

authority, to the fountain-head in England. It is, after all, but a trifling matter, this question of adding or dropping a single letter, in comparison with the complete changes from their original form which many names in this country have undergone, and which it is now too late to remedy, however desirable that may be. As one among numerous such instances may be mentioned that which has come within the circle of my investigations concerning the name Boardman. It has been shown that its earliest form in England was *Bowreman*, which gradually became *Boreman*, and as such was brought by early settlers to New England, where descendants, after two or three generations, wrote it *Bordman*, and, after as many more, *Boardman*, which it must now continue. We of the Goldthwaite family, on the contrary, as will be seen, now have our name essentially as written five centuries and a half ago, thus dating back to the period when surnames began to be generally used, and to be handed down from father to son. This is the more noteworthy from the fact that during a considerable part of this long interval changes were occurring in the name in different places in England, so that, as far as found, its original form is now extinct in other lines there. It has seemed an argument for the superior intelligence of the branch from which our emigrant ancestor sprang, wherever it may have been located, that they were possessed of the correct form of their name.

Concerning the different pronunciations of our name, I have perhaps spoken sufficiently elsewhere; but there are other aspects in which it may be viewed which may be briefly mentioned. It is an unusual name, and in many places so altogether unknown that there are probably few bearing it, who have not had their various difficulties, ending for the most part in its slow distinct spelling, when trying to make it clear to a stranger. To the reader of Hawthorn, himself accustomed to it in his native Salem, it should not be unfamiliar, since one of his "Twice Told Tales" is "Peter Goldthwaite's Treasure," and Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney, in her widely read book, "A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life," has increased its familiarity. It is this uncommonness which is valuable to the genealogist, as it renders the confusion often existing between different families of the same surname impossible in regard to Goldthwaites, who are always of one origin. Again, looked at as regards its apparent derivation, it has given rise to various ideas; some have thought it Dutch, others Danish or German, while different theories have been expressed as to its first syllable, *Gold*, such as that the first of the name must have been very rich, or have had some superior qualities entitling him to that appellation.