tion, the least of all likely to be found superseded. The genealogist, therefore, who, realizing that his work must sooner or later be brought to an end, endeavors to state as facts only what can thus be proved, well considering, in the light of an exhaustive study of his family, what, in the absence of records, must be to some extent conjecture, giving it as such, with his reasons, may with reasonable confidence present his work to his family, leaving it for those who come after to make such additions as the future may reveal. It is with such considerations that the compiler of this family history now offers the results of her work. While disclaiming all pretentions to its entire freedom from error, it can be said that no effort has been spared to make it as accurate as the circumstances have allowed.

It may not be without interest to the reader unfamiliar with genealogical research, whose family history is here told, to mention some of the sources where information has been sought. First and most important has been the search of original records in places where members of the family have resided. Among such are records of the different New England colonies, those of the various colony or county courts, probate records, records of deeds, volumes of town proceedings, parish tax lists, church and town records of baptisms, births, marriages, and deaths, and graveyard inscriptions.

A second source has been correspondence with living descendants of the family, wherever they can be found. The Goldthwaites, though not a numerous family compared with many others, are yet quite widely scattered. Years ago one family of our name, now extinct, had its home in Cuba, and, as it is especially interesting now to remember, in that old city, once its capital, Santiago (St. Jago), which the war with Spain has lately made so familiar (see No. 273). Other descendants (Nos. 717, 721), sons of a Goldthwaite mother, settled in Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, South America, while my most distant correspondence with those now living includes letters from California, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Western New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Eastern Maine, Canada, and South America, as well as from representatives of two branches living across the ocean, in England.

In addition to correspondence, recourse has been had, where it was possible, to a third source of information, of much interest, and of even greater value in its results. This has consisted of personal interviews with descendants. For this purpose I have visited in New England many of the centers around which some one or more of the different branches of the family are to be