THE BENTLYS.

General Roeliffe Brinkerhoff, an eminent citizen and soldier, residing at Mansfield, Ohio, has produced an admirable monograph, which he has named the Genealogical Records of "The Tribe of Benjamin," of which he is one by marriage. Of the Bentlys, he says: "They were superior men in many ways. I met a gentleman recently who stated that he had made extensive inquiries about the family, and had yet to hear of one who became a public charge, died a pauper, or in prison as a convicted criminal," and the general adds testimony to that effect.

The history of "The Tribe of Benjamin" begins with William, who was in Kingstown, Rhode Island, prior to 1679. I am satisfied that this William was son to him of the name who died there in 1691, but of whom the Colonial records give few facts. He probably emigrated about 1630 or soon after the landing of the Pilgrims. A tradition exists that these Bentlys were of Scotch descent. I have not found any evidence to substantiate this belief, but on the contrary much to establish their Anglo-Saxon origin. There may be Irish and Scotch Bentlys, but not in this line.

Of the second William, General Brinkerhoff says he left children, William (3), James, Thomas, Benjamin and Jane. While probably correct, I have been able to define only the first three. His wife's name was Sarah, who with her husband, died in 1720, both at Kingstown. In 1679, he, with others, petitioned the King to "Graciously put an end to the animosities that exist in the Colonies," (presumably largely religious). September, 1687, he was taxed 4 s., 6½ d. April, 1705, he set up, by permission of Kingstown authorities, a building for carrying on the trade of a currier. His will was probated in 1720. He was a Freeman. This by no means implies any previous condition of servitude, but rather the taking of an obligation called the "Freeman's oath," a queer jumble of obligations which more closely bound the