

**MEETING OF THE  
MONTAGUE FAMILY  
AT HADLEY,  
MASS., AUG. 2, 1882**

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Meeting of the Montague family at Hadley, Mass., Aug. 2, 1882 by Richard Montague

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*Richard Montague*

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•• THE Arabic numerals, raised above the line (e.g., William Montague<sup>6</sup>), found in the following pages, refer to appended Notes, pp. 97-107.

## TO THE FAMILY.

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THE Editor craves kind indulgence and information touching any inaccuracies in this Report. He has diligently, though not always successfully, sought confirmation of the correctness of every page. The preparation of the Report was undertaken by request of others, and has been much more laborious than was anticipated; but the work has been one of love,—to be amply repaid, if those who enjoyed the gathering at Hadley find within these pages a satisfactory account of a memorable day of rare pleasure. Courteous assistance has been rendered by many friends; but especial mention should be made of Prof. W. L. Montague, and Messrs. George and Charles C. Montague of Amherst. They have carefully read and revised all the proofs of the Report, and have made many valuable suggestions.

The preparation of the pictures has been supervised by Mr. Charles Montague of Boston.

RICHARD MONTAGUE.

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Nov. 1, 1862.



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## THE MONTAGUES AT HADLEY.

AUG. 2, 1882.

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EARLY in the winter of 1881-82 thoughts were entertained of a gathering of the Montague family on some day of the following summer. Interest in the family history had been somewhat quickened by the summer researches of Mr. George W. and Mr. Charles C. Montague, sons of Mr. George Montague of Amherst. These brothers had discovered the probable grave of their first American ancestor, and had erected a marble head-stone, fittingly inscribed, to his honor. Correspondence with several gentlemen revealed a desire for a more extended acquaintance with the members and history of the family, and it was decided to attempt a meeting of the Montagues during the coming summer. Mr. George Montague of Amherst, to whom is due the credit of originating the successful undertaking, was made chairman of a committee of arrangements. Circulars appointing a gathering at Hadley, Mass., on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1882, at ten a.m., "in commemoration of the two hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the settlement in that place of Richard Montague, our ancestor, who emigrated from England," were sent in all directions; and the many hearty responses that were soon received indicated a wide-spread interest in the plan. The committee was from time to time enlarged until it included representatives from thirteen States; sub-committees were appointed, and at an early date a full order of exercises was arranged. Circulars containing a full programme for the meeting, with necessary notices, and signed by a committee of forty gentlemen, all near or remote kinsmen of Richard Montague of Hadley, were sent to all persons in the country of the name or blood of Montague, of whom the committee could learn; and the secretary received a common reply,—a voice of hearty indorsement. The town of Hadley kindly proffered the use

of their public hall for the gathering, and the trustees of the First Congregational Society extended the use of their meeting-house to the committee of arrangements. A careful subdivision of labor, a ready response from speakers, poets, singers, marshals, and all who could lend a helping hand, assured, in case of pleasant weather and a large attendance, a successful meeting.

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## MORNING.

The morning of Aug. 2 dawned bright and warm. At an early hour conveyances brought scores from all the neighboring towns. The village hotel poured forth its many occupants; and the old town, usually quiet and solemn, seemed to be alive with stir and good cheer.

The public exercises, which opened at the church at 10.15 o'clock A.M., were attended by an audience that numbered nearly six hundred, and included, as shown by the book of registry and the speeches of the afternoon, kinsfolk from the North, the South, the East, and the West.

The decorations in the rear of the speaker's desk made a pleasing impression upon all as the audience-room was entered. They consisted of a collection of portraits and pictures, occupying a space eighteen by twelve feet, showing the pleasant face of Richard of Hadley, the heroic men and women of the Revolutionary period, with those, young and old, of a later date. Conspicuous among the pictures was an excellent drawing of the house built and occupied by the first Richard. Silk banners and potted plants adorned each side. The whole was surmounted by American and British flags, with an American shield at the apex, beneath which was the emblazonment, —

RICHARD MONTAGUE, 1660.

222 ANNIVERSARY, 1882.

The singing of the day, a feature of marked interest, conducted by Mr. R. M. Montague of Hadley, began with the following hymn, written by S. Marie Montague Woodman, of Chico, Cal., and sung by the whole audience to the tune of "Coronation: " —