

## ADDRESS.

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To an American, of ancient Family Line, with a genuine zeal for some knowledge of his Ancestry; no other motive can justly be attributed than that of laudable pride in the honored name of many generations of

*“Heaven-gone kindred, wise and good.”*

Such studies mark the advanced culture of our day: devoting all the resources of scholarship, to a filial duty, and observance of the command to “Honor thy Father and thy Mother”: in grateful acknowledgement of the Providence that setteth the “Solitary in families”: and gave us parentage in this Family of long descent.

Family names or Sur-names; with their Genealogy, that had always been sedulously cherished by the Orientals, Greeks and Romans: were only abandoned in the Mediæval darkness that settled on Western Europe, during the period between the downfall of the Roman Empire and the dawn of modern Nationalities and civilization, or about the Thirteenth Century.

Upon the restoration of comparative peace, and immunity from devastation and pillage, conferred on cities by Imperial charters, their inhabitants, who were nearly all of the industrial arts, ungraced by Knightly or noble rank or title; resorted for their sur-names, frequently, to the trade or calling of the father of the family, his birth-place, residence or personal traits. So we have the “Schmidts” of Saxon origin, largely represented by the “Smiths”: black or white Smith may have been the trade of the ancestor. Miller, Farmer, Webster or female weaver, and many other trades; Lincoln, Yorke, England, Ireland, Washington, Douglas, from local origin; Goodrich, Goodenough, Strong, Weak, from personal attributes; and many other illustrations will occur.

It is alleged that Sur-names are first met with in England in A. D. 1050, but were not popular or general until about 1307.