

murdered at a feast held in honor of St. Augustin, the English apostle. This event occurred in Puckle church, Gloucestershire, A.D. 946. The king, with all his nobles and courtiers, were so much intoxicated as to be unable to offer any resistance to the daring regicide."

Hollinshed remarks that, "the best wines used to be kept at the houses of the priests. The strongest was called the 'Theologicum;' and whenever the laymen wished to spend a singularly jovial hour, they would send to the parson of the parish for those wines."

The following extract from the parish books of Darlington is worthy of your deepest attention; and abundantly illustrates the low tippling propensities of the churchmen of those days:

"A.D. 1639, (14 Charles I.) for Mr. Thompson that preached the forenoon and afternoon, for a quart of Sacke xiiiiid."

"A.D. 1650, (Commonwealth) for six quarts of Sack, to the ministere, when we had not a ministere 9s."

"A.D. 1666, (6 Charles II.) for one quart of Sack, bestowed upon Mr. Jellett, when he preached, 2s. 4d."

"A.D. 1691, (4 William and Mary) for a pint of brandy, when Mr. George Bell preached here, 1s. 4d."

"When the Dean of Durham preached here, spent in a treat with him, 3s 6d."

Volumes might be written in recounting these disgusting and abominable practices, both in ancient and modern times.

It is painful to remark that in proportion to the increase of intoxicating liquors, both as regards their strength and variety, you may easily observe a proportionate increase of drunkenness and its attendant vices. The circumstances