

church met in an upper room in Gadsby's Yard off Tottenham Court Road. They decided to aim at forming a Strict Baptist church, and obtained the countenance of John Kershaw of Rochdale. They bought the lease of a chapel in Eden street, off the Hampstead road, hitherto used by the New Connexion; and it was opened under these new auspices by John Warburton of Trowbridge. They then felt strong enough to form a church, and five men on 25th May, 1843, gave one another the right hand of fellowship. Gadsby came next month to recognize the church, which had grown to number twenty. For eleven years there was steady progress, with supplies, and in 1854 the church bought from Arthur Triggs the diminished lease of the Gower street premises, and Kershaw re-opened it for them next year. Within five years they enlarged it, and the building then bore the two dates 1820, 1860. Some of the members had belonged to the original non-Baptist church of 1813, and by degrees this 1843 Baptist church came to consider itself a Baptist church of 1820. The lease was due to expire on 24th March, 1919, and so the provident church looked ahead and bought from another Strict Baptist church the freehold chapel on Shaftesbury Avenue, which it re-named Gower Street Memorial, and occupied in April 1917.

The Gower street premises, still bearing the outward semblance of a chapel, are now used as a furniture-warehouse. In this they are rather like the chapel at Nottingham, where Carey preached his famous sermon; but that is now doomed to be taken down to improve the lane on which it stands.

The General Baptist Academy of the Old Connexion.

THE first organized attempt to train men for the Baptist ministry in London was made by the General Baptist Assembly. The impetus was given by the church of Saffron Walden and Melbourn in 1790, and within two years Stephen Freeman agreed to take pupils at his house in Ponder's End, under the auspices of the "General Baptist Society for the Education of Young Men for the Ministry." His only student was Benjamin Austen, who ministered at Smarden, and died 1859. *Obituary, G.B.C. &c., 1861*

The second tutor was John Evans, the versatile author, pastor, school-master, LL.D., and his work lasted 1795-1818. He equipped Thomas Pine of Maidstone, who does not seem to have held any pastorate. Thomas Sadler, minister at Horsham 1801-1839. William Moon, Deptford, 1803-1823. W. Thomas died soon, and David Thomas by 1819. John Baker, Chatham, 1816. John Cundill. George Smallfield was not only minister, but printer of the Monthly Repository. George Culmer Pound was at Dover 1809-41, dying 1866. J. W. Morris worked at York, Lewes and Dean Row till death in 1843. W. R. Jones at Chichester and Trowbridge. John Philpot and W. Dobel held no pastorates recorded. Joseph Bane was at Aylsham 1817-1848, one of the few who served Calvinist churches. W. H. Creaton to Leicestershire. T. L. Taylor, Billingshurst 1818-20. John Thomas died soon. W. Kite at Ditchling, Hurst Green, Rolvenden, Dover. C. P. Valentine returned to farm life. W. Brown left no mark. Edwin Chapman at Billingshurst, Chatham, Deptford, Stamford street.

James Gilchrist was the third tutor, 1818-1827, and trained six men, besides one who did not finish his course. James Taplin never served a Baptist church, but many Unitarian churches. J. O. Squier went to Edinburgh, Saffron Walden, Deptford, Headcorn, and Unitarian churches. T. F. Thomas to Chatham, Ipswich, &c. W. Chinnock, after five years at Billingshurst, became a schoolmaster. John Marten to Canterbury, Dover, Saffron Walden, Peckham. Jerom Murch to Diss and Bath, then turned to municipal life.

Benjamin Mardon was fourth tutor, 1828-55. J. C. Means served the original White's Alley church, then in Southwark, Chatham, and the church now at Winchmore Hill. James Cook to Long Sutton and Cranbrook. J. A. Briggs to Dover, Rolvenden, Bessels Green, Headcorn, and Unitarian churches. Thomas Sadler, Unitarian churches only. J. L. Short to Dover, then Unitarian. John Hill to Cranbrook and Chichester. Edward Hall to Battle, Cranbrook, Billingshurst, then Leeds town missionary. W. Matthews to Huddersfield, Horsham, Hull, Yeovil, and Lincoln. Hill died at the age of 83 in 1876, apparently the last of these students. It is not clear that any fifth tutor was appointed.