

ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

TH**ERE** are various traditions regarding the origin and significance of the family name; but the facts require that we quote the following from Lediard's "Life of the Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill." We disclaim any intention, however, of hinting that our progenitor, John Churchill, of Plymouth, Mass., was a descendant of the Iron Duke, even if it might have been creditable, for the latter was not born until 1650, nor did he or his brothers leave male issue; and John Churchill, of Plymouth, Mass., was married in Plymouth, in 1644, to Hannah Pontus. That the Churchills of America are of the same stock is undoubtedly a fact, and the origin of any family name is interesting, and its descent instructive.

"Gitto de Leon's second son, Wandrill, under William the Bastard, Duke of Normandy (Anno Domini 1055), took the surname of Courcil, from a lordship of that name, of which he was owner. He, Wandrill, had two sons, Roger and Rowland. From the latter descended the family of Courcil, who have several large provinces in France.

"**ROGER DE COURCIL** attended Duke William, of Normandy, into England, and, as a reward for his services, had lands given him in Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and Shropshire, among which was the lordship of Churchill, as it was afterwards called, in Somerset. Roger, by wife Gertrude, had John, whose wife was Joan de Kilrington, by whom he had Sir Bartholomew de Chercile, who held the castle of Bristol, and in whose honor the small town of Churchill was called. He married Agnes, and had Pagan de Chercile, who had a son Roger. To Roger succeeded Elias de Chercile, whose wife was Dorothy Columbiere, and by her had three sons. William, third son, was chief heir male, was seated at Rocksbear in the County of Devon, and left issue, Giles, father of Charles, who married Margaret Woodville, by whom he had Thomas Churchill, whose wife was Grace Tyle. From Thomas descended William, who married Mary, eldest daughter of Richard Creufe, County Devon, and by her had three sons, Roger, William, and John. Roger married Jane Mogg, and had Matthew Churchill, of Bradford, who married Elizabeth Chaplet, and had John, grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill, the father of the Duke of Marlborough."