

## THOMAS ALGER AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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THOMAS ALGER, the first cis-Atlantic ancestor of the family whose history is herein presented, was one of eight men bearing the name of Alger, who settled in New England during the seventeenth century. The exact time of his arrival is unknown. As nearly as can now be determined, it was in the vicinity of 1665. In that year he appears at Taunton; proof of his presence being afforded by the following entry on the old proprietary records of the town:

"January 9th, 1664-5. Granted that Thomas Auger\* shall have a parcel of land that lieth at ye head of Thomas Linkon's land and ye land of Robert Crossman, as much as that place will afford."

This place was situated near the Three-mile River, a stream flowing through the easterly part of Taunton. There it seems he took up his abode; and in the autumn of the year he brought to it a wife. We read on the Old Colony records that Thomas Alger, of Taunton, and Elizabeth Packard, of Bridgewater, were married November the 14th, 1665. She was the daughter of Samuel Packard, of Wymondham, England, who with his wife and child came in 1638, in the ship Diligent, to this country, and settled first in Hingham, and then in Bridgewater, dying in the latter place about 1684.

In after years, Thomas Alger removed within the limits of Bridgewater, and there, it is supposed, died, perhaps soon after, as his name does not appear on the records of the town. Facts concerning his life might doubtless have been found on the Taunton records, but unfortunately they have been destroyed. He had at least two children. They were named from a brother and sister of their mother, and were:—

2. i. ISRAEL, m. Patience Hayward.
3. ii. DELIVERANCE.

2. ISRAEL ALGER (*Thomas*<sup>1</sup>), a husbandman, m. Patience Hayward, daughter of Nathaniel Hayward, and granddaughter of Thomas Hayward,

\* Until recently the name of Alger was almost invariably pronounced *Auger*, and this it appears was in accordance with the rule as in other words. Butler, who wrote his English Grammar in 1633, states that in his time a before *l* was sounded like *au*. So it was in Chaucer's time. In the "*Clerke's Tale*," occurs Augrim for Algorithm. Members of the family have never varied the orthography of the name from Alger, yet by others it has been frequently written, as pronounced, Auger. This has caused some confusion to genealogists from the fact of there being distinct families of each name.