A HAND-BOOK OF PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS: FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS IN GENEALOGY

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A Hand-book of Practical Suggestions: For the Use of Students in Genealogy by Henry R. Stiles

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OF

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

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STUDENTS IN GENEALOGY.

HENRY R. STILES, A. M., M. D.

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AND OF THE HUMPHREY FAMILY IN AMERICA, &C., &C., &C.

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TO

ANNIE ARNOUX HAXTUN,

(Mrs. Milton.)

OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.,

EDITRESS OF THE GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE NEW YORK MAIL AND EXPRESS,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED, BY HER FRIEND, THE AUTHOR.

May, 1899.



1 PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little MANUAL is written in response to the question so often put to me by intending genealogists, of both sexes, "How do you go to work to get up a genealogy?" Its need has been also confirmed by the statement made to me, by librarians, that the majority of those who consult books of history and genealogy seem not to have the slightest idea how to go to work;" and, furthermore, the preparation of such a work has been strongly urged upon me by a most experienced (lady) genealogist, whose own work is daily lifting genealogy into a higher plane of literature, and of public estimation, than it has hitherto occupied in this country.

If, "to the craft," it may, perchance, appear to be too pedantically precise in its treatment of the subject, let them remember that it was written for beginners.

H. R. S.

WHAT IS GENEALOGY.

ENEALOGY is the Science of Personal Identification. It has for its object the discovery and permanent establishment, by proofs and evidences which would be conclusive in any court of law, of the identity of the individual, both in his relations to those who have preceded him, and to those who may succeed him, in his own particular family line; as well as in his relations to those belonging to collateral lines of the general family, of which he and they are members.

"Genealogy is the natural outcome of that inherent disposition in man which leads him to seek for and preserve the memorials of his ancestors, in connection with those relating to himself. This disposition springs from an immutable necessity of man's existence, since God, as the crowning act of His work of creation, established the Family Relation - in itself the very corner-stone of all human, social, political and religious organization. In God's system of creation and government, the Family Relation, which was inaugurated by the primeval marriage of Adam and Eve, was a unit in form, dual as to parentage, germinal as to its nature, being the seed-bud or appointed means for the extension of the human race. It was evidently designed, by its Divine Founder, as a normal relation, and as one especially adapted to the wants and welfare of the race. From it arise a thousand social relations, duties, comforts and delights to benefit and bless mankind. It forms, indeed, the very 'bedrock' on which all human institutions are founded,