

GENEALOGY

OF THE DESCENDANTS OF

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other bigotry and narrowness. Perhaps the one thing which sometimes has retarded the growth and progress of the family most, is its conservatism, which when carried to an extreme binds one fast to the worn out traditions and narrow conceptions of the past. There have been but few who would climb up out of the rut and break away from the cherished ideals of their forefathers.

There is a vast difference in families. In some, the members are as unlike as people of different nations. They seem bound together by no family traditions and there are no common traits, opinions, or prejudices to distinguish them from other consanguinities. It is not so with the Gales. The strong clannish feeling of the Scottish highland Gales, from whom they are descended seems to have come down through the centuries to the generations present and to come. In occupations, in politics, in religion, in general habits, and in their inherited likes and dislikes, they have as a rule adhered closely to the beaten path which their forefathers have trodden. The trend of recent years is however changing and there is an increasing number who refuse to follow in the train of family precedent.

Circumstances have deprived many of the family of benefits of a higher education, but being naturally keenly interested in passing events, the Gales have been almost invariably well read and abreast with the times in public affairs. Their social status has been that of the common people, a class which is considered degraded by a few, who do not know any better, but one which is equally as necessary to society and fully as respectable as the daintier castes. Agriculture has been the occupation followed by most of them, although of late years a growing proportion are entering the trades and professions. Few have been total abstainers but with hardly an exception they have all been sober and temperate in habits. Politics has been a subject which has always engrossed their attention and the great majority have been and are close students of the trend of governmental affairs. Men of intense loyalty to their convictions they have always stood squarely and uncompromisingly for justice and equity. Over ninety per cent of the voters in the family have always been members of the Democratic party.

In religious belief the Gales as a family are liberal. A large number of them have never affiliated with any church, preferring to think independently of iron-bound creeds or articles of faith. The majority of those who have been members of a church are

