

doubts upon it in a paper communicated to the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register for July of that year, by suggesting that John and Lawrence, the sons of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave, were too old to have been the emigrants to Virginia. He also suggested that the Virginians might have been descended from Sir William Washington of Packington, Kn^t., eldest son of Lawrence of Sulgrave.

In Col. Chester's Essay, already referred to, the theory advanced by Sir Isaac Heard and so confidently asserted by Baker in his History, was thoroughly disproved by the array of evidence brought forward which showed that John, the son of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave, was clearly Sir John Washington of Thrapston, both of whose wives died in England, the latter (Dame Dorothy) outliving her husband; while it is well known that John Washington, the emigrant, buried his first wife (whose name is unknown) in Virginia, and married, secondly, Ann (Pope) whom he appointed executrix of his will, jointly with his brother Lawrence. The children of Sir John, of Thrapston, were Mordaunt, John and Philip. The children of John, of Virginia, were John, Lawrence and Anne. Col. Chester also showed how improbable it was that Lawrence, the brother of Sir John, could have been the Lawrence who emigrated to Virginia, by proving that he was a clergyman of the established church; while Lawrence, of Virginia, simply styled himself "gentleman," a most unlikely thing for him to do, if he were in holy orders.

Col. Chester contented himself with thus completely demolishing the former theory, without setting up a new one in its place: so the original problem was left unchanged. On the American side of the water we had a complete chain running back from the President to the first settler of the name. There the chain, like the vast majority of American pedigrees, was broken short off, at the water's edge. The task which lay before me, on my arrival in England in 1883, was to drag the depths in all directions, with the hope of picking up, somewhere, the lost end of the English line to which the American line belonged. Fortunately I did not come over to hunt for Washingtons alone: such a task would have seemed well nigh appalling. I was on the lookout for references to every American family of English origin, whatever the name; and the tedium and monotony of my toilsome search has been relieved by almost daily discoveries, some of exceptional value and importance, like those relating to the Harvard family, the famous Rogers family of New England, the family of Roger Williams, and others of less interest, perhaps, to the general reader, but full of interest, doubtless, to those engaged in the investigation of the genealogies of the special families mentioned in my notes.

At first I gleaned over the whole field for Washingtons and found them in various counties, (e.g.) Yorkshire, Westmoreland, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Northampton-