

A CRITICISM OF

‘The Ipswich Emersons’

alias

‘The Emersons in America’

By

P. H. EMERSON,

Author of “The English Emersons.”

N O T E.

The following criticisms are called forth by a base and ignorant attempt to depreciate my work, "The English Emersons" (London, 1898), and to expose one of the most flagrant examples of literary theft of the century. The book in which these misdeeds are to be found was published under the title, "The Ipswich Emersons, A.D. 1636—1900: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Emerson, of Ipswich, Mass., with some account of his English Ancestry," by Benjamin Kendall Emerson (Boston, Press of David Clapp and Sons, MCM.).

P. H. EMERSON.

AILS A LODGE, STOURWOOD,
NR. CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.
August, 1901.

A Criticism of Professor B. K. Emerson's

"Emersons in America,"

alias "The Ipswich Emersons" (1899).

BEGINNING with the frontispiece*—the drawing and correct tinctures were supplied by me to Professor B. K. Emerson, and I can find no acknowledgment of the same, which is hardly generous. Needless to say, this emblazonment should never have been included in the book, for not an atom of proof is given to support the "tradition" that Thomas, of Ipswich, was entitled to arms of any kind. No proof is offered that either Thomas or the Rev. Joseph, of Mendon, who were honourable men, ever used arms, and the only record we have is that of the courtier, Rev. John Emerson, who visited the College of Arms in London in 1709 (!), and took back a correct coat of Ralf's, of Foxton, arms.

Next as to the title-page. A *new* title, "The Ipswich Emersons," is given in 1900, whereas the original prospectus referred to "The Emersons in America," and the existing book, which is really Professor Emerson *and* Dr. Canfield's work, was originally entitled "The Emersons in America" (*vide* page 25), as per first prospectus. I have, too, a letter of Professor B. K. Emerson's wherein he speaks of the Ipswich Emersons as the first Emersons who emigrated to the United States of America. When he got my book he found this error, and wisely altered his title to "The Ipswich Emersons," in accordance with a *second* prospectus issued in 1899. There would be nothing to be said of the later title, did he not on page 2 say—"Dr. Emerson has quoted this work, a year before its appearance, by an incorrect title, 'The American Emersons.'" This is again a deliberate mis-statement; the book is quoted as "The Emersons in America," as per original prospectus and printed pages sent me in the first half of 1897! Such a prevaricating statement needs no further comment. I commend it to historical scholars who may be able to trace the motive, which is quite patent to me.

Again, the title-page says 1636—1900. This is again an error; no Emerson is proved to have been connected with Ipswich before 1638!

Then we have "With some account of his English Ancestry, by B. K. Emerson." The account of the English ancestry is matter pirated from my book, "The English Emersons," without leave or licence, and is about as base a case of literary piracy as can be brought against the lowest type of American publisher.

* Ralf, of Foxton, his arms.

The original preface I herewith reprint. Readers can compare it with the preface as issued in the work as published in 1900.

P R E F A C E .

A quarter of a century ago, I called on an elderly lady in Amherst, one wise and learned, and she turned on me suddenly with the question, "Who are you?" I presume I should have said, with apparent modesty, I was a student of Geology, and hoped to pursue the science with success in the future; but without waiting for an answer, she proceeded to tell me the history of my grandfather, and my lineage for many generations. To myself, I was largely what I was to become in the future; to her mature vision, I was the product of an old and honourable lineage.

Just then I obtained a manuscript genealogy of the family, written by John Emerson, of the Conway branch, and, in an evil day, copied it, with large interspaces to be filled in in the future. Since then, I have scoured the Ipswich, York (Me.) and Mendon areas in America, and have searched through Durham and the Weardale in England, after many Emersons. My father, Benjamin F. Emerson, of Nashua, N.H.; Miss Ellen Emerson, of Concord, Mass.; Judge Alphonso Taft, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Rev. Augustine Caldwell, of Ipswich, Mass.; Dr. Pauline E. Canfield, of Kansas City, Mo.; Rev. Oscar A. Emerson, of McKeesport, Pa.; Professor S. F. Emerson, of Burlington, Vt.; and many others, have sent me large consignments of facts; and, through the interest of Mr. Ralph Emerson, of Rockford, Ill., in the work, I have been able to see my material, after it had grown beyond my time and strength, put in order by the expert hand of Captain Geo. W. Gordon, of Somerville, Mass., Secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

It will be seen then that the new preface was re-written *after* the receipt of my "English Emersons" in January, 1899.

Professor B. K. Emerson therein says—referring to me—"and has enumerated and subjected to very free criticisms all the *supposed* [italics mine] inaccuracies contained in the *uncorrected* [italics mine] proofs which were sent to him in the first half of 1897." This is as audacious a piece of mendacity as I ever read. The "proofs" (?) sent me (pages 1 to 88 inclusive) were sent with the statement that that portion of the book had been completely printed (in 1897); they were therefore not "*uncorrected* proofs"—in fact, not proofs at all, but portions of a *printed* work, which I was told would be finished and delivered that *same year* (1897). As evidence to support this, pages 25—88 of the work as finally issued stand *verbatim et literatim* as they were sent me in 1897, not a letter altered. Pages 1—24 have, of course, been re-written after receipt of my "English Emersons" in January, 1899. Therefore, as a corollary his statement is absolutely false that "most of these inaccuracies *had* [italics mine] been already eliminated in the revision." I below append a table of the inaccuracies still standing in the text (pages 25—88), including both those corrected in the supplement from my "English Emersons," and those still standing as wrongly and stupidly as they were the day I received them in 1897. These will further show the morality of this blundering amateur. Finally Professor B. K. Emerson adds a rider that the only errors not eliminated are those depending upon opinion. viz. :—

1. As to Thomas, of Ipswich, having a son Thomas. I emphatically

said he had no such son, and he had not; *cf.* his will and the Bishop's Stortford Register. This is hard fact.

2. The history of Rev. Joseph, of Mendon's, residence in Ipswich. I said—and my remarks on this head stand irrefutable (*vide* page 24 of "English Emersons")—*inter alia* if there was a daughter Lucy Ann, she was the first child by second wife. Professor B. K. Emerson has accepted this assertion in his supplement, so there is no matter of opinion at all; he has acknowledged my criticism.

3. The birth of Edward, of Malden, is not a matter of opinion. He was born at Concord, 26th April, 1670, and not at Mendon. I am herein "supposed to have overlooked the distinction of old and new style." It is not a question of *date* of birth at all, but of *place* of birth. *Vide* copy of original certificate, page cxxiv. of my book. The date is printed exactly similarly in both his book and mine!

4. The explanation of the name Rise as a Huguenot name, instead of a simple mis-spelling of Rice. This is a wild statement of Professor B. K. Emerson's, unsupported by a particle of evidence. The name is spelt Rise in the original document. The Rises were Huguenots; and Professor B. K. Emerson does not offer an atom of proof that the girl was Rice, and therefore a mis-spelling, nor that she was connected with Nicholas and Sarah Rice, of Reading, nor that no Huguenots were in Reading. Further comment is superfluous. The devious and tortuous ways of this "genealogist" are again plainly brought out.

Professor B. K. Emerson then adds a wilful mendacity that "Rough Notes" was suppressed "because of its inaccuracies." It was suppressed because it had served its purpose as stated in the preface, *q.v.*—"This pamphlet must be looked upon as filling a *temporary* place," etc. "My object in writing this pamphlet is to correct and extend these notes." It was never given forth as accurate or final, but as a mere hotch-potch collection to work upon. I wrote to all persons who received the copies, and asked them to return them when "The English Emersons" was completed. Every one of the recipients save Professor B. K. Emerson courteously returned his copy or copies. Another example of this person's character.

Professor B. K. Emerson next plays the critic as disingenuously as he can. He quotes me:—"It is a great pity that Professor B. K. Emerson ever meddled with the Hammett Papers, and suggested John of the *Abigail* was John, son of Thomas." Now my remark is based on Hammett Papers, No. 2, printed in 1881, and at the end we find gleanings were added from Professor B. K. Emerson's MSS., page 90. These gleanings are not indicated by any mark, and undoubtedly, since they are from Professor B. K. Emerson's MS., they were added with his authority, and therefore my statement holds good, and as Professor B. K. Emerson has mixed up these Johns in letters to me, the suggestion *was* made by Professor B. K. Emerson.

He makes a lot of fuss of a mere printer's error; if I attempted to quote all his printer's errors, I should fill pages. But such are the ways of the puerile.

Next we come to his chapter on the name Emerson. Page 6 of the published work is exactly word for word with page 12 as originally sent me. But page 5 has been cunningly altered. No acknowledgment is given to me for Fergusson's erroneous philology as given in the original. Another paragraph has the words "It is said" for "I have heard;" and a derivation of the name from Heintzel, "Die Deutsche Familien-Namen" (Halle, 1892), is interpolated, which was not originally printed.

I was the first to give the true philology of the name in my "English Emersons," based on my own researches. I suppose Professor B. K. Emerson did not like to steal everything, so he evaded it by finding Heintzel. But Heintzel is neither the best nor the latest authority on surnames, as Professor B. K. Emerson complacently asserts—the latest and best is an Oxford man.

I have in my book cut this pretentious and ignorant compilation of his on the "surname" to shreds, and shown the absolute worthlessness of it all, so there is no need to repeat it, but only to stand amazed at any man calling himself an editor admitting such nonsense, and wondering why he has done so; it can only impose on the ignorant, and bring down the contempt of scholars on his head. But that is his business.

To continue, the matter on page 7 is an interesting addition to the original chapter as sent me.

Page 8. The Weardale portion stands exactly as it did in the original sent me, with its two betraying mis-spellings of Walsingham for Wolsingham. But why the Weardale is included is another mystery; only it includes two paragraphs printed on page 14 of the original—*verbatim et literatim*.

Page 9 is three-quarters of page 14 of the original, except that the credit of the heraldic criticism of the Lincolnshire motto is accorded me in the original and omitted here, and part of a paragraph of original of page 15 appears in page 9, where my motto and exemplification are referred to as new matter, and copied from my book in 1899!

Page 10 of the book is the same as page 15 of the original, with two minor and unimportant alterations.

Page 11 contains first part of page 16 of the original, with "blazon" wrongly and ignorantly used in both. Then follows a quotation from my book, honestly acknowledged this time, following the last paragraph on page 16 of the original, with its absurd nonsense about the use of the "Mr." showing gentle birth.

Page 12 of the book has new matter and quotations from my book, including the following astounding and ignorant statement: not mine:—"If any Ipswich Emerson wishes to use the arms on his stationery or book-plate, he will be quite justified in doing so," thus urging Emersons to commit *de facto* petty larceny or imposture, for no Emerson in the world has an atom of right to use Ralf's, of Foxton, arms, for nobody knows anything about him; and yet this vanity-stricken heraldic ignoramus tells the people of the United States to steal and impose

upon others, and this in spite of my book, where the legal aspect of the matter is plainly put forth. And then follows the stupid old story of a chaplain taking rank because of the family coat of arms, which contained three lions. Americans do indeed, for a practical nation, hold themselves up to ridicule.

Next we come to page 13, "The Emersons in England." In the original book this is page 17. The stupid reference to the "lions of Denmark" is repeated. A quotation from my "Rough Notes" is omitted in the new, and a quotation from my book, "The English Emersons," substituted. The quotation is wrongly given, whether intentionally I know not; for my book is "The English Emersons," and *not* "The Emersons in England;" nor is the quotation printed as a book's title. This may be an accident, but Professor B. K. Emerson's ignorant interpolations I cannot permit. The whole of the three paragraphs is lifted from my book, but this stupid remark added—"but the name is *Norse* and not French." I refer readers to my chapter on the name, where I give the high authority of Professor York-Powell, of Oxford, who says the name is no more connected with *Norse* than with Chinese.

Can't this writer ever be honest?

Two paragraphs referring to my discussion *in re* Thomas, of Durham, and a notice of my forthcoming work, were omitted.

The theft begins again undaunted and unacknowledged on page 14, printed on page 18 of the original, and acknowledged there. In short, all pages 14, 15, and half of 16 are direct robberies, without acknowledgment, from my "Rough Notes" ("suppressed on account of its inaccuracies"!). and are word for word as printed in the original on pages 18, 19, 20 and 21, even some of the misprints of the original being repeated, as "loft and croft" for "toft and croft," "Walsingham Park" for "Wolsingham Park." The notes in the original (page 18) *re* Ralf Emerson and Johannes, of Sedgefield (page 20), and taken from my "Rough Notes," are rightly omitted in the new portion.

The notes on Thomas Emerson (page 15) are copied from "Rough Notes" *verbatim et literatim*, even the mis-spelling of Hinslow for Henslow standing. In the original this is acknowledged as my property; when the book is published it is not. Some other matters relating to Thomas, of Bradbury, are omitted in the new, and then Mr. Egglestone, the "learned antiquarian" of Weardale, is quoted *in re* the Rookhope ballad—in fact, as it appears in the work of the really learned Surtees.

Now was ever anything more preposterous! Practically the whole of the chapter on the Emersons in England as it now stands is filched from my "English Emersons" and "Rough Notes," and the origin of the last source carefully kept in the dark. People must begin to think Professor B. K. Emerson a really clever fellow, and "learned" (forsooth!): the morality of it I leave the world to judge upon.

Next the body of the work begins on page 25 with "The Emersons in America," as it does in the original pages as sent me in 1897. How

has Professor B. K. Emerson filled up the lacunæ in his new book between pages 16 and 25? By mere piracy, which we shall now discuss.

He begins honestly enough quoting from "Rough Notes," only he spells Mallome wrongly. Next he says I do not repeat Ralf's, of Brancepeth, will in "The English Emersons;" it is repeated there, *q.v.*, page viii. Needless to say, Professor B. K. Emerson's suggestion that Ralf, of Brancepeth, was Ralf, of Foxton, is absurd in the face of recent evidence, and only shows how incompetent the man is to solve genealogical problems.

Next we come to the great theft of all my matter concerning the origin of the Ipswich Emersons, in which he gives quite a twisted and misleading account of the matter. I never *failed* to find the record. I was still striving to do so when the book went to press, and I felt sure I should find it in Essex or Herts—as I did. The full history of this matter is given in my book (cap. vi.), so I need not repeat it here. I had searched all over the British Isles, and narrowed my field of enquiry to two counties, and to some dozen parishes in those two counties. Though I had offered the reward many months previously (*vide The Genealogical Magazine*, June, 1897), nobody had ever replied to it; yet directly I *told* (*vide* letter, cap. vi.) Mr. Brigg of the reward, and told him the likely places, naming Bishop's Stortford, he found the required births in the MS. of that register. That he was literally the first man to read the births in that light is correct; but if I had told anybody to go and do the same he would be equally entitled to be called the discoverer. I claim that I am the discoverer, for I sent him there, and if my kind searcher, Mr. Johnson, had been able to go, he would have found them for me. But Professor B. K. Emerson again blunders so stupidly when he says I say Mr. F. Johnson found them on page 162. I never said on page 162 that Mr. F. Johnson found them. Mr. Johnson found Thomas, of Great Dunmow (*vide* page 162)—*quite a different person*. One really does not know whether to dub Professor B. K. Emerson a greater knave or fool. Thomas Emerson is the correct spelling at Great Dunmow, not Thomas Emmerson. Also Thomas, of Great Dunmow, is not probably son of Ralf, of Foxton.

The stealing has been pretty accurate until we get to page 20, when we get *Upsfield* for *Topsfield*. But the impudent theft of all this, to me, costly and valuable material, is outwitted by the brazen effrontery which dares to include a son Thomas as the son of *Thomas, of Bishop's Stortford*—this mythical Thomas introduced doubtless to fit in with his pedigrees. In my book, "The English Emersons," from which *all* this material is robbed unblushingly, I give no Thomas, son of Thomas, of Bishop's Stortford, and yet this pirate dares not only to rob me, but to falsify the accounts. There was no such Thomas, as I have repeatedly said; but the insult does not end here, for on page 23 he writes:—"If it shall be found on investigation that the report, by Dr. Emerson, of the registry of Bishop's Stortford is full and accurate, it will lessen somewhat the probability," etc. So this dotard, who lives thousands of

miles away from the register and robs my records, dares to cast doubts upon myself, Mr. Brigg, Editor of *Herts Genealogist*, Mr. Glascock, and the Rev. Lane, who have all examined the register, and the object of this to support a "theory" of his own. Ach Gott! that men are so weak.

Professor B. K. Emerson then interpolates a section of his own on Robert, of Rowley, with quotations from me, and he eagerly drops on a misprint given correctly elsewhere in my book.

I gave him leave to quote from "Rough Notes," provided he acknowledged it in the usual manner, *i.e.*, inverted commas and footnote referring to work; and when I made my discoveries *in re* Thomas, of Bradbury, whom he tried to identify with Thomas, of Ipswich, I wrote him and begged him to omit all his chapter on the surname, as it was "rot," and all on the Emersons in England, which was worthless. He says he did a lot of research in Durham; his book bears no evidence of any research, except merely a visit to Weardale, and a call on the late bishop, who gave him some impossible philology. And all this notwithstanding that he wrote me that he had papers concerning Thomas of Ipswich's property in Weardale!!!

Then we have some notes of Professor B. K. Emerson's own on Thomas, of Ipswich (page 22), and a correction due to my criticism in "English Emersons," which we now find was due to a "lapse of memory;" and finally some more conjectures by Professor B. K. Emerson.

In brief—to sum up—I want to know why Professor B. K. Emerson printed pages 1—24 inclusive of his book as they now stand at all. The chapter on the name Emerson is rubbish, the chapter on the Weardale out of place, the chapter on arms nearly valueless and often wrong, and all of value cribbed, the chapter on the Emersons in England chiefly cribbed from my "Rough Notes," and all repeated in "The English Emersons," and all the valuable and reliable matter on the English ancestry of Thomas, of Ipswich, disgracefully pirated from my book, "The English Emersons."

Financially, this huge theft has done my book a great harm, and if the thief were within legal reach, he should pay heavily for his dishonesty. I spent three of the best years of my life and hundreds of ill-spaced pounds to get this information and print it, and yet this mean old dotard does not hesitate to rob me or to insult or depreciate my work. A man of honour would have begun his book with "The Emersons in America" (page 25), and referred all readers to my book for matters he was incapable of handling, and which did not belong to him; and we should like to know what portion of blame attaches to Captain Gordon in this matter, if any.

A TEXTUAL CRITICISM OF
 "THE EMERSONS IN AMERICA," 1897,
alias
 "THE IPSWICH EMERSONS, 1899,
 BY PROFESSOR B. K. EMERSON."

I will proceed to vindicate my criticisms of the errors in the text of the book, most of which, according to the Editor, "has been eliminated in revision." I said before, there has been no revision whatever of pages 25—88, but in some cases my criticisms have been adopted in the *Supplement*. The original pages sent me in 1897 and now in my possession are, as I have said, *word for word* as those published in 1900, which again shows little reliance can be placed upon Professor B. K. Emerson's word.

Page 25. Thomas Emerson's probable birth at Sedgefield was an early suggestion of mine; it still stands in the text, and is an error. I pointed out in "English Emersons" that he could not have gone over in the *Elizabeth and Ann* in 1635, and my discovery that he was a collector at Bishop's Stortford in 1636 settles that. Professor B. K. Emerson then quotes a deed and *conceives*; we want proof, not guesses, in this class of work. But since my "Rough Notes" is quoted to prove O. W. Holmes' statement that he was a baker, some explanation is required. Before writing this I wrote to Professor B. K. Emerson and asked him if there was any foundation for the tradition that Thomas, of Ipswich, was a baker, and he replied *none*; and curiously enough some time after Captain Gordon sent me this same deed and said it had been held back (why, was not explained), and suggested it referred to Thomas, Jun., son of Thomas, of Ipswich, and certainly no evidence that Professor B. K. Emerson offers even now removes the "imputation of carelessness" conveyed in my paragraph. At that time Professor B. K. Emerson was sure Thomas, of Bradbury, and Thomas, of Ipswich, were identical; this I disproved, and even now it is not proved that Thomas, of Ipswich, was a baker; so O. W. Holmes was careless to *assume* as a fact which is still, according to B. K. E. himself, *not proven*. So my paragraph still obtains, and nobody would accuse the late O. W. Holmes of being an historian; he had no more historic ability than Professor B. K. Emerson himself. This paragraph of his upon mine thus looks as if it were inserted out of malice aforethought. As I said before, Thomas's son *never had arms* certified to him in England.

Page 31. As I said originally, there was no proof that he had a son Thomas, who married an Elizabeth, and the Stortford register proves the contrary. I also said there was no proof that he had a daughter Sarah, and the Stortford register proves the contrary (this error is corrected since the appearance of my book). On page 416 corrections taken from my book are made, viz., pages 25, 31, 32 ; but the old impertinence is repeated, and a mythical Thomas, Jun., introduced, who never existed, and turning to page 22 as advised, the evidence adduced goes to prove that Thomas, of Ipswich, himself was the baker. Indeed, that any man calling himself a genealogist should, on no evidence, fraudulently try to wedge in a hypothetical son, shows he has not even the elementary qualifications for the work.

Page 32. Professor B. K. Emerson is all at sea again in his suggestion that Elizabeth E. and John Fuller were married in England ; and as I have pointed out in my book, no Fullers can be traced to Topcroft or the district. Thus, neither of these errors is corrected. Elizabeth E. was aged 15 in 1638—showing what a fallacious piece of genealogy section 2, page 32, is.

Page 32. I pointed out that the date of the Rev. Joseph's, of Mendon, death is incorrect. It should be November 13th, 1679, and not January 3rd, 1680, as stated by Professor B. K. Emerson. This error is uncorrected in the "revision," i.e., supplement. Professor B. K. Emerson says Rev. Joseph and his wife resided at Ipswich, York (Maine), and Milton (Mass.), but does not support the majority of his statements by documents. as is the way of all amateurs. He resided at Ipswich and Wells, Maine, certainly, but there is no atom of proof of residence at Milton. A person does not always reside where his wife bears child. Professor B. K. Emerson gives no proof of identity of Rev. Joseph Emerson and Joseph Emerson mentioned in his father Thomas' will. I have proved "that he asked for an increase of salary on account of his approaching marriage in 1664" was ridiculous, as he was then still married to his first wife. Finally, at the end of the page, Joseph and James are spoken of as *probable* children of the first wife. There is abundant legal evidence to prove they were certainly the children of the Rev. Joseph and his first wife, and this I have done at the College of Arms, and yet poor Professor B. K. Emerson leaves it in this slovenly state. Now I do not find one of these errors (some very grave) corrected in any "revision" or supplement.

Page 35. *Nil.*

Page 36. Professor B. K. Emerson again comes to grief over the Rev. Joseph's. of Mendon, sons. and omits one of the most important links in the evidence, as one would expect ; but as Dr. Canfield did not supply Professor B. K. with *all* her documents, he has come to grief ; for the only real genealogy in the book worthy of serious consideration is Dr. P. E. Canfield's work. The deed which settles that James was Rev. Joseph's. of Mendon, son is Worcester Co. Land Records, Book X., page 416, 1718—"James, Sen., of Mendon, gives to his son Joseph, of Reading, land inherited from his father, the Rev. Joseph Emerson, of

Mendon ;" and Joseph, Jun., is mentioned in his grandfather's will. One wonders whether Judge Taft was much of a lawyer. None of this is corrected in the "revision."

Pages 37—42. *Nil* (deeds).

Pages 43—46. *Nil*.

Page 47. Nathaniel was not born 1631, but 1630. The "family arms (?) " are wrong, as is the age 83 ; it should be 82. These errors are not corrected in the non-existent revision, nor in the supplement ! And his daughter Elizabeth is given a wondrous family she never had ; this, in fairness, it must be stated is corrected.

Page 48. *Nil*. (The reproduction of the tombstone is wretched, and it is illegible, though honoured with an expensive full page.)

Page 49. Professor B. K. Emerson says Joseph, Jun., was born at Wells, Maine, and died before 1706. No proof of the first statement, and 1706 should be 1708. James was not certainly born at Wells, Maine ; no proof offered. His description in original deeds is "*tayler*," not "*taylor*." These not corrected in supplement.

Page 51. I note three incorrect dates here are corrected from my book ; but he has not corrected the error that James, Sen., died at Mendon, Mass. As I said before, Professor B. K. Emerson has confounded him with his son James ; as I have said before, it is possible he died at Reading or Falmouth, but no one yet knows where. The correction of James, Jun.'s, death is wrong too ; it should be before 1757, and not *after*, as B. K. E. has it. Joseph's death should be 1745—46. John married Mary *Rise*, not Rice. Professor B. K. Emerson gives a Sarah as daughter of James, Sen., and Sarah ; this is a gross error—there was no such child. Professor B. K. Emerson says Edward Emerson, son of Rev. Joseph and Elizabeth Bulkeley, was born at Mendon ; he was not, but at Concord, as pointed out in my book. This is not corrected in that apocryphal revision.

Page 51. Have not studied these ; Edward was, however, a shop-keeper at Boston—in U.S.A. "a merchant" ! Some bad grammar on this page.

Pages 52—68. I have not studied these people, not being my own direct line, so cannot criticize them.

Page 69. *Nil*.

Page 70. We cannot congratulate Judge Taft on his researches into the early Emerson genealogy, and his "evidence" would not have been accepted at the College of Arms of London. His examination of the Worcester Land Deeds must have been perfunctory indeed when he missed the deeds which sweep all theory (as he left it) away. The evidence is sufficient to inherit the biggest property ever left in chancery. Professor B. K. Emerson calls this doing a thing "thoroughly"—*verb. sap.* ! James, Jun., was born at Ipswich, 13th March, 1692. Professor B. K. Emerson has adopted this criticism. He makes a correction that he died later than 1757. His correction is wrong and his first statement right. James, Jun., was dead in 1757 (*vide* page 25, "English Emersons").

Page 71. Sarah, James' second wife, was *alive* in 1757 (*vide* "English Emersons," page 25), though Professor B. K. Emerson says she died in 1737. These errors remain uncorrected in the mythical revision or supplement, and why is the stupid and erroneous footnote not deleted?

Page 73. John Emerson married Mary *Rise*, not Rice; therefore the guessing footnote is worthless. He was *not* a blacksmith; his son John (captain in the Revolutionary War), of Douglas, was. This error I emphatically pointed out, yet this ill-bred duffer has not seen fit to correct it in the supplement. Professor B. K. Emerson seems to delight in the petty plan of magnifying his own direct line, and blurring other lines. His son Thomas was born in 1725—26, not 1725. Professor B. K. Emerson says the eldest daughter, Mary, died early; she was living in 1758, *æt.* 38, at any rate (*vide* "English Emersons," page 26). Luke's residence is wrongly given, as of Rochester; he was born at Uxbridge, lived at Uxbridge, died at Uxbridge, and was buried at Uxbridge! All these errors are noted in "The English Emersons," and but few of them corrected in the revision or supplement—the truthful Professor! I find Professor B. K. Emerson has corrected the matter of Luke's place of residence.

Page 74. *Nil.*

Pages 75—110. Have not studied these families. The original printed pages supplied me end on page 88.

Page 111. *Nil.*

Page 112. Professor B. K. Emerson says Captain John Emerson resided at Uxbridge. This is only partially correct. He resided at Douglas when he enlisted (*vide* page 26, "English Emersons"). This John was the blacksmith, and of Douglas. Professor B. K. Emerson has since added my note on his Revolutionary War Service. Thomas Emerson was born at Mendon, 2nd February, 1725—26. Two errors uncorrected in the revision. He removed to Rochester, Vt., in 1794—not corrected in the revision.

Page 113. Uxbridge, Mass., and Plattsburg, N.Y., should be added to his residences (*vide* "English Emersons," page 26).

Page 114—164. I have not studied these branches.

Page 165. *Nil.*

Page 166. Thomas Emerson married, 1795, Margery Morse. He was *not* dismissed with his wife from Uxbridge Church to Rochester; these were Thomas and Abigail Marsh. He was taken as a boy to his guardian and uncle to Rochester (*vide* "English Emersons," page 26). He lived in Rochester, and was married there in 1795. He was never a farmer; he did not leave his sons a farm each. He did not go to Rochester in 1790, but in 1788. He was an officer (lieutenant) in the war of 1812, and fought at the battle of Plattsburg, whilst all his family were protected in a cellar. He did not farm at Green Creek, but owned saw-mills. All these errors might have been corrected in the supplement, and it is significant *not one* is corrected—*animus* again, I suspect. However, I refer

the reader for a true account of Thomas Emerson to my "English Emersons," page 28.

Page 167. Henry Ezekiel married J. H. Billing, not Belling, and he did not reside at Sagua-la-Grande, but many miles away on his estate, the La Palma.

Pages 167—250. I have not studied these families.

Page 251. D. S. Canfield should be D. S. ~~Can~~field. Elmina should be ~~Elmira~~.

Page 252. Belling should be Billing, daughter of W. Billing, surgeon, of Lostwithiel, Cornwall—not of Teignmouth, Devon. Robert Boyd Emerson (*æt.* 23) died in 1862 of wounds received in the Civil War when fighting for the North.

Pages 253—360. I have not studied these.

Page 360. Clare Hall should be Clare College—it is no longer a "hall." And the "M.B." should be of Cambridge University; Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons can only give diplomas, not degrees, which are given only by Universities; and he might have added—is the only Emerson descended from Thomas, of Ipswich, who is entitled to bear arms, and the author of a genealogy, to which Professor B. K. Emerson owes so much.

Page 315. Canfield should be *Cam*field.

I think these examples sufficiently prove my case, and prove up to the hilt that I was correct in my criticisms.

FINAL NOTE.

Professor B. K. Emerson's book reached me on July 11th, 1900—though I had paid for it months before, and it was reviewed in the *New York Nation* of May 31st, 1900. The title, my subsequent investigation proves to me, should have been "*Rough Notes on the Ipswich Emersons*," and as a genealogical work it is almost valueless and the history of the Ipswich Emersons has yet to be written by an expert. There is no warning given that the bulk of the pedigrees have been printed as sent in by contributors; but few of the relationships or statements of fact are supported by documentary evidence, and Professor B. K. Emerson has not even yet learnt the very elementary "proof of identities." He has no document which proves that James, Sen., is the son of Rev. Joseph, or that Rev. Joseph was even the Joseph mentioned in his father's will. Many deeds are printed which have no bearing on the relationships, and the whole is printed in the most expensive and wasteful manner; but that concerns chiefly the generous provider of the money, Mr. Ralph Emerson, of Rockford, Ill. The book teems with misprints and serious errors. Its biographies are out of all proportion. Persons of small importance have their drivelling diaries printed through pages and pages, whereas the real men of whom one might be proud—the soldiers, inventors, authors, pioneers, etc.—are often treated with a few notes, and it was these men who made America and not the canting persons.

The portraits are equally ill-chosen, nobodies abound, but the most

interesting and distinguished members of modern families do not in many cases appear at all, and there is, moreover, a portrait of a person not an Emerson at all. Dr. Canfield's portrait does not appear, and most of the work of real value in the book was done by her—though she, too, came to grief over “proof of identities,” and had no real scholarly faculty although she possessed genealogical acumen, but she honestly tried to support every statement by original documentary evidence, copies of most of which she supplied Professor B. K. Emerson “at my advice.” And lastly a sheet pedigree of the family was an absolute necessity, for the confusing American manner of printing the pedigrees adopted, renders such a chart a *sine quâ non*.

Truth to tell, Professor B. K. Emerson undertook a work for which he is eminently unfitted, lacking scholarly training and literary ability of the simplest kind as he does, and being inclined to fudge results—witness his inclusion of a mythical Thomas, Jun., among Thomas', of Ipswich, progeny.

The *Nation** spoke of this book as “one of the latest and best specimens of this modern improvement.” If that be so, American genealogy is in a parlous state, and one wonders what the worst specimens can be like.

My previous criticisms and remarks will explain why I took any notice of the book at all ; it is a matter of self-defence ; and finally I can only hope some scholarly literary man will take up Professor Emerson's very inaccurate rough notes and write a real literary and genealogical history of the Ipswich Emersons.

Further, Professor B. K. Emerson throws doubt on the genuineness of the silver cup ; all I can say is Mr. E. D. Emerson sent me photos of the cup and rubbings of the marks, and there was no rubbing of a “fleur-de-lys ;” and if there had been, Professor B. K. Emerson has not yet proved its spuriousness.

Again, since Professor B. K. Emerson did not hesitate to pirate wholesale my work, why did he hesitate to print the copy of the pedigree registered at the English College of Arms of a branch of the descendants of the Ipswich Emersons ? And what was the motive of this great reticence ? And finally I must at once emphatically repudiate his amazing and impudently patronizing remarks on some of my suggestions and criticisms—he is incapable of offering any sound criticism or comment to the veriest tyro, as his work proves.

P. H. E.

P.S.—Professor B. K. Emerson finally suggests that Michael came from the Lincolnshire family, since that name has occurred in that family ; it has also curiously occurred in other families ; and the Michaels of the Lincolnshire family are all accounted for by me. Professor B. K. Emerson has been merely an industrious note collector, and has provided useful material for the future historian of the family ; in this way he has done acceptable work, but Dr. Canfield's work was far more valuable. Readers are requested to gum this pamphlet into their copy of the work for future reference.

* The *Nation*, May 31st, 1900.

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