

# THE COATS OF ARMS.

By WILLIAM B. HAYDEN.

The Arms of the Norfolk line belong to the most ancient class. As is well known, the custom of employing these cognizances grew out of the crusades. The arms of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, founded by the crusaders in Syria and Palestine, was a "Cross Crosslet." That is, a Greek cross with cross pieces at the ends of its four arms. The knights were knights of the cross, and many of them adopted some form of the holy symbol as the device for their shields.

The engrailed cross, which is that of the Heydons, is a figure found among some of the oldest of the drawings of armorial devices that have come down to us; one of them dating from Edward I, about 1275. Several other families had it. In those days all arms were assumptive, each knight choosing the signs by which he would be known.

Thomas de Heydon appeared in public life while Henry III was yet a minor; and it was during the reign of that monarch that armorial bearings came into use in England. That the Heydons were known by an engrailed cross would seem to imply that an ancestor had been engaged in those eastern wars. The second crusade, in which Richard Cœur de Lion played so prominent a part, had just closed, and Thomas's father may have taken part in it. Thomas himself was born during Richard's lifetime. That he should receive so important an appointment from the crown as that of the first judge in Norfolk county, would indicate that the family possessed some distinguished claims to preferment.

Very soon the Heydon Arms were, by marriage, *impaled* with those of other families: the arms of the bridegroom and bride being placed side by side, each occupying one-half the shield. In the course of