

great rotunda of the British Museum, and take down from some of its 3000 "presses" the requisite volumes of parish or county history, or other record, in order to discover what he may wish to know, or, at least, nearly everything knowable in this direction. In the principal lines of descent all the individuals appear in their places, one generation after another, from century to century; birth, baptism, marriage, issue, arms, estates owned, offices filled, title, death, burial, and will, all appearing in regular succession.

Besides the private information volunteered him by interested persons, the compiler has drawn his materials mainly from the following works:—Blomefield's "History of Norfolk," 11 vols. 8vo; Clutterbuck's "Antiquities of the County of Hertford," 3 vols. folio; Westcote's "Pedigrees of Deavonshire Families"; Chauncey's "Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire," folio; Prince's "Devon Worthies"; "The Norfolk Tour," 2 vols.; Weever's "Funereal Monuments"; the "Parliamentary and State Papers, Domestic Series"; Ditto, "Colonial Series"; Cornish's "Notes of the Parish of Ottery St. Mary"; "Domesday Book," 3 vols. folio; "Records of Massachusetts Bay Company"; "The Vinton Memorial" (Boston); Gurney's "Record of the House of Gourney," 2 vols. 4to; and has added some things from personal observation. Considerable care has been necessary to gather the items from the scattered materials, to harmonize apparent discrepancies and weave them into a continuous narrative, no attempt of the kind having been made before in England or America.

CHAPTER II.

THE HEYDONS IN ENGLAND.

"An ancient family, belonging to the Order of Knights," the books say. The precise position occupied by them in the Norman immigration has not been distinctly made out. The difficulty of tracing them arises from a want of knowing the title by which they were known before the present Sir-name became attached to them. According to the authorities they acquired the name of Heydon from the town of Heydon, in Norfolk, where they were first seated, and where lay their