

FRANKLIN AS A GENEALOGIST.

It was the good fortune of the writer some months since to obtain for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania certain of the correspondence between Benjamin Franklin and his relatives, together with abstracts of church records, and a pedigree chart prepared by Franklin himself, connected with the researches he was making into his family ancestry while sojourning in England as the agent of the Province of Pennsylvania. This material supplies interesting and valuable details omitted in the "Autobiography," and lacking in the works of his biographers. The letters are addressed to him in care of Mrs. Margaret Stevenson, Craven Street, Strand, London, with whom he and his son William lodged, and for whose daughter Mary a cordial attachment long existed. These original papers are now published for the first time, a number in *fac-simile*.

In the late spring of 1758 the state of Franklin's health demanded a respite from duty and a change of scene. Accordingly, after attending the Commencement at Cambridge, he set out, with his son William, for Northamptonshire, and at Wellingborough found living his aged cousin Mary Fisher, the wife of Richard Fisher, a grazier and tanner, and the only child of his uncle Thomas Franklin, his father's eldest brother. From her he obtained considerable personal and genealogical details of the family, as she could recall the departure, in 1685, of his father, Josiah Franklin, with his wife and two children for New England. A few