

. . . The Heydon's always retained their high social and civil position. They appear from the first to have been intimately associated with the Earls of Warren. Very early, and in subsequent generations, we find them intermarried with descendants of the Conqueror, with the Warrens, with the Says, Mowbrays, Longevilles, Willoughbys, Owltons, Loverds, Gurneys, Boleyns, and other high and noble families of their own and neighboring counties. They frequently appear associated with royalty, and attendant at Court. And in all their three branches, in Norfolk, in Hertfordshire, and in Devonshire, were much in public life, holding offices of trust and distinction. They must have remained at Heydon from about A. D. 1087, the year after the Conqueror's survey, till about 1412, or a period of 325 years, when they sold out to the Dynes and went to Baconsthorp, six miles farther north. That town thence became their chief residence, where also they enjoyed the period of their fullest prosperity; having also seats and domains at Salthouse and Saxlingham, near by, with Manors and Halls in about forty other places. They remained at Baconsthorp until the year 1673, or two hundred and fifty years, when William Heydon, the surviving heir, sold out and removed to London. Thus we find them fixedly located, within a radius of six miles, for nearly six hundred years.

This proclivity to inhabitativeness, as the phrenologists call it, the attachment to locality, or continuance in the ancestral home, we notice as strongly prevailing also in the other two offshoots or branches, which settled respectively at Watford and in Devonshire, each of which retained its possession of the family domain through a succession of ages and for many generations. A tendency and disposition which we are glad to discover have survived with considerable force in at least one portion of the American colony; as we see exemplified here in Connecticut to-day by these numerous descendants on and around the old original farm of William Hayden, in Windsor.

The moral characteristics of this ancient line are interesting and noteworthy. Foremost among these is their zeal for religion, which appears to have been hereditary. As a rule they were staunch churchmen, pious and devoted in many ways; the builders, repairers, and endowers of churches; founders of schools; friends of the clergy, re-