

THE HEYDONS IN ENGLAND,

BY

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

WERE an apology required for preparing this fragmentary sketch, it might be found in the practice so much abounding of late, of giving attention to matters of genealogy. It is a growing custom in New England to print family histories. The present essay, however, is not the result of long promeditated design; nor would it have been undertaken at the expense of much time or labor. But the materials for it having been prepared to his hand by others, and been thrown so directly in his way from a number of widely different sources without effort on his part, that a refusal to put them on record for the benefit of those who may be interested in them, at length began to appear to the writer something like an omission or a neglect of opportunity.

It may be proper to state that the principal impulse to this undertaking has been imparted by letters of inquiry received from others of the same name, and by a visit to Old England. In this country such details are far more matters of publicity than in America, and therefore are more easily accessible. Nearly everything since the Norman Conquest has been printed, from Domesday Book downwards; records of every sort, State papers, parish books, land transfers, funereal monuments, etc., and can be readily turned to and examined. In the published works on genealogy, also, may be found drawn out the pedigrees of nearly every family that has held estates, or had an interest in the soil, for many hundred years. All one has to do is to step into the