

# THE HOWE FAMILY GATHERING.

## I. — THE HOWE FAMILY IN AMERICA.

THE number of those who bear the name of How, or Howe, in America, is very great; yet they may, for the most part, be traced to James and Abraham Howe (perhaps brothers), of Roxbury, admitted freemen in 1637-38; to Edward and Abraham Howe, of Watertown; to Daniel and Edward Howe, of Lynn; and to John Howe, who was in Sudbury as early as 1638, and who died in Marlborough, in 1687.

Of these early settlers, James was the son of Robert, of Hatfield, Broad Oak, Essex Co., England, and died in Ipswich, in 1702; Edward, of Lynn, came over in the *True-love*, in 1635, and died in 1639, leaving issue from which most of the Howe families in Connecticut have descended. Daniel, of Lynn, after holding several public offices in Massachusetts, removed to Southampton, on Long Island. They were all honest, hardy, vigorous men, having, in the main, large families, which, multiplying and increasing from generation to generation, have, by their industry, genius, probity and valor, aided in laying the foundations, and in building up the structure, of this Republic; and they are now found busily engaged in the various trades and professions, arts and industries of life, in almost every section of the Union.

So far as known, but one of them was ever executed for a crime, and that was Mrs. Elizabeth Howe, of Ipswich, hung for witchcraft in 1692; but her virtues, just as those of her great Master, sanctified the altar; and her name, now as the mists of superstition break away, becomes illustrious.

## II. — THE ORIGIN OF THE HOWE MEETING.

In accordance with a desire deeply implanted in every breast to know our kindred and to be known of them, a meeting of some members of the Howe family was convened at 289 Washington Street, Boston, on the twenty-ninth day of March, 1871. The subject of holding a general meeting of the Howes, in America, was fully discussed, and it was finally determined that such a gathering would be one of unusual interest, both in a social and a moral point of view; that it was due to the good old friendly name of Howe to hold such a reunion, and that effective measures should be taken to provide for it.

The following account of this preliminary meeting was drawn up by Edward Howe,

Esq., of West Boylston, who died suddenly in April following, and was greatly lamented by a large circle of relatives and friends. Some account of his life will be found in the *Register of the Howe Family*.

In pursuance to a call for a meeting of the descendants of John, Abraham, Daniel and Edward Howe, issued by six of the descendants in the vicinity of Boston, there met at 289 Washington Street, Boston, about twenty of the family, and the following business was transacted:—

Mr. C. M. Howe, of Marlborough, opened the meeting by reading the call, which was as follows:

**PERSONAL. HOWE FAMILY.** The descendants of John, Abraham, Daniel and Edward Howe, of Watertown and Roxbury, afterward of Lynn, Sudbury and Marlboro' (who landed in this country about 1634), are invited to meet at A. M. Leland's Pianoforte Rooms, 289 Washington Street, Boston, on Wednesday, March 29, 1871, at 12 o'clock, M., to make arrangements for a family gathering and public celebration some time during the coming summer.

C. M. HOWE, Marlborough;  
S. H. HOWE, Bolton;  
B. L. HOWE, Groton Junction;  
G. M. HOWE, Framingham;  
ELIAS HOWE, Boston;  
WILLARD HOWE, South Framingham.

Colonel Frank E. Howe, of New York, was chosen Chairman, and Edward Howe, of West Boylston, Secretary.

After several speeches from some of the gentlemen present, Mr. S. H. Howe, of Bolton, moved "That the sense of the meeting be taken whether we will have a celebration or not."

*Voted*, That we have a celebration.

*Voted*, That the Chairman appoint a Committee of three to nominate an Executive Committee of ten (10) to carry out the arrangement.

Colonel Howe appointed Messrs. S. H., C. M., and Willard Howe a Committee to nominate, who reported as follows, viz.:

Col. FRANK E. HOWE, New York;  
S. H. HOWE, Bolton;  
WILLARD HOWE, South Framingham;  
ELIAS HOWE, Boston;  
B. L. HOWE, Ayer;  
ELBRIDGE HOWE, Marlborough;  
A. L. HOWE, Dedham;  
WILLIAM G. HOWE, Boston;