavour after more sufficiency.

Also Mr Tho: Smith exhibited his Thesis but was not approved.

This day Mr Badland* Southall & Mr desiring ordination & having preached before the Classis were approved for their Sermons.

Likewise the said Mr Badland & Mr Southall exhibited their Testimonials, were examined & having given full satisfaction of their ministeriall abilities were admitted to ordinacon.

This day Mr. Ffrancis Lowes busines was taken into consideracon, his intimacon brought in & William Hollinworth excepted ag^t him, whereupon it was resolved that his ordinacon should be for the p'sent suspended, that his accusers may (if they can) make further proofs of their accusations otherwise he is to be proceeded with, the next Ordinacon.

Mr Thos. Shelmerdine voted Moderator the next Classicall-meeting.

Mr Peter Coates being Moderator ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard

Scribe.

* This was probably Mr. Thomas Badland, ejected from Willenhall, Staffordshire, in 1662. He afterwards resided at Worcester.

Wirkesworth Classis } { Those p'sent at an extraordinary meeting of
in the County of Darby } the Classis being appointed a day of
May 20 1657 } ordination.
Minist : Others.

Mr	}	Peter Coates Mod :	}	{	Henry Buxton
		Tho : Shelmerdine			James Addams & cce
		Martin Topham			
		Robert Porter			
		John Otefield			

This day Mr _____ preached.

After the Sermon was ended Mr Daniel Shelmerdine, Mr Thos : Hutchinson, Mr Badland, Mr. Southall & Mr James Sutton* being this day to be ordained, the questions were demanded of them that are required to be demanded by the Ordinance of Parliam^t for ordination of Ministers of the 28 of August 1646, who each of them severally answered to all the said questions & then were ordained by praier & imposition of hands.

Then the said Mr _____ who preached the Ordinacon Sermon made the exhortacon, concluded with praier & the Blessing.

After the Congregation dismissed the Lres of Ordination were signed by the ordainers and delivered to them.

The papers of their testimonialls are in the hands of the Scribe, & their Theses in the hands of the Moderator for the time when they were exhibited.

Jo : Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis } { These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the
in the Countie of Darbie } said 16 day of June 1657
June 16 1657 }
Minist^{rs} Others

Mr	}	Tho. Shelmerdine Mod :	}	{	M ^r Henrie Buxton sen ^r
		Peter Coates			M ^r Henrie Buxton jun ^r
		Peter Watkinson			Edward Allen
		Hieron			John Heapie
		Martin Topham			John Rudyard
		Robert Porter			
		John Otefield			
		Samuel Charles			

This day Mr. Tho. Shelmerdine being Moderator began with Praier & then made an oration to the Classis.

Mr Tho. Smith being suspended from ordination desired that his certificates might be delivered backe agⁿ to him ; whereuppon it was ordered that the Scribe should bring them to Wirkesworth uppon Tuesday next & likewise the

* James Sutton was ordained minister for Crich.

papers of M^r Francis Lowe's testimonial; that so the said M^r Smith & M^r Lowe might have them.

Voted that the Monthlie Lecture be kept at Crich the second Thursday in Julie next; & that M^r Peter Coates & M^r Hieron preach then and there.

M^r Tho Shelmerdine to continue Moderator who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard

Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the County of Darby
July 21 1657

Minist:

M^r { Tho. Shelmerdine Mod^r
Martin Topham
John Otefield
Sam. Tricket
James Sutton

{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
said 21 July 1657

others

{ M^r Henry Buxton sen^r
John Rudyard

This day M^r Tho. Shelmerdine being moderator began with praier & after made an oration to the Classis.

M^r Samuel Tricket according to the order of the Classis proved ag^t the Socinians that man was created in the Image of God, which consisted not only in dominion over the Creatures, but in righteousness & true holiness.

M^r Thomas Gilliver B.A. late student of Maudlin Hall in Oxford, desiring ordination, was ordered to give an account to the Classis of his ministerial capabilities the next meeting of the Classis and to bring his Certificates.

M^r John Baker B.A. late Student of Peterhouse in Cambridge desiring ordination was ordered to preach before the Classis at the next meeting.

Voted that M^r Robert Porter be moderator the next Classicall meeting.

M^r Shelmerdine being moderator this day ended with Praier.

Jo: Rudyard

Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the County of Darbie
August 18 1657.

Minist:

M^r { Robert Porter mod:
Martin Topham
Edward Pole
John Otefield
Sam: Tricket

{ These p'sent at the Classical meeting the
said 18 Aug: 1657.

Others

{ M^r Hen: Buxton sen^r
M^r Hen: Buxton jun^r
John Rudyard

This day Mr Robert Porter being moderator began with Praier and then made an oration to the Classis.

This day Mr John Baker preached before the Classis according to former order and his Sermon being orthodox was approved. The said Mr Baker also exhibited a certificate from certaine ministers of his ministeriall abilities & godlie conversaton; gave some account to the Classis of his abilities & was ordered to give further account.

Mr John-Kelsall Student in Divinitie; desiring ordination, was ordered to bring his certificates & to give account of his ministeriall abilities.

Ordered, that everie Classicall meeting some minister belonging to the Classis preach the Classicall Sermon & that Mr Peter Coates preach before the Classis at the next meeting.

Ordered, that the monthly Lecture be kept at Pentridge the first Thursday in Sept: next and that Mr Martin Topham and Mr John Otefield preach then & there.

Mr Porter to continue Moderator, who this day moderating ended with Praier.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis }
in the Countie of Darby }
Sept: 15 1647 }

Minist :

Mr { Robert Porter Mod :
Peter Coates
Peter Watkinson
Tho Shelmerdine
Martin Topham
Edward Pole
John Otefield
Sam : Tricket
James Sutton }

These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
said 15 of Septemb : 1657

Others.

Mr Hen : Buxton sen^r
Robert Storer
Edward Allen
John Rudyard

Mr Peter Coates preached
according to former order & his
Sermon was approved.

This day Mr Kobert Porter being Moderator began with Praier & afterwards made an exhortation to the Classis.

Mr Samuel Shaw* B.A late student of St. John's Colledge Cambridge

* Samuel Shaw was born at Repton in 1635, where he was educated. On taking his degree he was appointed master of the Free School at Tamworth, from whence he appealed to the Wirksworth Classis for ordination in order to act as assistant minister at Moseley, Worcestershire. In 1658, the Protector presented him to the rectory of Long Whatton, Leicestershire, whence he was ejected in 1661. In 1668 he was appointed to the Free School, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, which he held till his death in January, 1695-6. He was an able scholar, and besides numerous sermons and theological works, he published a Latin Grammar, and also two comedies, which were acted by his schoolboys at Christmas time.

desiring ordinacon, as an assistant to M^r Hall in the worke of the ministrie in the Congregation at Moseley in the Countie of Worcester, exhibited his certificates which were approved, whereuppon he was ordered to preach his approbacon Sermon at Wirkesworth uppon the 6th day of October next.

Ordered that M^r Tho: Shelmerdine preach the next Classicall sermon, & that M^r Edward Pole be moderator the next Classicall meeting.

Whereas some of the Elders of the church at Kirk Ireton within this Classis, have addressed themselves this day, & the last Classicall meeting also, to the Classis, & have here declared that Robert Storer (one of the Elders of the said church) is diverselie aspersed by many men's reports as guiltie of some scandalous offences, which tend much to the reproach of him the said Robert Storer, & the great scandall of the Church of Christ. It is this day therefore ordered that M^r Martin Topham minister of Wirkesworth, William Storer & Edward Allen elders of the said church at Wirkesworth & M^r John Sclater elder of the church at Hognaston or anie three of them do joine with the congregationall eldership of Kirk Ireton aforesaid who are hereby required to meete at the time & place hereafter mentioned to examine the busines & uppon hearing the complaintes of his accusers, & his defence to make reporte to the Classis what is produced on either part, that the Classis may be enabled to proceede with more clearnes in the case either to censure or to acquit the said Robert Storer concerning the scandall that have been or then shall be charged uppon him. It is also ordered; that the Elders above named meet together uppon Teusday next being the 22 of this p^sent Sept: at the Vicarage in Wirkesworth by one of the clocke in the afternoone of the same day, then & there to take what cognizance they may, concerning the said accusation & defence. And the said Robert Storer is hereby required to make his personall appearance before the persons abovenamed, & likewise that his accusers be certified of the time & place, that they may also appeare to obiect & prove what they can against the said Robert Storer which that they may take the better notice of it is ordered that this order of the Classis be published in the Congregation at K: Ireton the next Lordes day by M^r Peter Watkinson Pastor of the congregation there.

M^r Robert Porter being moderator this day ended with Praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby }
October 20 1657 } { Those p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the
said 20 day of October 1657.

Ministrs		Others	
M ^r	Edward Pole Moderator	Robert Storer	
	Peter Watkinson		Thomas Mellor
	Tho. Shelmerdine		John Heapie
	Hieron		John Rudyard
	Martin Topham		
	Robert Porter		
	John Otefield		
	Samuel Charles		
Samuel Tricket			
James Sutton			

This day M^r Edward Pole being Moderator began with praier, and afterwards made an exhortation to the Classis.

M^r Tho. Shelmerdine preached before the Classis this day & his Sermon was approved.

This day M^r John Kelsall exhibited a certificate from divers of his neighbouring ministers about Hathersage of his Ministeriall qualifications & their desire of his ordination & admission into the Ministerie which was approved.

This day report was made to the Classis what was done in the busines concerning Robert Storer, and it was declared that the Classis order was read in the congregation at Kirk Ireton Sep^t 20 last and uppon Sep^t 22 the persons nominated in the said order and appointed thereby did meet at M^r Topham's house in Wirkesworth, according to the said order & likewise there were p'sent at the same time and place, M^r Edward Pole, M^r John Otefield & M^r Samuel Tricket who also took notes of the busines, where also appeared M^r Robert Mellor. John Storer of Idrichay. and some others who accused the said Robert Storer. ag^t which accusation the said Robert Storer made his defence.

And uppon the hearing of the said accusations & defence the Classis doth app^rhend the said Robert Storer not to be guilty of any scandalls which were charged uppon him.

Ordered that M^r Peter Watkinson preach the next Classicall Sermon, & that M^r Edward Pole moderate the next meeting.

M^r Edward Pole being Moderator this day ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis } { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
in the Countie of Darbie } { said 17 day of Novemb 1657

	Ministers		Others	
M ^r	{	Edw. Pole Mod :	{	Thomas Mellor
		Tho: Shelmerdine		
		Martin Topham		
		John Otefield		
		Samuel Tricket		

M^r Pole being Moderator this day began with praier, M^r _____ preached and his sermon approved.

This day M^r Ffrancis Low made a further addresse to the Classis for ordination; and was dismissed. This day M^r John Kelsall did submit it examination, concerning his ministerial qualifications, & was approved.

Likewise M John Baker was re-examined & was approved.

M^r John Kelsall had this question viz An justificatio sit more gratuita?

M^r John Baker had this question viz An primo primimotus concupiscentia sint peccatar?

The questions are to be exhibited the next Classicall meeting.

Voted that M^r John Otefield be Moderator the next Classicall meeting, & that M^r Peter Watkinson preach the next Classicall sermon.

M^r Pole, Moderator this day ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis } { These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the
in the Countie of Darby } { said 15 day of Decemb 1657.

	Ministers		Others	
M ^r	{	John Otefield Mod ^r	{	Mr John Sclater John Heapie John Rudyard
		Peter Walkington		
		Tho: Shelmerdine		
		Martin Topham		
		Edward Pole		
		Samuel Tricket		

M^r John Otefield being moderator this day began with praier but waved the oration.

M^r Peter Watkinson preached the Classicall Sermon (according to order) which was well approved. This day M^r Samuel Shaw was examined concerning his ministerial abilities and was approved.

The said M^r Samuel Shaw likewise exhibited his Thesis, which was given him when he preached his approbation sermon; viz—An insonti Christi 70 mori consistat cum dei justus esse (sic)? which was approved.

M^r John Baker and M^r John Kelsall likewise exhibited their Theses which also were approved.

Ordered that the second Tuesday in January next be set apart for a day of Ordination. Ordered that M^r Martin Topham preach the Ordination Sermon at Wirksworth and give the exhortation.

Ordered that M^r Robert Porter preach the next Classical Sermon or M^r John Otefield in his absence. M^r John Otefield is to continue mod^r who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie January 12 1657	}	{ Those p'sent at the Classicall meeting appointed for the ordination of M ^r Samuel Shaw M ^r John Kelsall & M ^r John Baker.
	}	Others.
	}	Ministers.
M ^r	{	John Otefield, Mod ^r Peter Watkinson Tho : Shelmerdine Martin Topham Edward Pole Samuel Moore Samuel Tricket
	}	{ William Storer Robert Storer Edward Storer Henry Buxton de mil-houses John Heapy John Rudyard

This day (according to the order of the Classis) M^r Martin Topham preached the Ordination Sermon in the Church of Wirksworth, which being ended the said M^r Samuel Shaw, M^r John Kelsall* & M^r John Baker did each of them severally answer to all the questions required to be demanded by the Ordinance of Parliam^t for ordination of Ministers of the 28 Aug^t 1646; & then were severally ordained by praier and imposition of hands.

Then the said M^r Martin Topham made the exhortation, concluded with praier and the blessing.

After the congregaton was dismissed, the Lre's of their ordination were signed by the Ordainers and delivered to them by the scribe.

The papers of their testimonials are in the handes of the Scribe & their Theses in the handes of the Moderator for the time when they were exhibited.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darbie, January 19 1657.	}	{ These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the said 19 day of January 1657.
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* John Kelsall was ordained to the lectureship at Ashbourn.

	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{ John Otefield Mod ^r Martin Topham Samuel Tricket	}	{ John Rudyard

This day M^r John Otefield (in the absence of M^r Robert Porter) preached the Classicall Sermon

And because of the smale appearance this day, the Classis was adiourned untill the next ordinary meeting.

M^r Edward Pole to preach the next Classicall Sermon.

John Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the county of Darby February 16, 1657	}	{	Those p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting the said 16 day of February 1657
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	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{ John Otefield Mod ^r Martin Topham Edward Pole Samuel Tricket	}	{ M ^r Henrie Buxton John Rudyard

This day M^r John Otefield being moderator began with prair.

M^r Edward Pole (according to order) preached the Classicall sermon, which was approved.

M^r Thomas Gilliver this day made further addresse to the classis for ordination, but was not examined because of the smale appearance.

Voted, that M^r Robert Porter preach the next Classicall sermon, or in his absence he that is to preach the monthlie lecture that day.

M^r John Otefield to continue moderator who, this day moderating ended with prair.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darbie March 16 1657	}	{	Those p ^r sent at the Classicall meeting the said 16 day of March 1657
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	Ministers		Others
M ^r	{ John Otefield Moderator Peter Watkinson Martin Topham Edward Pole. — Briggess assistant pro tempore	}	{ M ^r Henry Buxton sen John Rudyard

M^r John Otefield being Moderator (this day) began wth praier, but waved the exhortation.

This day Mr. John Kaye, B A late Student of Clarehall in Cambridge having addressed himself to the Classis for ordination, preached his approbation sermon before the Classis, and afterwarde gave an account of the worke of grace upon his soule; of his call to the Ministerie of the Gospell of his skille in the originall tongues, & in the Artes Logicke & Philosophie, also of his knowledge in Divinitie, in which he gave satisfaction.

The said M^r John Kaye also produced a certificate from his neighbouring Ministers of his Godlie life, and conversation, which was also approved whereupon he had this Thesis given him viz^t

Voted that the third Tuesday in Aprill next (being the ordinarie Classicall-meeting) be also a day of ordination, and that M^r Robert Porter preach the ordination sermon, and exhort.

Voted, that M^r John Otefield continue Moderator, who this day Moderating ended with praier.

The above-named M^r Kaye did also exhibit a certificate from the parishioners of Dewsbury in the County of Yorke (where he preacheth the Word, & is to officiate) concerning their approbacon of him.

Jo: Rudyard, scribe.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis } in the County of Darby } Aprill 20 1658. }	{ These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting (being also a day of ordinacon) the said 20 day of Aprill 1658
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Minit: { John Otefield Moderat: Tho. Shelmerdine Martin Topham M ^r Robert Porter Edward Pole Samuel More Samuel Charles	Others { M ^r Henry Buxton William Storer Edward Allen John Heapie John Rudyard
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This day M^r John Otefield being Moderator began with praier.

Afterwards M^r John Kaye exhibited his position viz^t.—An Christi obedientia concurrit ad nostram justificationem—which was approved.

M^r Thomas Gilliver having formerlie made his addresses to the Classis for ordinacon and appearing again this day upon the same accounts gave an account of the worke of Grace upon his soule, of his skill in the Originall Tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke & Philosophie, also of his knowledge in Divinitie & having likewise received a Thesis viz^t: An vocatio & missio sit necessaria ijs qui Evangeliiu' docent—did exhibit the same and was in all these approved.

Whereupon the Classis went into the Parish Church at Wirksworth where the Congregacon being gather M^r Robert Porter preached the ordinacon Sermon which ended, the questions were demanded of the said M^r John Kay & M^r Thomas Gilliver required to be demanded by the ordinance of Parl : of the 20 of Aug 1646 who severally answered to all the said questions & then were ordained by praier & imposition of hands, then the said M^r Robert Porter gave the exhortation, concluded with praier & the blessing.

After the congreagacon dismissed the Lres of ordinacon were signed by the ordainers & delivered to them by the Scribe.

The papers of their Testimonials are in the custodie of the Scribe, their Theses in the hands of the moderator.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

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Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darby May 18, 1658.	}	These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said 18 day of May 1658.
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Minist:

Others

M ^r John Otefield moderator	}	M ^r John Sclater John Rudyard
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Because there was so smale an appearance this day there was nothing done.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

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Wirkesworth Classis in the Countie of Darby June 15 1658.	}	These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said 15 day of June 1658.
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Minist:

Others

M ^r {	{	{
Peter Watkinson	}	John Rudyard
Martin Topham	}	
Robert Porter	}	

Because of the smale appearance this day the Classis was adiourned.

John Rudyard

Scribe.

—o—

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby July 20 1658	}	These p'sent at the Classicall Meeting the said 20 day of July 1658.
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M ^r {	}	{
John Otefield Moderat:	}	John Rudyard
Tho: Shelmerdine	}	
Samuel Trickett	}	

This day the Classis was adiourned.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby Aug 17 1658 Ministers { John Otefield Mod : Peter Watkinson Tho Shelmerdine Mr { Martin Topham Robert Porter Samuel Moore Samuel Tricket	{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said 17 day of Aug 1658	Others { Mr John Sclater John Rudyard <hr/> This day M ^r John Otefield being Moderator began with praier
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This day M^r Edward Mainwaring having made his addresse to the Classis for ordination preached his approbation sermon which was approved.

Voted that Septemb. 1. next be observed for a private day of humiliation at the Vicarage in Wirkesworth by the Ministers of this Classis.

M^r John Sanders M^r of Artes late Student of Queenes Colledge in Cambridge having addressed himselfe to the Classis for ordination is to preach before the Classis at the next ordinary meeting & in case he be absent then M^r Martin Topham to preach the Classicall sermon.

The Classis being solicited for two sermons at Elton; it is ordered that M^r Edward Pole & M^r John Otefield preach there upon the second Thursday on September next.

Voted that M^r Peter Coates be moderator the next Classicall meeting.

M^r John Otefield being moderator this day ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the county of Darbie Septemb: 21 1658 Ministers { Peter Coates Mod : Peter Watkinson Tho: Shelmerdine Mr { Martin Topham Robert Porter John Otefield Samuel Moore Samuel Tricket	{ These p'sent at the Classicall meeting the said 21 day of September 1658	Others { Henry Buxton Esqr
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M^r Peter Coates being moderator this day began with praier.

This day M^r John Sanders preached before the Classis & his Sermon was orthodox and approved.

The said M^r Sanders also was examined of the worke of grace upon his

soule, of his skill in the originall Tongues, & in the Arts, Logicke & Philosophie, likewise of his knowledge in Divinity in all which he gave satisfaction, whereupon he had this Thesis viz—An originale peccatum, sit peccatum proprie dictum?

M^r Peter Watkinson to bring in the position ag^t the Socinians at the next Class-meeting viz.

Voted that M^r Peter Coates continue moderator who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis in the County of Darby Octob. 19. 1658	}	These p ^r sent at the Classical meeting the same 19 day of Octob ^r
Ministers		Others
M ^r { Peter Coates Mod ; Tho Sheldermine Hieron Martin Topham Robert Porter Edward Pole John Otefield Samuel Tricket James Sutton	}	M ^r John Sclater John Rudyard. <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 10px auto;"/> M ^r Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier

This day M^r Thomas Stanhope* B.A. late Student of S^t John's Colledge in Cambridge having addressed himselfe to the Classis for Ordination, preached before the Classis & his Sermon was approved.

This day M^r Edward Mainwaring Student in Divinitie late of S^t John's Colledge in Cambridge & also the said M^r Thomas Stanhope were examined of the worke of Grace upon their Soules, of their Skill in the Originall tongues, & in the Arts Logick & Philosophic : also of their knowledge in Divinity, in all wh they gave satisfaction.

M^r Tho Stanhope had this Thesis given him viz :

An detur salus extra Christum ?

Ordered that M^r Peter Watkinson do exhibit the position of the Socinians at the next Class-meeting.

Ordered that Nov. 2 be kept as an extraordinary meeting of the Classis for the re-examining of M^r Matthias Hill and M^r Abraham Smith.

* Thomas Stanhope was ordained to be assistant minister at Hartshorn, Derbyshire. He was son of George Stanhope, D.D., third son of Sir Edward Stanhope, of Grimston. At the Restoration he was episcopally ordained, and was instituted to the rectory of Hartshorn on May 9th, 1663. He was father of George Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, the voluminous author.

Ordered that ye 17 day of November next be set apart for a day of Ordination at Wirkesworthe & that M^r Edward Pole preach the ordinacon & exhort sermon.

Ordered that M^r Samuel Moore preach the next Classicall & exhort Sermon
M^r Peter Coates continue moderator who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darbie
the 2 of November 1658

These p^rsent at an Extraordinary meeting
of the Classis for the examination of M^r
Mathias Hill & Mr. Abraham Smith
the second time.

Ministers

M^r { Thomas Shelmerdine
Edward Pole
John Otefield
Samuel Tricket

This day M^r Mathias Hill and M^r Abraham Smith were examined concerning their ministeriall abilities & were ordered to give further account unto the Classis at the next Classical meeting

The said M^r Matthias Hill had this Thesis given him viz: An roginitia (*sic*) gratiâ totaliter deficere possunt?

M^r Abraham Smith had this thesis given him viz, Utrum non obstante Christi merito iustificatio nostra sit gratuita?

Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darbie
Novemb: 16 1658

These p^rsent at the Classicall meeting the
said 16 of Novemb 1658.

M^r { Peter Coates Mod:
Tho Shelmerdine
Robert Porter
Edward Pole
John Otefield
Sam Moore
Sam Tricket

M^r Henry Buxton
John Rudyard

M^r Samuel Moore preached
the Classical sermon and was
approved.

M^r Peter Coates being Moderator began with praier & after made an exhortation to ye Classis.

M^r Edward Mainwaring exhibited his Thesis this day viz; An mors sit sequela naturæ vel peccati, sit pœna peccati nequaquam naturæ sequela? & maintained a dispute uppon the same wherein he gave satisfacton.

M^r Matthias Hill exhibited his Thesis was examined but not approved.

Also M^r John Sanders, M^r Thomas Stanhope & M^r Abraham Smith exhibited their theses maintained disputes uppon the same & gave satisfaction.

Voted : that the Classicall meeting for the next three months be kept at Crich the next day after the ordinarie Classicall day in each month. M^r Samuel Tricket to preach the next Classicall Sermon.

M^r Peter Coates to continue moderator, who this day moderating ended with praier.

Jo: Rudyard
Scribe.

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Wirkesworth Classis
in the Countie of Darby
Novemb; 17-1658

Ministers

M^r { Coates Moderator
Shelmerdine
Porter
Page
Otefield
Moore
Tricket

{ These p'sent at the Classical Meeting the
said 17 day of November being a day of
ordinacon

others

{ M Henry Buxton
John Heapie
John Rudyard

This day M^r Edward Pole preached the ordinacon sermon in the Parish church at Wirkesworth which ended the questions were demanded of M^r Tho: Stanhope, M^r John Sanders M^r Edward Mainwaring, & M^r Abraham Smith required to be demanded of them by the Ordinance for Ordinacon of ministers of the 28 of August 1646 who each of them answered to all the said questions; & then were severally ordained by praier & imposition of hands.

The said M^r Edward Pole gave the exhortation, concluded with praier & the blessing.

After the congregation dismissed the Lres of their ordinacon were signed by the ordainers & delivered unto them by the Scribe.

Their Theses are in the handes of the Moderator the papers of their testimonials in the hands of the Scribe.

John Rudyard

Scribe.