

ed to us with certainty. The following are copies of these documents—

" CATHERSTON.

" Bartholomew Westley's glebe, five acres, worth £3. 10s. ; his small tithes, £10 ; in all, £13. 10s."

" CHARMOUTH.

" Bartholomew Westley, the present possessor, by sequestration. The house and four acres of glebe are worth, per annum, £4 ; the tithes of the parish, £18. They desire that Catherston may continue annexed, as it was by order of the Committee of the county."

These returns were made, 1650. Charmouth and Catherston are villages in the south-western extremity of Dorsetshire ; they join each other, and are about two miles distant from Lyme. The inquisitive traveller may easily distinguish Catherston by its fir-trees, on an eminence to the right, as he descends to Charmouth from Bridgport.

The Rector of these parishes appears to have been greatly esteemed, as a pious, kind, and prudent man. The times had exacted from him, in common with others, whether Episcopalian or Presbyterian, oaths and pledges of fidelity to the existing Government. That he held these appeals to heaven as sacred, is sufficiently attested, by his afterwards becoming a Nonconformist. There is no evidence that he was ever a bitter political partisan : had he been so, few persons had equal opportunity for signaling themselves in this way : he appears to have cherished a better state of mind ; and this in days when moderation was but little known. That he was a devout man, a Christian in his family, one who prayed to, and held communion with, God, testimony may be gleaned from many witnesses, and, which is not the less valuable, for having been given in derision, and by enemies.

On the morning of the 23d Sept., 1651, Henry Hull, ostler at the inn at Charmouth, and who had belonged to Captain Massey's "picquet," then at Lyme, went in haste to the house of Mr. Westley, to report, as to a principal person of the village, that certain suspicious strangers had just left the inn. He was engaged in family worship, and would not by such reports be disturbed ; or, in the words of the writers of the age, "his morning exercise"—"long-winded prayer"—"at his morning prayers"—"whom he found engaged in family worship." It is true, when his morning worship was concluded, he then listened to the report of Hull. This information being so directly conveyed to him (and Bates says that, on the very day preceding, a "proclamation," dated, Westminster, September 10th, 1651, had been published at Lyme, wherein it was declared, that whoever afforded "aid or concealment" to certain parties, should be considered as "partakers and abettors," and that death should be the punishment,) the Rector made inquiries at the inn ; and though he knew not who these strangers were, yet if he communicated what had been thus told him to the nearest Magistrate, he

could not do less. But the harsh statements of Wood on this incident, of Carte, and of Clarendon appear to be utterly without foundation. In the narrative of Charles himself to Pepys, whose account is now before the writer, not one word in reference to them is found. Hughes, the general admirer of Clarendon, in his late republication of "Boothby's" states this part of the history to be a "tissue of blunders and inaccuracies." The Quarterly Review speaks of these as "lapses of memory," and thus accounts for them :—"A considerable portion of Clarendon's History was written under the afflictions of age, infirmity, and exile,—without notes to assist, or documents to correct, the frailty natural to even the best memories." The fact is, in the days of these writers, he that could the most caricature, except to ridicule, and in many cases, malign, an outcast Nonconformist Minister, was supposed to do the state the greatest service.

It is said above, that Bartholomew Westley had Charmouth as a sequestered living. Circumstances, very different in their nature, led to the sequestration of many of the Episcopal Clergy ; such as the "Solemn League and Covenant,"—the "Negative Oath," petitions from parishes against Ministers as "scandalous ;" and in some cases, as it is, with as much of ardor as truth, stated by Dr. Vaughan, persons were expelled because they had truly conscientious scruples, and to make room for others more conformable to the new standard of orthodoxy : the latter deserved a place among the confessors of the seventeenth century, no less than the Puritans. But the petitions presented, and referred to the Committee, of which John White, "a grave lawyer," and member for Southwark, was Chairman ; and the work termed, "The First Century of scandalous, &c., Priests ;" furnished other reasons for the sequestration of many Incumbents. Yet mercy was "mingled with judgment ;" they were not cast upon the world without any means of support ; one fifth part value of their livings was allowed them ; and none, except by direct and continued acts of hostility to the Government, were left in a state of entire destitution. And, in the work just referred to, John White directly states, that those only who were examined and approved by the Assembly of Divines, or their Deputies, were allowed to succeed their sequestered Clergy.

Bartholomew Westley was no doubt thus examined, approved, and appointed : but immediately on the return of the Second Charles, he was ejected from Charmouth as an "intruder." His successor, Timothy Hallet, is found in possession of the rectory, March 4th, 1662. In the Declaration of Breda, the King had promised that no man should be disquieted, or called in question, for differences of opinion on religion. "We do declare a liberty to tender consciences." And the Ministers of the day confidently relied on his word. But the same act of the Convention Parliament restored not only the King, but also the laws, both civil and ecclesiastical, to the state in which they were at the commencement of the war. Clarendon withdrew the question of church contro-