

## INTRODUCTION.

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### NOTICES OF THE WILLARD FAMILY.

To trace the progress of families, from their origin to the present day, when perhaps they are spread over the four quarters of the globe, and no memorandums are found, except in the uncertain pages of memory, is a task which can be but feebly performed. In noticing the name of Willard, which was my family name, I cannot pretend to accuracy ; but the information which I have collected will perhaps be of some service to others who possess a greater stock. And, if the various branches of families would contribute their mites, it would be an easy way of remedying the deficiency which at present exists in American genealogy.

The first person by the name of Willard, who settled in this country, was Major Willard, whose name is recorded in the History of New England Wars. In the year 1675, in the time of Philip's war—a notorious Indian, who lived within the present limits of the state of Rhode Island—Major Willard, who then lived in the town of Lancaster, in Massachusetts, commanded a troop of horse ; and, among his vigorous services, he relieved the town of Brookfield from the Nipnet Indians, who had burnt every house but one, and had almost reduced that to capitulation. When