

Transactions

of the

Baptist Historical Society.

Ordination at Southampton, 1691.

THIS letter is a sign of the revived Association work which was earnestly taken up after the Revolution. The four Particular Baptist churches in Hampshire, at Christchurch, Ringwood, Southampton, and Whitchurch, had drawn together into one group. The London churches had linked with others in Middlesex, Essex, and Kent, as set forth in Ivimey, I., 515. But in Hampshire there was left only one ordained elder, and this letter shows that the four churches desired the co-operation of the London Association before ordaining others. It is singular that the returns of 1692 show only one new elder, Richard Kent of Whitchurch.

This letter is printed from the editor's transcript of Miss Cox's copy of John Selby's duplicate of the original.

From London ye 2^d of ye 12th month 1690-1. To ye church of Christ in and about Southampton with ye other three congregations of yt association. We ye Elders and messengers of ye London Association assembled Together this second day of ye 12th month send greeting.

Beloved Brethren

some time since we received a letter from you signifying ye great need you have of two or more Elders to be sent down to you to ordain Elders amongst

you and to set in order what things are wanting now these lines are to Enforme you yt we have taken into our consideration your circumstances and are willing to Answer your desire (viz) to send two or three of our brethern down and that ye charge of their journey shall be discharged out of ye ffund it being as we conceive an extraordinary case yet never the less we have thought it necessary to signifie to you yt you ought to look out from amongst you such persons yt you judge compedently Qualified for yt sacred office and to Elect such person or persons in a soleme maner in a day or dayes of prayer and fasting yt so all things may be done yt are previous in order to yt great work before such Elders come down yt so ye worke may the sooner be dispatched when they come more over we desire you to send us a letter so soon as you have done yt thing in your respective churches and then ye lord willing we intend to do you word of ye exact time of their coming to you this being all we leave you at present to ye blessing & gracious direction off ye lord by his good spirit with our prayers for your growth in grace and establishment in ye gospell we remaine yours in ye bonds of ye gospell of Jesus Christ.

London ye 2^d of ye 12th month 1690-1.

Subscribed by us in ye name
and by ye order of ye whole
assembly.

Richard Adams.
Benjamin Keach.
Wm. Collins.

[John Selby of Southampton, who sent a copy of the original to Whitchurch, endorsed it on feb 18th 1690-1] direct your letter or enquire M^r Izack marlow at ye signe of ye feathers next dore to ye hoope taverne in littill Lumbard Street London.