

INTRODUCTION.

Many facts and incidents in relation to those who bear the Johnson name, and especially in relation to those in connection with the family line traced in this work, will more appropriately appear in an Introduction, than in the body of the book in connection with the family records.

Johnson as a family name, with a varied orthography is found among many of the European nations, numerous among the Scandinavians, as well as among the English, Irish, Scotch and Germans. But in regard to its origin, or the time and place of its adoption as a family name, or of its introduction into the British Islands, the author will leave for those to determine who are better acquainted with ancient and mediæval lore

Families bearing the name were numerous in England at the time when the first settlements were made in New England, and many of the first settlers were Johnsons; so numerous indeed that Savage says in his *Genealogical Dictionary* (Vol. II, page 559), "Of this name the occurrence is so frequent in all parts of New England, that out of inquiries confined exclusively to it, a large volume would grow;" and probably no two towns in all New England can show by their records so many Johnson families as Woburn and Andover. Many distinguished men have borne the name both in this country and Britain, and have occupied high positions, in the field of literature, of science, of statesmanship and of theology. It is said by Savage that previous to 1834, ten of the name had been graduated at Harvard, three of whom were clergymen, and forty-eight at other New England Colleges, twenty-one of whom were clergymen.

A Johnson ancestor settled early in Connecticut, from whom descended Rev. Samuel Johnson, the first President of King's College, New York, born at Guilford, Oct. 14, 1796.

A family line has been traced in Massachusetts, who were descendants of Solomon Johnson, who (as his descendants claim) came from Hern-Hill, Kent Co., England. Solomon and John Johnson who were probably brothers were among the early settlers in Watertown, Mass. John became a proprietor in Lancaster, 1654, and when he sold his lot in 1667, he is said in the deed to be "of Cambridge." Solomon also owned a lot in Lancaster, adjoining the lot of John, which he sold to Stephen Day, and it was afterward assigned to John Roper. In the record he is designated as "Goodman Johnson the taylor," and is also called "Solomon Sr.," and was said to be "of Sudbury and Marlboro." (See Nourse's *Hist. of Lancaster*,