

P R E F A C E .

MANY years since, my father, Benjamin Burke, Esq., began to collect and record some genealogical account of his ancestors and relatives. What he had thus collected was quite brief and imperfect, his opportunity for examining such records as would have assisted him being very limited.

Before his decease he placed in my hands what he had gathered, and was very desirous that I should complete what I well knew, from my earliest recollection, had been a favorite object with him.

Very fortunately I obtained the services of John A. Boutelle, Esq., of Woburn, Mass., by whose genealogical skill, assiduity, and untiring perseverance the following account of the Burke and Alvord families has been collected, and to whom all the credit is due for collecting the material for this book. No one, but those who have made the trial, can have a just conception of the labor and investigation required to prepare with tolerable accuracy a genealogical work of even so limited an extent as the present one.

The historical account of the De Burghs (or Burkes) has been prepared from authentic records, collected by Mr. Boutelle. Some readers may think it fanciful or far sought, while to others it may be interesting to learn the origin of a name that was unfrequent in New England forty or fifty years since, but is now quite common.

The genealogy of the Alvord family here given is not a complete one.

In looking up the genealogy of my mother I only purposed to make a brief record of her ancestors. It was owing to having followed another branch of the Alvord family that quite an

amount of information was collected, that it was thought best to print for future reference by those who might be interested in it.

In the Appendix are genealogical accounts of minor importance, with sundry wills, deeds, &c., that it may be interesting to some persons to read. These were collected by Mr. Boutelle in the course of his researches in Probate Court and Church Records.

Upon the title-page to the Burke Genealogy will be seen the coat of arms of the De Burghs, with the motto—UNG ROY, UNG FOY, UNG LOY—that is, one king, one faith, one law—and on that of the Alvord Genealogy, the coat of arms of the Alvord family, as described in Sir Bernard Burke's "General Armory."

My thanks are due to all who have in any way assisted to furnish such information as has contributed to make up this book.

No doubt the persistence with which it has been sought has annoyed some who can see little or no use in collecting records of past generations. "Let the dead rest," perhaps they may think or say. But in almost every instance information has been cheerfully given, with a desire to possess the "book" as soon as it could be published.

There are some omissions (and no doubt many inaccuracies) in this book, and many of them might have been filled up (or corrected) by taking more time; but as more than a year and a half has now been occupied in collecting such facts as are here presented, I thought best to bring the work to an end.

WILLIAM A. BURKE,

LOWELL, MASS.

MAY, 1864.