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# **Huguenot ancestry**

**Dyer Elisha**

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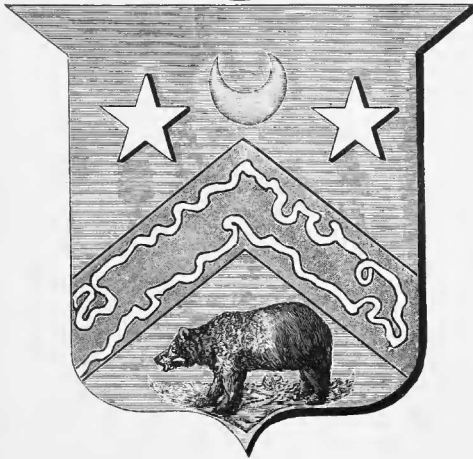
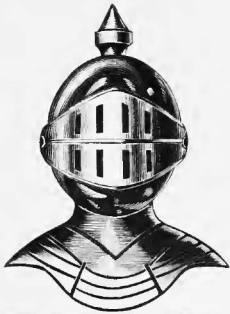








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## HUGUENOT ANCESTRY.

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DURING the entire summer of 1843, I suffered from severe chronic headaches, an inheritance from both parents. They resulted in great prostration, making efforts of any kind oppressive, and as far as possible to be avoided. My family consulted Dr. A. H. Okie, who had then located his office and practice in the building on Benefit street, opposite Thomas street, which was subsequently Miss Staples' school-room. The doctor having advised a protracted sea voyage for the more permanent relief from this painful indisposition, I took passage in the "St. Nicholas," of the New York and Havre line of packets.

We were to have sailed on the 2d of October. I went to New York a few days previous, and found that my room was in the extreme after part of the ship, and my only access to it would be across the saloon deck. I, of course, refused such hazardous exposure. I re-

turned home sadly disappointed, but the result proved that I should be much benefited, as it was decided that my younger sister, somewhat of an invalid, would accompany me, as well as my wife. Returning to New York, I found superior accommodations for all in the ship "Duchesse D'Orleans," Captain Addison Richardson, which was to sail on the following Saturday, October 9th. Our changed arrangements were productive of the greatest pleasure, as with other fellow passengers we had the family of the accomplished architect, Richard M. Hunt, Esq., consisting of his mother, sister, three brothers, and himself; also Prof. Charles C. Jewett, of Brown University, Miss Susan Dehone, and a young gentleman named Haskell, both of Boston, and others agreeable in person and manner. My wife and sister occupied the same compartment, and I found a most agreeable room-mate in Mr. Haskell. Miss Dehone was accompanied by her attendant, Mrs. Richardson, who was so homesick as to return with the ship, not going on shore at all. Miss Dehone thus became our protégé until the arrival of some friends in Paris. Her society gave us much pleasure. Most of the passengers were

strongly affected by the roughness of the voyage, especially Mr. Jewett and Miss Hunt, the former remaining upon the deck under all circumstances, while it was necessary to bring Miss Hunt from her stateroom as often as the weather would allow. Our voyage was not by any means protracted nor pleasurable, but severely boisterous, although with favorable winds. Our decks were seldom dry, from constant rain and shipping heavy seas. We were sixteen days from pilot to pilot, and but one half day more from port to port, arriving at Havre between the 25th and 26th of the same month. I think the Captain had but two full observations during the entire passage. Standing near Captain Richardson one day, the mate came aft and told him that we could carry no longer the studding sails, as we might lose them. "Let them go, then," he replied "take nothing in," which fully sustained his reputation for daring among sailors at home and abroad.

At daybreak on the 26th a ship was sighted a little ahead of us. Captain Richardson was in ecstasies, as he had taken a large quantity of freight left by the "St. Nicholas," with his personal guarantee against

any loss that might arise from his arrival after her, and there was the vessel but a few miles ahead of us. Having all sails set, we soon passed her, although in entering the dock gates the pilot fouled our ship against them. I have heard of extreme rage and violent epithets, but our Captain paled with anger and jumped up and down as violently as his words and exclamations were forcible and rapid. Notwithstanding this mishap, we were made fast to the dock before the "St. Nicholas," and thus Captain Richardson was absolved from all responsibility.

We took our first table d'hote at the Hotel d'Havre, and passed day and evening amidst sights and scenes as strange and different from home as can possibly be imagined; among them donkey-carts, market-women, with their high Normandy caps, and other peculiar costumes.

The delightful associations of our sea life with such refined and agreeable fellow passengers, would not allow any disruption from the mere fact of being on shore, and all remained that day and the next at the Hotel d'Havre. On the succeeding day we took our departure for Paris via Rouen, remaining there suffi-