

PREFACE

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SAMUEL MORGAN ALVORD,
Hartford, Conn., July, 1908.

HOW SHALL WE PRONOUNCE OUR NAME?

There is clearly a lack of uniformity on this point and many inquiries have come to me from those who are uncertain whether they ought to give the first syllable of the name the sound that it has in *Al-fred*, or in *al-ways*. I am convinced after careful inquiry and investigation that the latter was the original sound of the first syllable of our name and is based on the best authority. The transition to the former is a late development, but in some localities, especially in the West, it has become quite general.

The first syllable of the name, being derived from the German *al-de* (*awl-der*), must obviously have had the same sound. The same German word appears in the first two syllables of *Alderman* and the Germanic sound is retained. Again, if we note the pronunciation of the name in localities where the family has continued to live from the time of the early settlement, as in Northampton, Easthampton and South Hadley, Mass., it will be observed that the name is invariably pronounced *Awl-vud*.

EXPLANATION AND ABBREVIATIONS.

By the system of numbering on the margin one may easily trace his line back to the progenitor of the family. Every child, born Alvord, is given a number. If he married, his name will appear in the succeeding generation as the head of a family with the same number prefixed.

The usual common abbreviations are used for states, months, etc.; also b. for born, bapt. for baptised, d. for died, mar. for married, unm. for unmarried, res. for residence, prob. for probably, int. for intention, i. e., marriage intention.