

APPENDIX.

No. I.

BAPTIST MINISTERS OF PARISH CHURCHES.

In the year 1654 a body of Commissioners was appointed, who were called "Triers," and whose duty it was to examine all persons presented or nominated to benefices, with a view to ascertain "the grace of God in them," and that they were persons of "holy and unblamable conversation, as also, for their knowledge and utterance, able and fit to preach the gospel." The object was to prevent the intrusion of improper men. The proceedings of the Commissioners were necessarily offensive to many, but the impartial confessed that on the whole much good resulted from the appointment.

Some few Baptist ministers were inducted into livings by the Triers. They preached in the parish churches, and received the proceeds of the endowments belonging to them. As they could not, consistently with their principles, admit the indiscriminate communion which had prevailed during the episcopal rule, the method said to have been adopted by Mr. Tombes at Fowdley may be regarded as descriptive of their general practice. He "gathered a separate church of those of his own persuasion, continuing at the same time minister of the parish."

The following is a list of Baptist ministers who were in possession of livings at the Restoration of Charles I:—

HENRY JESSEY, A. M. St. George's, Southwark, London.—
One of the best men of the age. Died in prison, Sept. 4, 1663

THOMAS EWINS, Bristol. Died April 20, 1670.

EDWARD BAGSHAW, A. M. Ambrosden, Oxfordshire. Died in prison, Dec. 28, 1671.