

PREFACE.

Interest in a genealogy of the Alvord family antedates that of most New England families. In the early "sixties" William Alvord Burke of Lowell, Mass., became interested in the genealogy of the families of his father and mother and published the "Burke and Alvord Memorial." (Published by Henry Dutton and Son, Boston.) Mr. Burke engaged John A. Boutelle of Woburn, Mass., to gather and arrange the data. No attempt was made either on the part of the Burke or the Alvord family to make it a complete record. Only those families of Alvords were taken up that resided in Northampton, Mass., and vicinity, excepting Mr. Burke's own line. The notes on the origin of the name and the antecedents in England were of practically no value.

Shortly after the publication of the "Burke and Alvord Memorial" Coridon A. Alvord, a prominent printer of New York City, became interested in the matter and desired that a complete genealogy of the Alvord family should be published. He at once engaged Mr. Boutelle, who proceeded to further carry on his genealogical work on the Alvord family. From 1866 until 1868 Mr. Boutelle was apparently devoting a good share of his time to this work. Mr. Alvord alone met the full expense of this undertaking, which was considerably over one thousand dollars. When it seemed that the work was nearing completion and would soon be in press, Mr. Alvord met with sad affliction which affected his business relations, so that he did not see his way clear to carry out his plans for publication. Mr. Boutelle's health also began to fail about this time. Both these men died a few years later and the manuscript was packed away with Mr. Alvord's papers. And so it happened that for twenty-five years what had been gathered at great labor and expense was laid away and almost forgotten. We can scarcely overestimate the value of Mr. Alvord's unselfish effort and everyone interested in the history of this family owes him a debt of gratitude. While the facts and records thus gathered were far from complete,—surprisingly so along some lines—, the present work could scarcely have been made so thorough and