

TO THE PUBLIC.

IN presenting to the public this system for keeping a record of family descendants, the author feels confident that he is conferring upon you and upon your children and upon your children's children, such untold and lasting benefits as have never been allowed a place in your most sanguine hopes. It is a well-known and undisputed fact that every year thousands upon thousands of dollars are paid to lawyers and to other persons claiming to know of valuable properties and large sums of money awaiting inheritants or claimants.

You receive notice from some one saying that property has been left to you of which you have hitherto been entirely ignorant, and the case has been presented in such a way as to arouse your hopes and to induce you to search out the facts and see if you are really not an heir. You engage a lawyer to work in your interests, and when everything has been done which your attorney's skill can devise, and you have spent your money unstintingly and in good faith, you are at last told that yours has been a forlorn hope—that large sums have indeed been left to persons of your NAME, but that they are the descendants of an entirely different family. There may be a thousand and one Smiths' in a country who can trace no common origin which would be recognized by law as entitling them to relationship, and other family names in proportion.

Official notices of legacies are in general published in the newspapers and can be relied upon as genuine, while pamphlets and circulars sent out by pettifoggers and advertising firms may often be looked upon as spurious; so do not fail to read the newspapers with the view of finding official notices or you may miss something which would be to your advantage. And on this point is hinged one of the great values of this Record of Ancestors. Hundreds upon hundreds of people have read in the papers of persons leaving legacies, and because they were not aware that any of their ancestors ever possessed the name of the person whose will is advertised, the notice is passed by all unheeded, and the source of wealth is missed and gone forever: while had they had such a record as this it would only have been necessary to turn to the index of names in the back and see if the advertised name appeared in that index, and if found there, to trace out particulars in the part of the book referred to, to see at once if there is any family connection. Now, should you find that your connection with that person is beyond a doubt, or that you are in all probability a connection or descendant, how much more easily will you be able to prove your inheritance or to trace your relationship by having kept a clean record than without it, and almost any attorney would gladly take up your case when he saw the feasibility of your belief, even if you had not a cent to guarantee him, because he could see for himself that yours was a clear case, and that he would in the end be sure of his remuneration.

Thousands of people are emigrating to the United States every year from all parts of the world, and in years to come there is not the slightest