

PIONEER LAW-MAKERS

ASSOCIATION OF IOWA.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE

REUNIONS OF 1886 AND 1890.

1st. & 2nd. Meetings.

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## ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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Hon. Norman Boardman, of Lyons, who was the senator from Clinton county, in the Ninth and Tenth General Assemblies, from 1862 to 1866, first proposed the reunion of members of the early legislatures of Iowa.

On the 26th of September, 1885, he wrote as follows to Ex-Lieut. Governor B. F. Gue, of Des Moines:

"I see by eastern papers that all the living members of the Vermont legislatures are to have a reunion in October, with very interesting exercises. Why cannot we have one in Iowa?"

"In conversation with Gov. John Scott, of Nevada, a few days ago, I found that he was heartily in favor of such a reunion, and I would like to have your opinion on the subject. Will you please confer with such of the old members as you may be able to see, and let me know the result.

NORMAN BOARDMAN."

Upon this suggestion many of the old law-makers were consulted and in January the following call was issued and published in the papers throughout the State:

### REUNION OF OLD-TIME LAW-MAKERS.

At the suggestion of many members of the early State legislatures, a call is hereby issued for a reunion of the old-time law-makers of Iowa, to be held at Des Moines on the 24th and 25th days of February, 1886. All surviving members and officers of the Territorial and State legislatures up to and including the Eleventh General Assembly, are to attend and participate in the reunion.

(Signed),

GEO. G. WRIGHT—Member of the Second and Third General Assemblies from Van Buren county.

ISAAC W. GRIFFITH—Member of the Second from Lee county.

P. M. CASADY—Member of the Second and Third from Polk county.

C. G. DIBBLE—Member of the Third from Van Buren county.

P. GAD BRYAN—Member of Fourth and Fifth from Warren county.

J. B. GRINNELL—Member of Sixth and Seventh from Poweshiek county.

## PIONEER LAW-MAKERS

- J. W. CATTELL—Member of Sixth, Seventh, Eleventh and Twelfth from Cedar and Polk counties.
- W. G. THOMPSON—Member of Sixth and Seventh from Linn county.
- B. F. GUE—Member of Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh from Scott and Webster counties.
- L. L. AINSWORTH—Member of Eighth and Ninth from Fayette county.
- ED. WRIGHT—Member of Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh from Cedar county.
- JOHN SCOTT—Member of Eighth and Twelfth from Story county.
- H. B. MITCHELL—Member of Fourth from Jefferson county.
- N. BOARDMAN—Member of Ninth and Tenth from Clinton county.
- JOSEPH DYSART—Member of Ninth and Fifteenth from Benton county.
- C. W. LOWREY—Member of Ninth from Lee county.
- JOHN G. FOOTE—Member of Ninth and Tenth from Des Moines county.
- JOHN RUSSELL—Member Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth from Jones county.
- C. F. CLARKSON—Member of Tenth and Eleventh from Grundy county.
- WM. SANDERSON—Member of Tenth from Scott county.
- L. R. BOLTER—Member of Eleventh, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first from Harrison county.
- R. S. FINKBINE—Member of Tenth and Eleventh from Johnson county.
- HOYT SHERMAN—Member of Eleventh from Polk county.
- CHAS. ALDRICH—Chief Clerk House of Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh and Thirteenth from Hamilton county.

## THE FIRST SESSION

of the Reunion opened at Foster's Opera House in Des Moines, at 10:30 A. M., February 24, 1886.

The meeting was called to order by Governor Gue, who read the call and announced that the exercises would be opened with prayer by Rev. I. P. Teter, Presiding Elder for the Ottumwa district. The following list of temporary officers was then read :

*President*—Reuben Noble, of the Fifth General Assembly.

*Vice-Presidents*—Hawkins Taylor, First Territorial Legislature; Isaac N. Lewis, Third Territorial Legislature; Alfred Hebard, Third Territorial Legislature; J. H. Bonney, Sixth Territorial Legislature; William Thompson, Sixth Territorial Legislature; Phil. P. Bradley, Seventh Territorial Legislature; Samuel Murdock, Eighth Territorial Legislature.

*Secretaries*—Hon. Chas. Aldrich, Clerk of Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh and Thirteenth, and member of the Nineteenth, B. Van Steenberg, C. S. Wilson, Judge F. S. Richman, and J. W. Dixon.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*—E. R. Clapp.

JUDGE NOBLE,

the Temporary President and Speaker of the Fifth and Sixth General Assemblies, was introduced, and spoke briefly, thanking them for the honor conferred upon him:

I do not know whose intellect evolved this meeting, but whoever it was I heartily thank them. It has been our custom to celebrate or commemorate all great events. It is not possible for a man or a state to lose the effects of a good beginning, nor is it easy to rid themselves of a bad beginning. We might retrospect, whether we made a good beginning. It was during this period that our proud common school system was established. During this period that railroad grant was made which has contributed so largely to the material prosperity of Iowa. It was at this period that the Capital was moved to Des Moines. It was during this period that the University was established, which now occupies so proud a place at the head of the grandest school system in the world. It was during this period that the foundations of our present prosperity were laid broad and deep, and during all that time no one member was ever tainted with jobbery and fraud. We have seen our State develop from a child into a powerful giant, and we hope to see that good beginning ripen into a better ending. Gentlemen of the reunion, I await your pleasure.

The choir, consisting of Mrs. Cheek and Mrs. Robinson and Messrs. Stevenson and Brown, sang Auld Lang Syne, with great effect. The roll was then called, preparatory to appointing a committee on permanent organization. Each of the veterans as he arose and gave his county in response to his name, was greeted with rounds of applause, and the recollections and reunions thus brought about were most pleasing to all concerned.

THE ROLL.

The following named members answered to the call of their names:

- Isaac Milburn, Linn county, house, 1862.
- R. P. Wilson, Lee, house, 1850.
- L. L. Ainsworth, Fayette, senate, 1860-1862.
- W. H. M. Pusey, Pottawattamie, senate, 1858-61.
- Thomas Mitchell, Polk, house, 1858.
- Ed. Wright, Cedar, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th.
- J. L. Mitchell, Fremont, house, 1862.

- A. V. Larimer, Pottawattamie, house, 1856.  
 J. D. Edmundson, Mahaska, house, 1860.  
 H. Bracewell, Wayne, house, 8th and 9th.  
 P. Gad Bryan, house, 4th and 5th.  
 P. M. Casady, Polk, senate, 1848-1851.  
 G. W. Ruddick, Bremer, house, 1860.  
 W. W. Wilson, Pottawattamie, house, 9th.  
 Alfred Hebard, Des Moines, house, 1840.  
 D. G. Frisbie, Mitchell, house, 1860.  
 J. C. Jordan, Polk, senate, 1854-1856.  
 John Scott, Story, senate, 1860.  
 John F. Morton, Henry, senate, 1854; house, 1856.  
 C. G. Dibble, Van Buren, house, 1850.  
 A. C. Fulton, Scott, senate, 1855.  
 S. A. Moore, Davis, senate, 1864-1866.  
 J. B. Young, Linn, senate, 1864-1866  
 J. F. Duncombe, Webster, senate, 8th and 9th; house, 14th and 18th.  
 Addison Oliver, Northwest Iowa, senate, 11th and 12th.  
 J. B. Grinnell, Poweshiek, senate, 6th and 7th.  
 W. J. Moir, Hardin, house, 1862-64.  
 Nicholas Baylies, Polk, house, 1864.  
 N. L. Van Sandt, Page, house, 1854.  
 A. R. Fulton, Jefferson, clerk in house, 1854-1856.  
 F. A. Sherman, Dallas, chaplain, 1854.  
 Hoyt Sherman, Polk, house, 1866.  
 Hawkins Taylor, Lee county, house, 1838.  
 Geo. F. Green, Jackson county, council, 1846-52. Miles, Jackson county,  
 Iowa.  
 Sylvester G. Maison, Jackson and Jones, house, 1846-7-8.  
 Phil. B. Bradley, Jackson county, council, 1844-5; house, 1846-48-50.  
 Andrew, Jackson county, Iowa.  
 Wm. Thompson, Henry county, house, 1843-1860. Bismarck, Dakota.  
 J. H. Bonney, Van Buren county, house, 1845. Keosauqua.  
 Andrew Pherrin, Van Buren county, house, 1848-52.  
 Isaac N. Lewis, house, Van Buren county, 1840. Kohoka, Mo.  
 Reuben Noble, house, Clayton county, 1844-56. McGregor, Iowa.  
 Samuel Boyles, house, Lee county, 1854-5. Chicago.  
 A. K. Eaton, house, Delaware county, 1850-1-2-3. Osage, Mitchell county.  
 W. S. Hall, Dubuque, house, 1854-5-6. Onslow, Jones county.  
 Isaac W. Griffith, house, Lee county, 1848-49. Des Moines.  
 Justus Clark, Des Moines county, house 1852-58-60-61. Red Oak.  
 Ben Van Steenburg, Jackson county, clerk of the house 1866. Preston,  
 Iowa.  
 T. S. Parvin, Muscatine, council, 1840, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.  
 H. T. Cleaver, Louisa and Washington, senate, 1854-6-7; Keokuk, Iowa.  
 Wm. J. Rogers, Jefferson county, house, 1852; Beloit, Kansas.  
 H. B. Hendershott, Wapello, senate, 1850-54; Ottumwa, Iowa.  
 S. P. Yeomans, Lucas county, house, 1854-5; Charles City, Floyd county.  
 D. N. Sprague, Des Moines and Louisa, house, 1858; Keokuk.  
 Lyman Cook, Des Moines, senate, 1856-8; Burlington.

- J. L. Dunn, Story, etc., house, 1858; Nevada, Iowa.  
 John E. Kurtz, Linn, house 1856; Lisbon, Iowa.  
 H. H. Trimble, Davis, senate, 1856-58; Keokuk.  
 John G. Foote, Des Moines, senate, 1862-64; Burlington.  
 A. H. McCrary, Van Buren, senate, 1848-50, 1854-56; Keosauqua.  
 G. Eichhorn, Lee county, house, 1862; Fairfield;  
 W. H. Seevers, Mahaska, house, 1858; Oskaloosa.  
 B. F. Gue, Scott, senate, 1862-64; house, 1858-60.  
 Chas. Aldrich, Hamilton county, house, 1860-62, 1866-70; Webster City.  
 John Russell, Jones county, senate, 1880-82; house, 1862-64-66-68-70;  
 Onslow, Jones county.  
 Norman Boardman, Clinton county, senate, 1862-64; Lyons.  
 C. W. Lowrie, Lee county, house, 1862; Des Moines.  
 R. D. Kellogg, Decatur county, house, 1860-62.  
 Chas. Weare, Linn county, house, 1864; Cedar Rapids.  
 G. C. Shipman, Muscatine county, house, 1860-62; West Liberty.  
 R. S. Finkbine, Johnson county, house 1864-66; Des Moines.  
 F. Wilcox, Des Moines county, house, 1862; Burlington.  
 Thos. C. McCall, Story county, 1862; Nevada.  
 J. W. Logan, Webster, clerk of senate, 1856; house, 1862; Waterloo.  
 Warren S. Dungan, Lucas and Monroe, senate, 1862; Chariton.  
 Lewis W. Ross, Pottawattamie, senate, 1864-66; Iowa City.  
 A. M. Browne, Madison county, house, 1855-56; St. Charles.  
 Jos. R. Reed, Dallas, senate, 1860; Council Bluffs.  
 S. J. Crawford, Crawford county, house, 1866; Dow City, Iowa.  
 W. C. Willson, Hamilton county, house, 1856; Webster City.  
 S. B. Rossenkrans, Hamilton, 1860-61; Webster City.  
 L. D. Tracy, Grundy and Butler, house, 1862; Iowa Falls.  
 J. J. McMaken, Des Moines county, house, 1864; Middletown, Iowa.  
 B. S. Merriam, Lee county, house, 1864; Keokuk.  
 J. L. McCormack, Marion, house, 1864; Knoxville.  
 C. F. Clarkson, Grundy, senate 1864-66; Des Moines.  
 R. M. Burnett, Muscatine, house, 1866; Muscatine, Iowa.  
 M. J. Rohlf, Scott, house, 1866-68-70-72; Davenport.

After the transaction of some minor business the convention then adjourned to meet in the Capitol at 3 P. M.

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## IN THE SENATE.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Promptly at the time appointed the Law-makers convened in the Custodian's room of the Capitol, and proceeded in a body to their various chambers.

The President appointed Scott, Casey and Woolson as a committee to wait upon the old Senators and invite them to the Senate Chamber. They retired, and were soon announced by Scott, who introduced them to the Senate as the ex-members of the Eleventh and proceeding General Assemblies, headed by the oldest Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. B. F. Gue.

President Hull extended to them the privilege of the floor as follows:

*Senators:* I know that I only express the wish of all the members of the present Senate when I extend to you the privileges of the floor of this chamber, and if we can return to our homes with the feeling that we have performed our duty as well as you did yours in the years of your service, we will have the satisfaction of feeling we have done our duty, and I take great pleasure in inviting Gov. Gue to a seat on the platform.

The Senate then took a recess of fifteen minutes, which time was spent in a general hand-shaking and meeting of visiting guests.

Captain Griffith then announced the ex-representatives saying:

MR. PRESIDENT—I have the pleasure of introducing to you, and through you to the Senate, the Ex-Representatives of the former Assemblies.

President Hull then welcomed the visiting members, and after the motion to adjourn had been carried, he passed the gavel to ex-Speaker Noble, of Clayton county, the oldest surviving resident Speaker of the House. On taking the chair Mr. Noble said:

It is a long time since we have met. I believe that your present Speaker is the oldest resident Speaker living. Judge Grant is still living but a resident of California. What is the pleasure of the members of the legislative reunion?

Judge Murdock was called for. He said he had made half of a speech in the other house. (It was suggested that he make the other half here now.) He took the platform and paid a tribute to Iowa's first Governor.

No one knew the business of the State better than he. He was a Democrat of the old Jackson type. In the year 1840 this country saw the greatest political upheaval ever witnessed in any country in the world.

Judge Murdock gave the history of the organization of the State, adopting the Constitution, and the long fight between Democrats and Whigs. He said:

The Democrats stood up to the rack, corn or no corn, it having been claimed that they would lose all the offices. We had no expenses. The government paid everything. In 1844 the boundaries of the State were agreed

upon, but were changed by Congress, making the State an oblong square. This enraged the people of Iowa, and they voted it down. The State of Iowa has made wonderful progress in the few years she has been a State. School houses have been established everywhere. Railroads have been built reaching into every part of the State. Iowa shows prosperity and industry unparalleled in any State in the country. If those who come after you look to the needs of the State as well as you who have come after us, a few years will show a wonderful State. Providence has been kind to me. It has left me a young looking man. In the next half century I may come down here and make you another speech. I am here as the representative of the last territorial legislature and the only one of the House. There is a member here of the First, and I would be pleased to hear him. [Applause.]

R. M. Burnett, of Muscatine county, of the Eleventh General Assembly, was called for, and was conducted to the platform by Gov. Hull. He responded in an eloquent and pathetic manner, which brought tears to many of the eyes of the pioneer legislators and of the audience. He came to the State in 1852, and was not one of the pioneer members, but came now to join his voice with the fathers of this grand State. He at one time held the position of Postmaster in New York, and his death warrant was signed, and he was laid beneath the political ax. He took Horace Greeley's advice, and came West to this grand State. He continued:

We stand in a capitol that is inferior to the Empire State, but every stone is paid for, and paid for with honest money. If it does not show the grandeur of the capitol of New York it has been honestly paid for and no barter nor sale entered into it. When I landed in this State the population was less than 200,000. I came by canal and then staged it in getting into this State. Des Moines was simply a dot on the map, as Fort Des Moines on the Des Moines river near the Skunk, I mean the Coon, I get the animals mixed. [Laughter.]

When we look at our institutions of charity throughout the State we see a progress rarely witnessed in the world. All are reached by railroads. How the State has grown in the time I have been here, and we meet here and congratulate ourselves that we have done so well. I was one of those who did not go to the war, but it is possible for a man to be a veteran of the civil service. It has been my pleasure to shake hands with many of my associates, but not to look into their faces. I hope that all my old comrades will hunt me up; I desire to grasp them by the hand. (Great applause.)

Gen. Wm. Thompson, now of Dakota, but formerly an ex-Congressman from Iowa and a member of the Territorial Legislature, was called on. He was present at the laying of the corner stone of the Washington monument and was present when the cap stone was put on. He said to be called on at this time he considered to be one of the highest honors ever paid him. Forty-seven years ago he came here for the purpose of making Iowa his home,

and to aid in the development of the State. In coming to Des Moines, which he rarely did, he was stricken with a strange feeling of the coming State which he had adopted for his future home. Des Moines is now a beautiful and fine city. It was not quite thirty-nine years ago that he had the pleasure of first seeing the site of the city. In the Southern District after the State was districted he was made a candidate for Congress. He found in the whole city of Des Moines at that time eight men and one woman. He made them a speech—a speech as a candidate for Congress, and found them an attentive audience. To-day he said he had the honor of addressing the wisest men of the State. What prosperity the people have made in that time. In 1840 he was permitted to take the census of Iowa, including Minnesota, and the world beyond. In that whole country there were 42,000 souls. Now the population of the State alone is nearly 2,000,000. He hoped the Legislature would go forward. Their responsibility is greater than in years gone by. The population is greater and the institutions of the State need a more watchful care.

Mr. Kellogg, of Decatur county, was called for. He said that this was a sort of a class meeting, and he would confess that the most foolish thing he ever did was to write a speech of forty minutes in length, but the wisest thing he ever did was not to deliver it. In looking down the valley of time, away in the distance he could remember a little brick building which stands at the south of this building, the one in which we used to meet at the breaking out of the war. The resolution was adopted then denouncing treason and giving the President the power to call on the State for troops and money. It was a grand document, and would only fill one column in the newspapers. He could see the white mounds in marking the resting places of members of that General Assembly, the wheel-horses of the State. While we are here congratulating ourselves, let us not forget the noble dead. Peace be to their ashes.

He paid a compliment to the buildings of the State and their good keeping. The honesty and integrity of such men as Finkbine will live always.

#### IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Benson informed the House that the old members of the legislature were in the rotunda of the capitol waiting, and moved that a committee of three be appointed to invite them to the House.

Motion prevailed, and the Speaker appointed as such committee Messrs. Benson, Baldwin and Robb.

The Speaker announced that the reception of the old members would be informal to the floor of the House, and that the members would stand while they entered the House.

The committee returned with the old members and they were introduced in a body by Mr. Benson.

The Speaker welcomed the gentlemen to the floor of the House.

Mr. Benson introduced Mr. Hawkins Taylor as the only surviving member of the first Territorial Legislature (1838) of Iowa, and moved that he be invited to take a seat by the Speaker.

The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Benson conducted Mr. Taylor to the Speaker's side amid the clapping of hands.

Mr. Finn moved that the business of the House be suspended for one hour, that the old members might talk.

Mr. Keatley moved that ex-Speaker Noble address the House.

Mr. Noble from the Speaker's desk said:

I hardly know what to say. Times have changed since the old members held a place in the House. When we commenced there was but little of the State of Iowa except a few river counties. When the Fifth General Assembly met there was but one railroad in Iowa from Davenport to Iowa City. At that time Congress made a magnificent grant of land to the State, and that Legislature had to dispose of it. In all this not one member of that body was suspected of jobbing. [Applause.] But few except river counties were populated. The city of Des Moines was but small and far from railroads. During this period the grand and magnificent system of common schools had its beginning and which is now dispelling illiteracy. Since that period the State has passed through two wars. Its good beginning of those days has never been lost sight of, and could not be. I am reminded of the matter of Judge Wright in the famous toast: "Iowa, her affections, like the rivers of her borders, flows to an inseparable union." I cannot close without mention of the Executive Department of Iowa during the war. I cannot forget it. I am sorry that the Old War Governor cannot be with us to-day. I have spent forty-three years in Iowa, and do not know when to stop talking of the State. You now have a magnificent capitol. But I do not want to be tedious.

Mr. Berryhill moved that the courtesy of a hearing be extended to Hon. Hawkins Taylor. Mr. Taylor rose and said it was unfair to call him up after the able orator, Mr. Noble.

It was a long time ago when I was in the Legislature. Not many of you were born then; it was forty-eight years ago. We then had nothing, no House, no library; we passed about six hundred pages of law at that session, which has been built upon, and many of the early laws are now gone. We did not believe then that this part of the State would be occupied while we

lived except by wolves and gophers. That was a brainy Legislature, and I think was equal to the average, yet we had a quarrel with the Governor because we elected officers and employes of the Legislature and paid them \$3.00 per day, the same as we received, and he thought it was entirely too much. We learned to eat with knives and forks, and were honest, because there was no object to be dishonest. I have never seen a House presided over with greater dignity, either here or in Washington, than was that Legislature, and I think we are entitled to credit for laying a good foundation.

Mr. Holbrook said we have with us the Hon. Samuel Burdick, a member of the last two Territorial Legislatures, and moved that he be invited to address the House.

Mr. Burdick took the Speaker's stand and said he was the only survivor of those two Legislatures, but he did not want the audience to understand that he was an old, superannuated man, but was a young and handsome man yet. [Laughter.] You will all remember that prior to 1840 the territory was organized. In 1840 everything was changed and the country saw a great political change. Gen. Harrison was elected President and Gov. Lucas was removed, but he appointed another good man.

The Sergeants-at-Arms announced the arrival of the veteran Senators, and the House arose to receive them.

Mr. Burdick then arose to say that sometime during the next half century he would make the balance of his speech.

The veteran members of the House retired to the Senate chamber.

Mr. Benson moved that the House take a recess of half an hour to hear from the veteran Senators. Motion carried.

Mr. Thompson, of Linn, asked that Hon. J. B. Grinnell be heard.

Mr. Grinnell took a position on the Speaker's stand and addressed the House. He said this was one of the best Legislatures ever assembled in Iowa. He believed in progress, and could say it on this principle. He had never went into a house but what he always said that the youngest child in the family was the best looking. He did not believe that all the good die young; he saw many of the good here. We have a grand record; we are far ahead of other States in our schools, in the money we expend, and in many things. We are glad to be here and we are glad that you do not forget the old men of that day. I hope members will be sent up who are veterans, men of minds, and that such will be sent until they die.

Mr. Martin took the speaker's stand. He was a member of the legislature in 1846, and was nominated for temporary Speaker of the House, and claimed to be the first speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives.

Mr. Ramsey said we had an old member here, Rev. I. P. Teter, and would like to hear from him.

Mr. Teter said he was a member of the Ninth General Assembly and had been a citizen of the State for thirty years; have seen the population, the schools and the colleges increase, and was proud of the State. He was a member when they received a telegram of the fall of Ft. Donelson.

Mr. Redman said we had with us Hon. Geo. G. Wright, and would like to hear from him.

Mr. Wright took the stand. He said:

I was a member of the Senate in 1850 and 1852, when it was located in that wicked city of Iowa City where Governor Kirkwood lived, and where we are informed they fail to enforce the prohibitory law. [Laughter.] If Governor Kirkwood was not the best governor we had he was at least the best looking. [Laughter.] Then we got but \$2.50 per day, and had a better legislature than when Mr. Grinnell was a member. [Laughter.] In 1851 was the time we passed the first Code of Iowa, and whoever examines that code will find the innovations on common law. It was about that time we were called upon to contribute a block to the Washington monument, and on that block was inscribed, "Iowa, her affections like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union." Years have rolled on; thousands have given up their lives, but I thank God that the truth of that motto still lives. When the question came: "How many men can Iowa furnish to wipe out the Sumter insult?" the cry came up, "83,000, and twice that number if necessary." In no Assembly since 1838, though hundreds have come to homes in Iowa, no man has been found in Iowa or out of it who has charged corruption to any member of the legislature. I thank you for your attention.

Mr. Weaver said the House would be glad to hear from ex-Governor Gue.

Mr. Gue took the stand but declined to make a speech. He would prefer to hear ex-Senator Ainsworth.

Mr. Ainsworth arose in his seat. He said he never had an opportunity to get near the speaker's stand—his politics always precluding it [laughter]. I was a boy when I was elected, and was advised not to talk myself to death.

Mr. Finn moved that ex-Senator Pusey be heard.

Mr. Pusey arose in his seat and said:

I trust that the great foundation of the State was properly laid in the years mentioned. My friend, Grinnell, always had some specialty. His

great object in the legislature was to put an enormous tax on dogs [laughter], and in favor of sheep. I must say that there has been a great change of heart in our district—we are now down on dogs and in favor of sheep. I was once on the Banking Committee, and some member wanted to instruct that committee; did not know who he was, but “went for him,” and afterwards learned that it was old Sam Kirkwood. I found it a good thing to hunt bear, except when the bear turned on me. [Laughter.] But I believe the discussion did old Sam some good. I want to say before closing that the best governed people are the least governed.

Mr. Walker said that Hon. S. A. Moore was among our distinguished visitors and moved that he be heard. Mr. Moore took a position in front of the clerk’s desk and made a few remarks, but the reporter could not catch his words.

Mr. Ball said we had a Secretary of the Senate of the Third Territorial Legislature, Prof. T. S. Parvin, of Iowa City.

Mr. Parvin said:

It has been forty-eight years since I have addressed the General Assembly. But my memory carries me back to that date when the General Assembly met in a church. Nearly all of that assembly had crossed the great river. Gen. Warner Lewis and Hon. Hawkins Taylor are here. Besides these two there are three others still living. I once knew all the members of all the Territorial Legislatures of Iowa, and thank God to-night that I am permitted to stand before this assembly.

Before leaving, Hon. J. B. Grinnell wished to hear from Major W. G. Thompson, of Linn, who was a member of this House, and one of the young members of the old legislatures.

Mr. Thompson said that he had met men in those days who had since written their names in the history of Iowa, and his memory flowed back to those happy days and he was proud of it. He was but a young member then, and was glad to see and welcome the old heads who were with us to-day.

The clerk read the following resolution:

*Resolved*, By the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa: In appreciation of the honor conferred on us by a visit from the venerable Senators and Representatives of this State, and fully recognizing the eminent services they have in time long past rendered our beloved State in the wise and efficient laws they enacted, through which the rights of all citizens are guarded, both in person and property, and the resources of our State developed, we hereby tender them our sincere thanks for the honor.

Adopted unanimously.

FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>—MORNING SESSION.

The second session of the Old Iowa Law Makers this morning was much more largely attended, and the proceedings were followed with the closest interest throughout. Permanent officers were reported by the Committee and approved by the Reunion Assembly as follows: President, John F. Duncombe; Vice-Presidents, Hawkins Taylor, E. N. Lewis, Alfred Hebard, P. B. Bradley, Samuel Murdock, G. F. Green, George G. Wright, J. T. Morton, A. K. Eaton, H. B. Hendershott, A. H. McCrary, J. B. Grinnell, W. H. M. Pusey, Norman Boardman, J. G. Foote, T. S. Wilson; Secretaries, Charles Aldrich, Ben. Van Steenburg, C. S. Wilson, J. Scott Richman, C. C. Nourse, Jacob Rich, H. G. Curtis; Sergeant-at-arms, Isaac W. Griffith.

On taking the chair, Mr. Duncombe gave the following eloquent opening address:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*—I only regret on this very interesting occasion, that the representatives of the First Territorial Legislature of Iowa, Hon. Hawkins Taylor, or the last United States officer surviving who held an office in territorial times in Iowa, Hon. Thomas S. Wilson, or the gentleman, who I believe has served in more General Assemblies in Iowa than any other man, Hon. John Russell, or some other older senator than myself had been selected by the Committee on Permanent Organization to preside over the Law-Maker's Reunion. I cannot, however, but feel that, selected as I have been by a committee composed of a member from each General Assembly of the territory and State of Iowa, is a compliment wholly undeserved, and one that I had no right to expect, and for the honor I am sincerely grateful.

Give me your kind indulgence, and by your aid I will do the best I can to perform the duties imposed on me. The originators of this interesting reunion deserve the gratitude of all the living law-makers of Iowa who have served the Territory and State between 1836 and 1866. They have given those who are present, at least, an occasion of genuine enjoyment that could not have been brought about in any other way. They have revived old memories, some of which have been buried and forgotten for half a century—others for a quarter of a century, and none for less than twenty years. They have joined anew with warm, clasping hands, friends who have not met since in the old halls of legislation they last said that sad word—farewell. They have recalled the struggles and battles, where in the hot blood of youth, aroused by laudable ambition, all fought for fame and the good of the country. They have brought vividly to mind the time and scenes when the welfare of the whole nation, as we supposed, depended upon the success or failure of some trivial amendment to a bill or the passage or defeat of

some bill. They have stirred anew the blood that has been thick and sluggish for years, and have made us all young again. From the solemn thoughts that sometimes cloud the evening of life, when old age makes men chilled and shriveled, they have sent out bright and beautiful rays of golden sunlight to cheer and fill our souls with joy only known to those who can love each other and love mankind. To you who have given us this rich feast of sweet memories, one and all we give greeting, and join in our heartfelt desire that the pleasures you have given us may brighten as a lamp from the skies your closing pathway.

This occasion will be one by us ever to be remembered as one of the choicest jewels of the best recollections of our lives. There is only one thing, my friends, that has troubled me since the programme of these exercises was finished, selecting me as their President; that is, that I am expected to deliver an address, and that, too, when I have no idea of what ought to be said. As I am familiar with the General Assemblies from 1860 to 1864, and as others are to speak of times more familiar to them, I shall refer to some matters in the Legislature of those four years. When, on the 8th of January, 1860, I was sworn in as a Senator, representing or misrepresenting the entire northwest quarter of the State of Iowa, I met there the elegant and able lawyer, John W. Rankin—long since passed over the dark river; and eloquent and brave Cyrus Bussey, a general of the late war; the bold, rough, big-hearted Harvey W. English, a soldier of the Mexican war; the polished, handsome, scholarly Wm. F. Coolbaugh, whose sad death we all remember so well; the shrewd calculator, Alvin Saunders, late United States Senator from Nebraska; the able United States Senator, James F. Wilson, who now represents our State in Congress; the brilliant wit, A. O. Patterson, who we all hoped would be here and speak for himself; the analytic, sterling ex-Congressman, L. L. Ainsworth, whose sharp sarcasms always caused the procession to move on where the way was blocked; the sound and cautious ex-Congressman Pusey, whose advice was always taken; the dashing Tom Drummond, peace to his ashes; the wide-awake Colonel John Scott, who now again honors the Senate with his presence; and there was honest Dan Anderson and Jarius E. Neal, and Udell and Bailey, and Taylor and Thompson and Davis and Angle and Judge Wilson of Dubuque, and Trumbull and Hammer and Henderson and McPherson and Brown and Grey and Powers, and many more whose names I cannot now mention, but whose memories I shall ever cherish; and over all presided the good-hearted German, Nicholas J. Rusch, whose voice from across the river I still in memory hear calling, the "Chintleman fram Vebster," has the floor, in that pleasant, good-natured manner, as I heard it twenty-six years ago; and then there was "Lin Kinsale," the newspaper correspondent, who from time to time, with his sharp pen tormented and flayed Democratic Senators and made giants of small men on the other side.

At the next session there was McCrary, since Secretary of War, United States Circuit Judge, and now attorney of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company; and there was our own Gue and the polished Jennings and many that I have not now time to mention; but among them all I shall never forget the noble, brave man, Col. James Redfield, whose life's blood poured out on the altar of his country—than whom Julius Cæsar was never braver. I shall never forget how, when the lightning flashed over the wire

from Donaldson, the word "victory," how when the House and Senate gave out one shout of triumph, he was almost overwhelmed with enthusiasm. In the House I will only mention one man. Among the noble men there was Gen. Nathaniel B. Baker. At that time he had the most remarkable executive ability I ever saw. His quickness, his courage, his readiness, his wit, his sarcasm—his powers of argument were all in full activity, and he was an exceedingly dangerous foe on any field. His great big heart has long since ceased to beat, but Iowa can never forget its debt to Gen. Baker, and his memory should never fade away. When the roll of these assemblies is now called there is no response for Redfield, Robb, Rankin, Coolbaugh, Thompson, Judge Wilson, McPherson, Drummond and many others who answered the roll call at the sessions of the Eighth and Ninth General Assemblies and the two special sessions between 1860 and 1864. They have gone—conquerors in the battle of life. Their names are not forgotten. Their acts aided very much to mould our laws and institutions, and bring beautiful Iowa into the proud position in the great sisterhood of States which she now holds.

Then the great question of railway construction, of land grants, of education, of hospitals for the unfortunate, of penitentiaries for the depraved, vicious and cruel, were constantly discussed. The work of these men may not have been the best that could have been done, but it was work not to be despised—work that stood the test of time—work that produced results not to be sneered at—work of which the descendants of those who have fallen and those who still survive need not be ashamed. At the session of 1860 we listened to the last message of Governor Ralph P. Lowe, and to the inaugural of that honest old Roman, Samuel J. Kirkwood, who in his bold, sanguine heart declared that in his opinion those who loved the constitution and the Union had not any great cause for alarm; who then told us—as the sullen, black angry clouds of fraternal war were gathering and then threatened us that passion would subside, and reason resume its sway, and that then our Southern brethren would discover that they had been deceived and misled, as to our feelings and purposes, and that the good old ways wherein we had walked, are ways of pleasantness, and that the good old paths our fathers taught us to tread are paths of peace. But when the war was inevitable we saw that same peace-loving man, straining every nerve to save the Union and the country. And since that day, many of us have learned that no one man, no one society, no one church, no one party, contains all the patriotism of this glorious land of America. It was on that occasion that he closed his address with the memorable words of the true, stern old patriot of the hermitage, "The Union; it must and shall be preserved," and that determined voice still lingers in my ear as memory shakes up the dusty pages of the book of recollection back of the last quarter of a century. At that time we were hearing about legislation about the Des Moines river land grant, as Congress now is, at every session. We listened to an address at the session of 1860 from Dr. Tottem, then President of the State University, in the hall of the House of Representatives. He tried to stir up our enthusiasm by telling us about Watt and Whitney and Arkwright and Galvani and Morse and Daguerre; he told us about the great schools of Eaton, Rugby and Harrow in England and the Gymnasias in Germany and the colleges and universities

of the world. He told us that we were laying the foundations of a great State which would count its population by millions. That interest and State pride, and patriotism and philanthropy all united in urging us on, and that on us devolved the duty of laying the foundation of that great institution of our great State, the University, and he warned us to lay these foundations deep enough to stand unshaken through all ages. We had three commissioners appointed to examine the books, papers, vouchers, moneys securities and other documents in the hands of each and every executive officer of the State, and they made their reports. We had, that session, a special message from the governor, explaining why he refused to surrender Barolay Coppoc, one of John Brown's men who was accused of treason in the State of Virginia. We had our investigating committees, who took evidence, reported, whitewashed, applauded and as usual cleared the subjects of investigation. As the Republicans had only four majority in the session of 1860 Democrats were about as saucy as now and Republicans no less proud. But so far as I have ever heard there were no deep, ugly wounds on either side, and when in the last session we met to say good-bye, there were many wet eyes and cheeks and much silent hand-shaking that had a far stronger expression than words could utter. We were here met by the same kind of people that have always honored a new western city, and who have to this day made Des Moines a synonym for hospitality.

But the limit of time to me has nearly closed, and as I have said nothing about the ladies, I must not forget that those of 1860-1866, were true representatives of those noble women who have done so much more than we have done to make Iowa what she now is.

And here's a health to the women of Des Moines and Iowa now and forever.

"Her every tone is music's own,  
Like those of morning birds,  
And something more than melody  
Dwells ever in her words;  
The coinage of her heart are they,  
And from her lips each flows,  
As one may see the burdened bee  
Forth issue from the rose.

To the old veterans of 1836 to 1866—law-makers of the past, let me say:

"It's guld to be merry and wise,  
It's guld to be honest and true,  
It's guld to support America's cause  
And bide by the 'red white' and blue."

To some of us before another reunion, most likely there will be an invitation to cross over the river. The muffled drum will beat in the solemn procession that will be formed to carry some of us to our final rest. To all—I know of no words more fitting than those of our brightest poet. He says:

"So live that when thy summons comes.  
To join the innumerable caravan which moves on  
To that mysterious realm, when each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

The calling of the roll was then ordered after which

HON. JOHN T. MORTON

was called upon and responded somewhat as follows:

"I have not prepared any address for this occasion, as we become older we find less time for preparation of any address. In time long back, when we were all young, we carried to school a book, which contained a map, on that map was indicated a piece of land, called the 'American Desert.' From that desert the great State of Iowa has sprung, with a property valuation of about \$550,000,000."

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH

followed with one of the most thoughtful addresses of the day, and which was given a cordial reception. He said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LAW-MAKERS' RE-UNION: First and last I have had the honor to be connected with the Iowa House of Representatives ten years—eight as Chief Clerk, and two as member. Then, I have been at the Capital at some time during each session, beginning with 1858, and therefore to some extent familiar with each of these several bodies. But it has always seemed to me—very possibly because I was young and enthusiastic at the time, and my own service began with it—that the House of 1860 was in all respects the ablest and most remarkable deliberative body that ever assembled in our State. That legislature convened at a time when not only was much required and expected of it—owing to the very recent adoption of the New Constitution and the necessity of many changes in existing laws; but the country was upon the eve of the great civil war, and political agitation had reached an exciting stage. Parties were more nearly balanced than they have generally been since. The republicans were flushed with victory, and the democracy, scarcely able to realize that they had lost their power, stubbornly contested every point where it was thought that an outpost could be recaptured. Each party had members upon the floor of the House of surpassing ability—many of whom were highly distinguished, there and in the struggle which ensued. No doubt other Houses have averaged higher in point of the general culture and ability of their members, but few if any one has contained so many men of mark as that of 1860. Those who differ with this view can set forth with their own opinion, for this is a land of free speech. My own purpose is to speak most briefly of a few of the representative men whose names were on my first roll call—like "Old Mortality," to scrape the moss off from some inscriptions which have been carved for many a year on the tomb, as well as to name a few who "still live."

GOV. AND ADJT. GENERAL N. B. BAKER.

The first name on the dear old list is Baker! How that honored name thrills every one who knew the noble man who bore it! He came into the House of 1860 with a high reputation; for he had been speaker in New Hampshire and Governor of that State. He was then a democrat—a warm

decided partisan, but one who could always be depended upon to do justly in general legislation. He was thoroughly well informed—a man of wide and generous culture—full of enthusiasm, energy and the spirit of genuine progress—the peer of any man in debate—the favorite and friend of young men—always on the alert and prepared for any emergency, however sudden—a stalwart worker in committee—and often called to the chair, where he made difficult questions plain and simple, and drove business with whip and spur. Before the next legislature was elected he had been called to the position of Adjutant General of Iowa, where his marvellous executive ability found its fitting theatre of action. I need not speak of the proud record he made. You all understand it. But he passed away in our Centennial year, and sleeps in the cemetery over yonder.

A little down the list we come to the name of Henry Clay Caldwell, of Van Buren, then a rising young lawyer, but full of fire and energy, a born debator, a legislator from instinct, a generous friend, an opponent to be feared, a power in whatever direction he threw his influence. He made a gallant record in the great civil war, and later was called to a high position in the Federal judiciary, which he still adorns.

Thomas W. Clagett, of Lee, came into the House somewhat advanced in life, with a State reputation as a lawyer and jurist. He was a rabid democrat, if the expression may be allowed on this non-partisan occasion, and later on got into a somewhat equivocal position toward the government while the rebellion was still rampant. But his instincts were always with the masses of the people, as he looked at things. He was the founder of our State Agricultural Society, the author, during this session of 1860, of the law which continues until this day, for the redemption of real property sold under mortgage, and he sat down heavily upon a proposition to pay rewards for the destruction of certain of our useful birds. In some respects wrong-headed, he still was a most able and useful member—a kind-hearted, generous friend. He died at Keokuk some years ago.

Scott county had two most able and useful members in the G's—Benj. F. Gue and William F. Gurley. Gue was serving his second session, but ranked among the younger members. He was a ready and talented debator, wide-awake, alert, familiar with all that transpired, the author first and last of many very excellent laws, and one of the most thoroughly useful men in the work of founding our great Agricultural College. A farmer at that time, he was returned again and again, finally to the Senate, and later chosen Lieutenant-Governor. Later still he won a high reputation in the field of Iowa journalism. And later again he served eight years as United States Pension Agent for Iowa and Nebraska. He is now working in the most commendable undertaking of writing a history of Iowa, which we all feel and know has been too long delayed. All who enjoy his acquaintance will rejoice with me that this good and true and able man is with us to-day.

Gurley was one of the "bright particular stars" of that House—possessing a mind very highly disciplined. He was an able, clear-headed lawyer, a fine orator, a man of most genial and polished manners—a very handsome man—a favorite with all who knew him. While he bore a goodly part in the general discussions in the House, he was the author of a complete and most thorough revision of our Revenue Laws. At that time it was almost an impossibility to collect the taxes. So many were delinquent that it had

become a serious question how to pay the current expenses of the State, and the counties as well. Gurley devoted the winter to the work of preparing a revenue law, which was passed, and with such alteration as increased experience has shown to be necessary, stands to-day as he left it. This is glory enough for a State Legislator in his first session. But poor Gurley did not long survive to enjoy his rising fame, for he "sadly passed away" two or three years later.

This was one of the last occasions in which the venerable Judge J. C. Hall, of Burlington, appeared in public life. He had borne an honored part in laying the foundations of our State long before this, and had a high reputation as a lawyer and jurist. He was a man of the greatest purity of character, and possessed the confidence of all parties. His actions were always inspired by a high sense of the public good. I remember him gratefully as one who was ever most genial and kindly in his intercourse with the clerks—who never gave us extra work by fillibustering or other nonsense. He placed many good laws upon our statute books—work that ought not to be forgotten.

Rush Clark, of Johnson, was another good legislator—then quite young and in his first term, but a man of generous culture, a born gentleman, possessed of a degree of dignity and candor which won the highest respect. I cannot now particularize his work at this session, but he made such an impression upon his party and the State that he became Speaker of the next House, and afterwards member of Congress, in which position he died some years ago at Washington. He was so much esteemed that his portrait was painted on the ceiling of this House, whence it looks down upon us at this time.

Patrick Robb came in as the representative of the Woodbury District, then including some other counties. He was a bright, well educated, young lawyer, not long out of college, with the minority in politics, but possessed of such excellent personal qualities that he was a favorite in the House from the first day of the session. He introduced several bills and worked hard and successfully for their passage. I remember hearing him say, when the session was about two-thirds through, that his work was done and he was ready to adjourn. He afterwards went to Dubuque where for a time he was the editor-in-chief of *The Herald*. But even when he was in the House he was stricken with consumption from which he died a few years later.

I must not forget "Uncle Zimri Streeter," "Old Blackhawk" as he delighted to be called. He first came to the House in 1858, from Blackhawk county. A pioneer farmer, with little of book learning, but possessed of the rarest fund of wit and humor—he was a general favorite in the House. His expressions were always the briefest. He could rise from his seat, secure the attention of the chair, say something which would set the House in an uproar, and drop into his seat in less time than one could state the case after him. A bill was once under discussion relating to exemptions from sale under execution, which he deemed sheer demagoguery. "Mr. Speaker," said Uncle Zimri, "I hope our benevolent friends will not tinker up the law so as to prevent a feller from paying his debts if he wants to!" He introduced a resolution instructing the Clerk to furnish members with gold pens, whereupon an economist demanded the yeas and nays. "That's

right, that's right," he exclaimed, "I want my constituents to know that I voted for it." The resolution went through with a whirl, and the old man got his pen. His memory is bright in the recollection of all who were familiar with the House of 1860.

"He was one whose wit  
Without wounding could hit,  
And green be the turf's that's above him."

Cedar county returned Ed. Wright, who had served in one or two previous legislatures. He was always a worker—one of the wheel-horses—thoroughly trained and ever to be depended upon. Chairman of the Committee on Claims, everything which passed his scrutiny was sure to be correct. Then, he was a perfect cyclopedia of information upon parliamentary law. He had Cushing's big, dry manual at his tongue's end. If the House got into a tangle, every one was willing to smother his wrath and sit quietly while Ed. explained the situation and brought order out of the chaos. It was only necessary for him to "lay down the law," and everybody accepted it. Later he had a grand and useful career. He went into the army and rose to the rank of Brigadier-General, coming out with honorable scars. He was Speaker of the House in 1866, six years Secretary of State, retiring contentedly after his splendid services to the modest position of Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners. In England he would have been knighted and known as Gen. Sir Ed Wright, or perhaps Duke of Cedar. He is the genius who keeps this magnificent edifice in such fine trim day and night, year in and year out, watching its temperature and respiration with unceasing vigilance. Every one of us is glad in his heart that he is with us in health and vigor to-day.

Our speaker was "Honest John Edwards," of Lucas, who had served most usefully in previous legislatures and in the Constitutional Convention. He was so genial and popular in his manners, so well-informed in parliamentary law, and so well and favorably known over the State, that he had no opposition in the party caucus. He was an excellent presiding officer, though we had a great deal of annoying fillibustering that winter, and he was sometimes, when in feeble health, worried quite beyond endurance. In such cases he frequently called Gov. Baker or Ed Wright to the Chair, when the gavel was wielded with a firmer hand. He went into the army, and also rose to be a brigadier. After the war he settled in Arkansas, where he was chosen to Congress.

Floyd county was represented by E. G. Bowdoin, a gentleman of the finest culture. He had had the advantages of a college education, had traveled a great deal, and was reputed to be wealthy. He made an excellent impression upon his colleagues and the State. At the next session he was mentioned in connection with the speakership, and became Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. A year or two later he was beaten, with several others of us, in a candidacy for Secretary of State, after which he did not appear in State politics. He afterwards spent many years in Washington in some position under the government.

Samuel Merrill came from Clayton. He was a fine looking, most genial, quiet gentleman. He made a strong impression upon the House, for one so little given to mere demonstration. He went into the army and was nearly

shot to pieces in the battle of Black River Bridge. After the war he was made the Governor of our State, and re-elected. He laid the corner stone of this proud, magnificent edifice. Later he succeeded in amassing a very large fortune. He now stands at the threshold of what is called "green old age," with his laudable ambition fully satisfied, contented and happy, an honored citizen of our State, the recipient of everybody's good wishes.

Among those who will never answer to any earthly roll-call is the name of Chauncey Gillett, of Franklin, Chairman of the Committee on Township and County Organization. He led the fight which got rid of the autocratic county Judges and substituted in their stead the Supervisor system—a most genuine reform. Gillett was even then in poor health and did not long survive.

George W. Bemis, of Buchanan, began his public life in this House. He was a singularly quiet young member, much disgusted with the loquacity of some of his associates, and pledged to not open his mouth on the floor—until the House one day paused in its business to enable him, upon a request, to explain a bill he had introduced. This he did so admirably that the bill passed almost unanimously. He is now a white-haired, though not a very old man, after having served several terms as Treasurer of State. Few men are so highly installed in the substantial regard of their friends.

Hartley Bracewell, a clergyman-member from Wayne, was also a new man. He proved to be so good a member that he came back again.

Stewart Goodrell, of Polk, was a natural leader of men. He had served before, and was one of the most influential members, always a worker, and though an active partisan, his votes were always on the right side.

George W. Ruddick was the youthful member from Bremer, a quiet modest young lawyer, but reasonably active, and always trusted by the House. He made a fine record in every respect. He is now one of the best known Circuit Judges in Iowa.

Samuel Rees, of Webster, was a democrat, who was not only strong with his own party, but most influential with the republicans where political questions were not at issue. He still lives at Fort Dodge, and I am glad that the years have dealt with him kindly.

R. D. Kellogg of Decatur, Harvey Danlavy of Davis, D. M. Harris of Audubon, N. G. Hedges of Lee, M. W. Robinson and Justus Clark of Des Moines, Williamson of Louisa, Michael Price and Geo. C. Stanton of Muscatine, A. M. Cowing of Poweshiek, Leroy Lambert of Dallas, Amos Witter and Jennings Crawford of Linn, Wm. Bremner of Marshall, Charles Paulk of Allamakee, M. B. Bennett of Marion, J. D. Jennings of Dubuque, J. E. Blackford of Kossuth, Cornelius Beal of Boone, R. W. Macomber of Cass, J. W. Denison of Crawford, S. B. Rossenkranz of Hamilton, and the venerable Abram Tompkins, who is with us to-day, were among the working members who made excellent reputations that winter. Some of them were returned to succeeding legislatures and some called to higher fields of usefulness. And some are no longer among the living.

The Senate contained many able men—among whom one instinctively recalls the names of Wilson of Jefferson, Duncombe of Webster, Bowen of Johnson, Henderson of Warren, Coolbaugh of Des Moines, Pusey of Pottawattamie, Saunders of Henry, Rankin of Lee, the Davises of Polk and Clinton, Anderson of Lucas, Thompson of Scott, Udell of Appanoose, and Drum-

mond of Benton. Poor Tom Drummond!—one of the truest friends any man ever had!—one of the choicest spirits and one of the brightest members of the Iowa editorial fraternity of those early days. He entered the regular army soon after the rebellion began, and was killed at the battle of Five Forks! He was a native of Virginia, but freely gave his life to the Union.

#### THE OLD "WAR GOVERNOR" AND HIS JOHN BROWN INAUGURAL.

Samuel J. Kirkwood had ended his State Senatorship the previous session and was now our Governor. He had impressed the people with the idea that he was a very strong, very able, and very just man—an impression that never died out, but has only increased with the lapse of time. He came before the joint convention at his inauguration with a magnificent address. While other Governors have given us strong and able addresses, I think it is very doubtful whether any other has made so deep an impression upon the public mind. Great questions were before the State and country, and they were all discussed with the skill of a trained publicist and the intuitions of a far-seeing statesman. He plead earnestly for an enlightened support of the cause of education—for a free ballot and a fair count—for the support of our then slowly developing system of public benevolent institutions—for the State University and Agricultural College, both then in their infancy—for the protection of our school fund, which had been subject to criminal waste—for the more efficient collection of our revenues and for economy in their expenditure—for the enactment of the Homestead Law by Congress—for the building of the railroad to the Pacific Ocean. But the great feature of his inaugural was his discussion of the slavery question, in its then condition, just before the outbreak of the great civil war. He contended against the extension of slavery and congratulated the country that Kansas, after her long and bloody struggle, stood ready to demand admission as a free state.

He spoke of John Brown's raid upon Harper's Ferry as a "mad attempt" and an "unlawful invasion," saying, however, that—

"While the great mass of our northern people utterly condemn the act of John Brown, they feel and they express admiration and sympathy for the disinterestedness of purpose by which they believe he was governed, and for the unflinching courage and calm cheerfulness with which he met the consequences of his failure. Many, very many of our northern people, felt deep sympathy for the gallant Crittenden, who died so bravely in Cuba, for an act they strongly condemned; and the tears of many of the best and bravest of our revolutionary sires bedewed the grave of Andre, who, by their own judgment, died the death of a spy, his sentence approved by Washington. When passion has passed away, and calm reason has resumed its place in the minds of our southern brethren, they will fully appreciate our feelings, and then, if I do not mistake them, while with us they condemn yet pity John Brown as a misguided but not base minded man, they will also with us detest and scorn those men in our midst who now seek by distorting our language and falsifying our sentiments, to use the passions and prejudices of our southern brethren as a means to pave their own base way to power and place."

This language stirred up a hornet's nest in the House. It was debated

several evenings in succession, the chief speakers, however, being Clagett and Gurley. The Republicans stoutly defended Gov. Kirkwood, while the Democrats assailed his language as being little short of revolutionary. Gurley surpassed himself upon this occasion, closing his most eloquent tribute to the Governor and his sentiments, with the concluding lines of Longfellow's "Ship of State." Tumultuous applause greeted the young orator at the close, and the members thronged around him with warmest congratulations. Clagett began his speech standing behind an immense semi-circular pile of books, which loomed up before him like a fortification. He removed his coat and sweat like a man a-mowing. The Democrats were quite as enthusiastic over his speech as the Republicans were over Gurley's. An amusing story grew out of this speech. Clagett had hired a stenographer to report his effort in full; but when the report was written out, he was not satisfied with it. In his daily conversation he used what the late Gen. Fitz Henry Warren styled "the energetic idiom." "By blank, sir," he exclaimed, "you have left out all the sense there was in it, sir!" "Can't help your opinion, Judge, but it is word for word as you uttered it!" Clagett, however, published it, and it was commented upon by the opposition press as the "speech which—by blank, sir" had "no sense in it, sir!"

Gov. Kirkwood has never made a more brilliant effort than this John Brown Inaugural, which was not only famous in its day, but reads capitally even at this later time, when the issues he discussed have been settled forever.

Time fails me to speak of each of these, my old friends, as I could wish; but it is certainly a matter for profound thankfulness that so many of us have lived to see this day and to be brought together once again. The revision of 1860, the new revenue law, the change in county government, the law establishing the equity of redemption for real property sold under mortgage—measures for the development and support of our systems of benevolent and educational institutions—then in their infancy—constituted the important work of the session, while there was about the usual amount of less important general legislation. An extra session was called in the summer of 1861, at which measures were adopted to support the general government in putting down the rebellion. This session lasted about a week. As soon as the Speaker declared the house adjourned without day, the members rose to their feet and woke the echoes of the old Hall of Representatives by singing "The Star Spangled Banner." And then came their second separation—which was final.

Following him Hon. Hawkins Taylor, member of the First Territorial Assembly, was called upon and responded, expressing himself as being greatly pleased with his reception at his old home. He said:

We, old legislators, did not have the railroads to find fault with, and these new ones do but little else. The worst thing about these roads is that they are gathering all the talent of the land to their immediate work. As I look around me I find everything wonderfully changed, everything but the weather, that remains the same as fifty years ago. In those olden times we

gathered together such men as Patterson, Grimes, Hempstead and Hastings, and no one felt the influence of party feeling.

Mr. Taylor then gave some interesting reminiscences of those days of long ago, dwelling upon the old capital location fight at some length. His reception was among the most cordial of the day, and was evidently very grateful to him. At the close of his speech adjournment was taken till 2 p. m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session was opened with music by the orchestra, after which the arrival of the Senate and House of the Twenty-first General Assembly was announced. After they had been formally received President Duncombe announced that the audience would listen to a message from ex-Governor Gear. The Governor was granted a hearty reception, and read the following excellent message:

Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa: I came here, expecting in common with you, to hear an address from our honored senior Governor, who himself is an influential member of your Association. Unfortunately for you he is not able to be present, and the committee have selected me to address you on this notable occasion, probably because of the fact that I am to-day the only living representative of territorial days who has been honored with the office of chief magistrate. It is eminently proper that you, the early law-makers of the Territory and State, should meet to renew old friendships, many of which commenced half a century ago. I am glad that so many of you are spared to be present here to-day to take part in this, the first reunion of Iowa law-makers. When you laid the political foundation of the State, we had but 22,859 population, and but little was known of her physical characteristics; in fact, in 1845, when the people voted on the proposed first constitution, which made our western boundary line about where Creston is, they were urged to accept this boundary because it was claimed all west of that line was part of the "Great American Desert." But the pioneer Legislatures were enterprising, intelligent and wise. You foresaw that on this vast plateau of land, at no distant day, was to be built up one of the great commonwealths of the Nation. Much of the rapid growth and development of Iowa is to be attributed to the wise system of legislation devised and inaugurated by you and your associates. As a citizen of Iowa, whose residence antedates her territorial organization, I take great pride in the fact that I have lived to see her wondrous growth, and that I have known for nearly half a century so many of the men who have been active in carrying the State forward to the high place she occupies to-day among the States of the Union. You have been spared to see Iowa outgrow many of the States which are fifty years older. This growth does not relate to population and material advancement alone, but also to those influences which elevate and conduce to human prosperity and welfare in the highest sense. In population your State ranks the tenth, in agriculture she ranks

the first in per capita of cereals and food products, in corn second in production, in hogs the first, in cattle second, in wheat sixth, in oats second, and in dairy products first. In railways she is the third, in the number of schools and teachers fifth, in proportion of persons over ten years of age able to read we have the proud record of being the first. Of those above that age there are only two and three-tenths per cent who are unable read, a fact unparalleled in the history of any State or Nation. The graduates of our High Schools, University, Agricultural College, and indeed of all our Colleges, are found in every hamlet in the State, and are doing their full part in her material and intellectual development. In charitable institutions she is in the front rank, and provides for the unfortunate generously. If such has been her development in the first forty-eight years of her existence, what may we not expect when she has attained her growth? With the most salubrious climate on the continent, and with her fertile soil, Iowa is capable of sustaining an immense population and is destined to wield a mighty influence in the Nation.

It took a century and a half for population and civilization to climb the Alleghanies. There it rested for a while to look over the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi. A half a century later it began to venture beyond the "Father of Waters." To-day the center of population and political empire rests near Cincinnati. A few years later it will possibly locate within our own borders. In view of what some of you expressed in that long ago, I am reminded of the language used by that man who was the political idol of so many of the pioneers of Iowa, as well as of myriads of people elsewhere, the great statesman of Kentucky, when, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, he welcomed Lafayette. He said: "The vain wish has sometimes been indulged that Providence would allow the patriot after death to return to his country and to contemplate the intermediate changes which had taken place—to view the forests felled, the cities built, the mountains leveled, the canals cut, the highways constructed, the progress of the arts, the advancement of learning and the increased population." And he added, "Your visit is a realization of the consoling object of that wish. You are in the midst of prosperity." Like Lafayette, yet unlike it, is the situation to-day of the fathers of our commonwealth. You do not, it is true, see mountains leveled and canals dug, because the one was not needed and water-ways have largely given place to a swifter mode of communication, barely known when Iowa began its career, but which has grid-ironed the land with roads of metal on which are swiftly borne the wealth of our fields, our herds, our mines and our shops, as well as the traffic of China and Japan. You, too, are in the midst of posterity, but they are not strangers to you. Your pioneer hands did the work necessary in its day for the development of the later times. You largely guided that posterity in the direction of the needed effort and you have been with them in their struggles and are now permitted to share in their triumphs. The period of forty-eight years since the first legislature met at Burlington, has been among the most eventful in human history. The peoples of the Old World then yet unconscious, from the staggering blows dealt them by the Holy Alliance, have since shaken off their stupor and all over Europe, except in mysterious Russia the despotism which then shackled progress and menaced intellect, has given place to liberal institutions. To-day the tri-color of France, our ally in the

War of the Revolution and from whom we obtained the vast domain now our home, is the emblem of the second most powerful republic of the world. We have seen Germany so long-divided among a horde of petty princes, now become a united and powerful nation.

Italy so long the football of despots and the prey of tyrants, has wakened to a new life and taken her place among the nations of the earth, and nowhere in Christendom is there a despotic government. In our own country, the baleful institution which blighted so much of our land and discredited the republic's claim to the home of the free has disappeared, and although it went down in the throes of civil convulsions, yet we may now rejoice that even those who defended it have no longer occasion to regret the result. And we have seen this Iowa, herself the first free daughter of the famous Missouri Compromise which forever dedicated her soil to freedom, and the repeal of which lighted the flame that spread until it became the consuming fire of civil war—we have seen this Iowa, I say, send to the field in defense of the nation's imperilled integrity three times as many men as the sum of the entire population for which your first legislature enacted laws. How proud you were; how proud we all were, of Iowa's record in that conflict! Glorious though it was, heaven grant that never more again shall American be in arms against American. Indeed, let us hope that the glories of State and Nation may in future, even more than in the past, be derived from the triumphs of peace and the victories attendant upon material, intellectual and moral progress. And the material progress has been even greater than the political. The steam power of that time was only a babe beside the giant motor we now have. There was then not a mile of railroad west of the Alleghanies. When the first Iowa Legislature met at Burlington, its members got there, some by steamboat, many by stage coach, some on horseback and perhaps some on foot. The Legislatures embraced in this reunion cover the stage coach period of Iowa. The Eleventh being the last General Assembly to meet before a railroad reached the present capital of the State. The proceedings of earliest Legislatures were not sent to the world with the speed of lightning for the telegraph had not then given a hint of its wonderful possibilities. Even the little friction match, to-day so absolutely necessary to our convenience was unknown at that time. In all departments of enterprise and in almost everything pertaining to human effort and even individual comfort, the world has witnessed a progress never before realized in a like period. It is sad to contemplate how many of those embraced in the terms of the call which brought you here have passed from earth. It was not to be expected, indeed, that it would be otherwise. In the order of Providence of those who took part in the government of Iowa, in its non-age much the larger part have passed away. None at all of the executive officers are now living, and only one of the judges remains, Hon. Thos. S. Wilson, of Dubuque, whom we rejoice to meet with at this time. One even yet survives, it is true, who sat in the Wisconsin Legislature fifty years ago, as a representative from the county of Dubuque, the venerable Loring Wheeler of DeWitt.

And there also remains a yet earlier lawmaker in whom we are interested, Morgan Lewis Martin, of Green Bay, Wis., who sat in the Territorial Legislature of Michigan, that created the counties of Des Moines and Dubuque, and whose district included all of what is now Iowa and Minnesota. One

member of the first Territorial Council still lives in an honorable old age, yet I regret to say not able to be with us, who in that body represented an extent of country greater than that embraced in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It comprised the present counties of Dubuque, Jackson and Clayton, and the then vast unoccupied county of Fayette. His district extended from where now stands Sabula on the southeast to where the White-Earth river enters our National domain on the northwest, and from where Sioux City now flourishes to the Red River of the North. How one wishes he could have stood with the pioneers of our Iowa and told them of the glories to come. Look at this magnificent district the now venerable Warner Lewis represented. See in it not only the northern third of what is now Iowa, but the greater part of the State of Minnesota and the great grain regions of the overgrown Territory of Dakota, which is now vainly striving to divest itself of the garments of political childhood and assume the habiliments of Statehood. Could a citizen aspire to represent a region of more magnificent promise. Of our other territorial legislators, few survive, and of the State Legislatures whose members were invited to meet here even the latest has been decimated. Thus the great Reaper does his work. But though the mortal frame fall before his relentless sweep, he blots not out the life work done; and of those who for this reason come not to your gathering, this is especially true. It has been my fortune to have a personal acquaintance with all executive and judicial officers of Iowa—Territorial and State—including Gov. Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, and with many of the members of every Legislature from that which met at Belmont, Wisconsin, in 1836, to the one in session in this city in this year of grace 1886, and I cheerfully bear testimony to the worth of the pioneer law-makers of Iowa, but of this I need not speak to you who knew them so much better. They have gone on to their reward, but their works remain.

Pioneer Councilors, Senators and Representatives: Your pleasant reunion will soon be among the things of the past; and you will have returned to your homes in different portions of the State and beyond its borders to distant parts of the country. As you go, I doubt not you will take with you pleasant recollections of this gathering. You laid the foundations of the commonwealth broad and deep, and the structure grows commensurate with those foundations. Around you everywhere are evidences bewildering beyond the vagaries of the dreamer of the magnificence of that structure. May you in the providence of God be spared for many years to come to witness the development the future has in store for us, grander let us hope, than even that of the brilliant past. And in all this continued development the people of Iowa will cherish with increasing pleasure and pride the memory of your efforts in her foundation and growth.

This able document was given a cordial reception, and an attention evincing the absorbing interest felt by all in the wonderful growth described. On every hand the governor was the recipient of the most hearty congratulations for his able address, one of the best brought before the assembly.

The choir, consisting of Mrs. Cheek, Mrs. Robinson, and Capt.

Muffly, then sang "America" in an inspiring manner. After which Hon. C. F. Clarkson was introduced, and spoke as follows:

It is not probable the most devoted believer in the perfection of the human race, but will admit that many of the affairs of mankind are carelessly done. The committee of arrangements, in preparing for this reunion, evidently reversed the order of things. When the children of Israel were in sore trouble, the Lord selected a man slow of speech to lead them out of bondage and through the Red Sea. But he prepared another and a different man to do the talking. And when Abraham Lincoln wanted a general to lead the Union army to subdue the rebellion, he selected a man slow of speech, Gen. U. S. Grant. But when Lincoln wanted heavy ordinance in the shape of the best orator the world could produce, to silence the rebellious sentiments of Europe, he selected Henry Ward Beecher.

The committee of arrangements should have selected such orators as Chancellor Ross and Judge Crookham, who were with me in the Senate during the Tenth and Eleventh General Assemblies. They can tell all they know, and more too, and love to do it: Then they might put me in command of a squad of Governor's Guards. But I want it distinctly understood, however, that the squad would not by any direction of mine make a raid on any of the State offices, or anything else, unless it might be a well loaded lunch table.

The Senates of 1864 and 1866 were composed especially of the right kind of men for the occasion. Its works were amidst the days of America's most troublesome years. No one deliberative Assembly was wise enough to meet all of the emergencies of the times. The Assembly of 1864 held its session during the darkest days of the rebellion, requiring wisdom to direct wisely all our resources to put down armed rebellion in the South, and great care and watchfulness to smother the incipient stages of rebellion in the North. And the Assembly of 1866 was called to its labors just at the commencement of the search for that untrodden path, the reconstruction of subdued States, in a republic. Statesmen stood aghast at the solution of the question, while the wisest political economists were at sea. The National Congress, burthened with the responsibility of the occasion, looked for assistance, advice and courage to the governors and legislatures of all of the loyal states.

If, therefore, the people of Iowa, especially in those years of trouble, elected better men than usual to the General Assembly, none should feel jealous of the prominence which history gives them over the Assemblies prior or since. I have never seen a man but what he was proud that it was his fortune to have shared in the work and honors of those years. But it is evident it was the great emergency which probably prompted the people to elect so many good and great men to those special assemblies. It would be pleasure, in due time, to write the obituary of all of them. But when I hear the roll call, and look around over this audience, the absence of many of those who mingled most prominently as members of the Senate in 1864 and 1866, is more conspicuous than even the presence of the remnant of us who are left. A retrospection of what time, disease and death have made on the noble of that period forcibly brings to us, the words so frequently and so mournfully repeated by the second savior of his country:

"O, why should the spirit of mortal man be proud,  
Like the swift-fleeting meteor, a fast flying cloud.  
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,  
Man passes from life to his rest in the grave."

In the twenty years which have passed since the close of the Eleventh General Assembly, time and fortune have been busy with the members of the Senate. Many of them have aimed successfully for better things, and have been called to prominent places in their country's service; such as Supreme Judge, Representatives in Congress, Judges of District and Circuit Courts, and even Candidates for Governor. In all of which they have faithfully discharged their duties and honored their State.

But a large number have failed by the way, laid their armors down, drawn about them their mantles and rested from their labors. I would like to perpetuate each one of their memories, by extolling their virtues and forgetting their foibles, but fifteen minutes limit, forbids.

In recalling the names of the absent, no form in our recollection stands taller and straighter than that of Fitz Henry Warren. Highly educated and the soul of honor, he was a man of mark and genius, such as it is impossible to forget. But

Like the falling of a star,  
Or as the flight of eagles are,  
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,  
Or silver drops of morning dew.

his proud spirit took its flight to the unknown and unseen, leaving many sacred recollections of devoted friendship, which will only be blotted out when man is forgotten and the stars cease to shine.

Nor can we forget Senator T. W. Woolson, father of the present Honorable Senator Woolson, of Henry. The senior Senator Woolson was a natural born legislator. He had all of the talents, acquirements and watchful industry for such a position. He was always there, and nothing escaped, great or small, his scrutiny. He believed and acted as a Senator ought—attended to his official business with the same fidelity and care that he would his private interests. I think there will be no disposition to disparage the statement that Senator T. W. Woolson was one of the best legislators Iowa ever had. He was courteous in all of his intercourse, and honest in all of his aims and aspirations. If Iowa has cause to mourn the death of any of her priceless legislators she can freely pour out her libations to the memory of T. W. Woolson. But honor and probity are no shield from the great enemy.

"The glories of our birth and State,  
Are shadows, not substantial things;  
There is no armor against fate.  
Death lays his icy hands on kings.  
Only the actions of the just  
Smell sweet—and blossom in the dust."

Where is there a man who was a member of the Senate during the 11th General Assembly but what can now shut his eyes and imagine he hears the sharp, pungent invective, and the deep logical research of the lamented and early harvested Senator M. E. Cutts. He was a man of such mark that his image and devoted friendship will stand by, and elevate the sentiments of his contemporaries as long as life and being last. He was devoted in his friendships, an honor to the legal profession, an incorruptible legislator, and

an honest man. His talent and oratory combined with others are some of the prominent reasons why the Senator of the 11th General Assembly stands out so prominently in Iowa's legislative history. And had it been the pleasure of Providence to have spared his life, and permitted him to be here, does any one doubt he would electrify us with his steel cut sentences, and inimitable oratory, as no other man could?

But time flies, and our words must be few. We who are here, as well as those who have gone before, will soon only be known in history. And even the memory of us will fade, like the dissolving granite of the mountains, as time and rapidly receding years will soon bury all in the quiet of oblivion!

"But all loved friends that vanish, or that die,  
Will meet in some sweet by-and-by."

Hon. John Russell was introduced and spoke as follows:

*Mr. President:* I was surprised at the announcement made before dinner that I was to be called upon for a speech this afternoon. I have to accept the situation, however, and what I say will have the single virtue of brevity if no other should attach to it. When I look over this assembly I can see no member wearing the badge of this reunion who has not reached the years of mature manhood. Nearly all are blessed with grey hairs and can look back on the great events in which they have acted a conspicuous part in laying the substantial foundations of the grandest commonwealth that exists on the face of the globe to-day. Young men can only look on what they expect to do. We older men can look upon our past as well as anticipate the future. The past history and landmarks of our now great State, is what we are here met to contemplate. We are blessed in making this retrospect to have the presence of some of those who were present in laying the very foundations of our prosperous commonwealth. We are forcibly reminded of what Iowa is to-day by the able address made by our esteemed ex-Governor Gear. What it was when its foundations were laid we have heard from the lips of a yet living witness and actor in the person of Mr. Taylor. Those of us who have been called upon to act our parts in the intermediate legislative assemblies are pleased to meet so many with whom we have been associated in legislative duties. We can all, I hope, unite in the expression of the great poet when he says:

"Still o'er these scenes my memory wakes,  
And fondly broods with wiser care,  
Time but the impression stronger makes,  
As streams their channels deeper wear."

After an excellent rendition of the "Old Oaken Bucket" by the choir and orchestra, Judge Wright proposed the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That it is the sense of this meeting that these reunions should be continued, and that the President and Secretary in office at adjournment be directed to call another for four years from this time, so as to include the members of the Twelfth General Assembly and all prior Territorial and State Assemblies, and that all subsequent meetings be held every four years, including members of the Assembly four years in advance of the present meeting.

This resolution was carried with an enthusiasm which testified to the enjoyment all present had experienced in their present reunion. Senator Hebard said:

I did not come here to take any part except as a listener. I can only talk of the incidents of the early history of the State. I came with other friends across the father of waters in the year '37, when there was no State of Iowa. My first experience west of the Mississippi was going to the city of Keokuk. Keokuk is at the head of the rapids, and was an enterprising city, and I wanted to see it before settling. I stayed at the Rapids Hotel, but the reception was too warm and I moved away into the upper county. We took our land by a club law of which I am proud, as I was a judge of that law myself, and I think the results of its action were as good and as near justice as any that have ever been enforced in the State. We organized courts and tried cases without lawyers, and the decisions were final, fatal and eternal. Well we struggled through, and came to the legislative period. We had a legislative ticket to elect, on which Mr. Grimes and myself were co-laborers. Yesterday, when the roll was called, I alone answered to a name, and am really the last leaf on the tree. Then I thought I owed it to myself and my co-laborers in those olden times to give that leaf one little flutter before you as a matter of justice. We have a duty yet to perform. The legislators only formulate rules and regulations, while the people give the laws from the broad legislature of a nation.

Ex-Senator Boardman, the originator of the reunion, was called out and responded in a short address, expressing his enjoyment of the occasion and his gratification at again meeting his old friends. He spoke of the good work accomplished by the Ninth General Assembly in the matter of revenue laws and other matters of lasting importance.

Lieutenant-Governor Hull was called upon and responded briefly but appropriately to the call, welcoming the gentlemen of the reunion to their capitol and thanking them for their beneficent influence upon the Legislature now in session.

Mr. Holbrook then presented, in behalf of the Twenty-first General Assembly, the congratulatory resolutions passed by it.

Judge Wright moved that the resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the meeting and that their thanks be returned for these complimentary resolutions, which motion prevailed without dissent.

#### LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS.

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

That as representatives of the people of Iowa here assembled, we extend to the survivors of the Pioneer Territorial and State legislatures now re-assembled here, our sincere and hearty congratulations.

That we note with great pleasure the complete success of this their first reunion, and hope it may be the precursor of many such for each and every one of them.

That we recognize in the members of this reunion the reliable and successful founders and builders of the grand system of wise and humane laws which have contributed so much to the prosperity, character and greatness of our grand commonwealth.

That we refer with pride to their example as legislators, and express the conviction that if we and our successors continue to build as wisely and as well as they began, the future contains a long vista of honor, wealth and happiness for our people; that we will cherish this occasion of commingling with our old time leaders and legislators as a most happy incident in our lives.

That we devoutly invoke for them, each and all, continued enjoyment in their visit and a safe return to their homes, a sunlit pathway for the remainder of their earthly existence, and finally the ineffable blessings of the life beyond.

N. B. HOLBROOK,  
L. A. RILEY,  
R. H. SPENCER,  
*On part of the House.*

W. G. DONNAN,  
JOHN S. WOOLSON,  
W. J. KNIGHT,  
*On part of the Senate.*

Speaker Head, in response to a call said:

*Mr. Speaker, Pioneer Legislators and Gentlemen of the Twenty-first General Assembly:*

I trust it will not be deemed out of place on this occasion and in this presence, for one of the younger members of the Iowa Legislature to refer briefly to the great growth and unparalleled development of this great commonwealth. From the small beginning of which the distinguished Pioneer Legislators have so eloquently and interestingly spoken to-day, Iowa has taken a position among the sisterhood of States of which the old, the middle-aged and young may well feel proud. Standing first in the leading productions of grain; first in the number of swine; first in butter; second in number of cattle, Texas only surpassing her. Ranking first of all the States in point of intelligence, and with less persons in prisons in proportion to population, excepting Minnesota; with colleges, universities, academies and schools unsurpassed in the Union. With ample railroad facilities in every county, and the third State in the Union as to number of miles of track and equipment, leading the six New England States in miles of railroads, Iowa excites the astonishment, and, I fear, the envy of many older States. With an output of over four million tons of bituminous coal annually from her undeveloped coal fields, Iowa can furnish fuel for the factories of the Nation and still have abundance for export for centuries to come. With a good supply of fuel, for steam power, unlimited coal mines, fertile fields and never failing crops, manufacturing establishments are settling down quietly over the black diamond coal fields, and beside the bursting corn cribs, oat and

wheat bins, hog pens and cattle yards, and ere another quarter century shall have passed, the State of population and wealth will be found in the Mississippi Valley, and Iowa will lead all the States in manufacture, as she now leads them in agriculture, should the present protective policy of the government be continued.

This great growth and development, happiness and prosperity, is due in a great measure to the wise, just and equitable legislation of the Pioneer Legislators who are here assembled, and as distinguished services merit the approval and commendation of any people, I, in behalf of and for the House of Representatives, Twenty-first General Assembly, tender to you, Pioneer Legislators, grateful thanks for the noble part you have performed in the development of this great State.

As a slight testimonial of our appreciation and a token of respect to one of the oldest legislators here to-day, the House of Representatives have requested me to present to the Hon. Hawkins Taylor, one of the Territorial members of the council, this cane, and with it their kind regards and highest esteem, trusting it may, in some measure, express their regard and be by you esteemed as a souvenir of this memorable occasion, and a sustaining comfort in your declining years. Accept, venerable sir, this token of our esteem, and may many years of happiness be in store for you; and may you, sir, live to see Iowa, now one of the brightest jewels in the diadem of States, wear a still brighter crown of prosperity.

As he closed his eloquent tribute, Speaker Head presented Mr. Taylor with an elegant gold headed cane, the entire audience greeting this graceful act with round after round of applause.

Mr. Taylor responded in a most feeling manner, calling forth an appreciative response from his hearers. It was an exceedingly appropriate testimonial and feelingly presented.

#### THE RECEPTION.

In the evening the new capitol was thrown open and brilliantly illuminated for the reception of the visiting veterans of Iowa's Legislatures. Governor Larrabee, assisted by ex-Governors Gear and Sherman, Lieutenant-Governor Hull and Speaker Head, received the attending throng informally in the Governor's parlors, which were filled from the opening of the doors until a late hour. The other State offices were thrown open and the officers received their friends there during the evening. The attendance was large but unusually select, admission being by ticket alone. It was among the most pleasant of the many receptions given in this beautiful building and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Judge Thomas S. Wilson, the only surviving federal officer of territorial days, was asked for an address, to which he responded briefly but to the point. He recalled the experience of that olden time and paid an eloquent tribute to his associates long since

dead. His reminiscences of the old courts and their happenings were peculiarly interesting.

Resolutions of thanks to the railroad companies for favors granted and the choir and Foster's Orchestra for the excellent music furnished, were unanimously passed, as was the following resolution offered by Judge Noble:

*Resolved*, That the sincere thanks of this Reunion Assembly are hereby extended to the Governor of Iowa, to all of the Executive officers of the State of Iowa, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Legislature, to all the hotels and citizens of Des Moines for courtesies extended to the members of the Reunion.

Hon. S. M. Weaver was called upon in behalf of the House to address the assembly. He expressed his sense of gratitude for the favors conferred upon the State by the veteran law makers. Most of the present members knew Iowa in her best days. You took an honored and honorable part in laying the foundation of the present prosperity and advancement of the State. We trust you can see something in this advancement to repay your labors.

Senator Woolson was called for, and his name was greeted with cheers, but unfortunately he was not present to respond.

Judge Mitchell, now of Nebraska, was called out and responded in one of the most affiective addresses of the afternoon. He recalled the labors of the Ninth General Assembly, and paid an eloquent tribute to the true, patriotic Iowa soldiers. He said:

We have heard much about the wonderful growth of Iowa, but God had put there the fruitful seed of promise and all that was needed was the American character to bring about this phenomenal development. In the great American desert everywhere are springing up sister States, born from the wilderness, but destined to future greatness. In one of them just across your border, I now have the honor to reside; but that residence and the loves it brings have not detracted from the old affection which still endears Iowa and her people to me. I revere the men and the labors of the Ninth General Assembly, and I must ever love the patriotism and heroic devotion of the Iowa soldier. But, gentlemen, I have already spoken too long—

Saying which the Judge sank back into his seat and then pitched headlong into the isle. In an instant all was confusion about him, and there was an evident disposition on the part of every one to rush to his side. But the chairman proved equal to the occasion, and succeeded in maintaining comparative order.

Dr. Caldwell was near and immediately took charge of the stricken man. It took some time for the full weight of the calamity to be felt throughout the house, and there was some disposition

to proceed with the business, but Dr. Caldwell announced in a few moments "Judge Mitchell is dead," and the business of the reunion was brought to a close. Word was instantly sent to Mr. J. A. Harvey of this city, his brother-in-law, and arrangements were made to care for the remains. The physician pronounced it a case of apoplexy.

Hon. J. B. Grinnell generously offered the use of the Grand Opera House for a memorial meeting in the evening and the Assembly adjourned until that time. This sudden calamity coming upon one of their most respected members cast a gloom upon the entire assembly.

Up to that time nothing had happened to mar the harmony of the reunion, which had been such to a greater degree than is usual on such occasions, but this tragic death made a sad ending for their festivities. In company with Col. Wilson, of Lincoln, Judge Mitchell had left his business to attend this meeting of his old friends and had been standing in the rear of the house listening to the speeches when the song, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," called him forth. Chancellor Ross, an old time friend, then called upon him for an address which resulted in the sad occurrence related above. It was indeed a tragic ending to an exceedingly pleasant reunion.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE.

There was a large gathering in the Grand Opera House in the evening, to conduct a service in honor of the memory of Judge James L. Mitchell, whose sudden death had cast such a gloom over the afternoon meeting of the Iowa Lawmakers. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Thomas Merrill, after which Judge Noble reported, in behalf of the committee, the following resolutions of respect:

WHEREAS, In the midst of our deliberation, the Hon. James L. Mitchell, while engaged in responding most happily and eloquently to a call from the Assembly, dropped suddenly to his seat and was in a few moments thereafter pronounced, by the attending physician, as past recovery, and almost immediately as dead, and

WHEREAS, Judge Mitchell, though then a young man, was a most useful and active member of the Ninth General Assembly of this State—afterwards a gallant soldier in the army of the Union—and for years an honored and able member of the judiciary in the sister State of Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, We feel most sadly and deeply this much lamented ending of an otherwise most pleasant and long to be remembered reunion. Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That in the death of Judge Mitchell this assembly recognizes a sad and sudden close of a most useful, valuable and active life. He was a legislator commanding universal respect for his probity, his industry, and for his fine legal ability. As a soldier, ever true to his high trust, loyal to the flag—his last words as death fixed its grasp upon him, "I love the Union, I love Iowa, and I love Iowa soldiers," fully reflecting his devotion and his love for his former loved comrades. As a jurist, commanding the respect of the people, the confidence of the bar, able, pure and upright, and in his death Iowa mourns a true man—Nebraska an honored and loyal citizen; and this assembly one whom we were all glad to greet, and his untimely death serves most solemnly to impress upon us the uncertainty of life, the nobility of his nature and his love for us and the country which he so well served and battled to save.

*Resolved*, That this resolution be spread upon the records of this reunion, and copies furnished the papers for publication, and that a duly and properly engrossed copy thereof, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, be forwarded to his family with our sincere condolence to them in their sad and irreparable loss.

These resolutions were adopted by a rising vote, one of the most solemnly impressive scenes of the evening.

Hon. J. B. Grinnell followed with a few appropriate remarks, after which the choir sang "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" with an expression that brought tears to the eyes of all present. This song was peculiarly appropriate as it had just preceded the fatal speech of the afternoon and it recalled that scene with such vividness as to deeply move the entire audience.

Col. Wilson, of Lincoln, Nebraska, an intimate friend of Judge Mitchell, then spoke briefly of the life and virtues of his departed friend. He had known him intimately during the past twenty-four years, their acquaintance beginning in the Ninth General Assembly. Together they had sought a life of peace. He had known the Judge intimately through all these years and could pay him no higher tribute than that of being a thoroughly honest, true man, in all the relations of life.

Judge Reed said:

I am called upon to discharge one of the saddest duties of my life, and were I to consult my own feelings I would remain silent. I have known Judge Mitchell during the past thirteen years intimately and in all the relations of life. I have known him as a lawyer, and our acquaintance was of that pleasant character which comes from congenial spirits. As an advocate he had few equals in the State, and none in his district. He entered the service of his country and discharged every duty with fidelity. Soon after moving to Nebraska he was called to serve in the legislature, and but a year since was called to the bench of his district, in both of which capacities he served with fidelity, as he did in every position life called upon him to fill.

## Chancellor Ross said:

It is now twenty years since I first became acquainted with our brother who has just passed over. He was born in Indiana in 1834, where he lived until the year 1857, when he moved to Iowa, settling in Fremont county. In the next year he was elected clerk of the courts and served one term. He was then elected as a member of the Ninth General Assembly. During this session he volunteered as a Union soldier in Company "E" of the 29th Iowa. He followed the fortunes of his regiment until the battle of Jenkins' Ferry, where he was wounded, and to some extent disabled for life. Shortly after the close of the war he removed to Nebraska, where he was elected a member of the Lower House, serving with that ability and fidelity ever characteristic of the man. A little more than a year since he was called by the governor of his State and the bar of his district to the district bench, which position he has since adorned. He was twice married, his second wife and three children being left to mourn his untimely death.

Mr. Ross then spoke feelingly of the last incidents of his life, and closed with an eloquent tribute to the manly worth of the deceased.

## COL. JED LAKE'S ADDRESS.

It is true patriotism in any one to forego the pursuit of that which animates the bosoms of all men, to-wit: the pursuit of an acquisition of sufficient of this world's goods to make us comfortable in our old age, and devote his time to the service of the State. This patriotism is as well displayed when we give our time to the service of our country in a civil as in a military capacity. It is true that it requires a different kind of courage to meet a foe in the deadly strife and carnage of the battle field than it does to meet and contend in a bloodless war of words when the aim is to persuade others to your views. Our friend whom we are now called to mourn, I first met when the General Assembly of 1862 assembled at the capital to begin its session. He was then a young man, but one of great promise. Affable in his bearing, pleasant to all, a generous soul, one that you felt you could trust. Our relations in that assembly were most pleasant. In the work of that assembly he did his part and did it well. Those were stirring and exciting times. That General Assembly had a great work to do. They did that work and I believe did it well. They provided laws by which the State was enabled to collect its taxes and thus enabled it to do its part in putting down the war of the rebellion. In all that work Mr. Mitchell did his part. When the extra session was called in August, 1863, there had so many of the members of the General Assembly enlisted to go to the war that Governor Kirkwood told us that should the necessity arise for him to call an extra session there would not be a quorum left in the State to transact the business. We told him in reply that if we went to the front things would be so conducted that there would be no necessity for an extra session. More than one-half of the members of the House and Senate did go to the war and did service in the army of the United States. That General Assembly had done its work so well that our brave war Governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood, whose

voice I had hoped to hear at this reunion, with his reliance, determination and sterling patriotism, with his feeling that Iowa would do her whole duty in the war to preserve the Union, and with the feeling that he could rely on the people to support him in what was necessary to be done to show the loyalty of its citizens, did not find it necessary to call an extra session of that small assembly to carry forward the grave work of this State in that war. On the field our friend did his duty well.

It has been said that he was a true soldier on the field of battle. He was an Iowa soldier, and that the world over is recognized as saying that he was a brave and true soldier. Iowa soldiers were all brave and true men. Iowa sent out no cowards. Iowa's fair name has no dark shade upon it by reason of the acts of any of her soldiers. Of these men, brave and true as they were, Captain Mitchell stood in the front rank—ever brave, ever true, ever loyal to his country and her cause. Many of you here to-day who have ever seen the luxuriantly furnished rooms in which our present General Assembly does its work and who were in the war of the rebellion, know under how different circumstances a man has to do his duty when in the tented field than in the carpeted hall. Our worthy friend whose life went out so suddenly, showed that he could do his duty well in either place. He was generous, honest and manly in the civil service. He was brave, true and zealous in the military trials. He shrank not from doing his whole duty wherever placed. Who ever met him learned to honor and respect him. I remember to have read in a book that was very ancient when I was young, that it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting, for the living will lay it to heart. It is perhaps good for us that this reunion which, up to that time had been one of greater joy and pleasure, should be thus ended. It tends more forcibly than any other thing could have done to impress on our minds the fact that soon we too must pass over that gulf, across which our friend has now safely gone. We sometimes think it sad to suddenly drop out from among our friends, but I must say for myself that when I am called by that grim messenger, the beckoning of whose finger we none of us can resist, that I hope the time between the tattoo on this side the river, and the reveille on the other may be as short as was his, and I feel that could he have chosen the time to go he would have chosen it as he actually did go. It leaves a most vivid and impressive lesson on our minds, and it commemorates his virtue in a more instructive manner to the living than could otherwise have been done. For his family and friends who remain we may mourn, but for him who has gone, we must feel that he has preceded us by a short time to the brighter and better life beyond.

On motion a committee consisting of W. W. Wilson, R. D. Kellogg, Alfred Hebard, W. S. Dungan, Charles Aldrich, and Justus Clark was appointed to accompany the remains to their home. This impressive service was closed by singing "The Sweet By and By," a most fitting close.

The tribute paid their departed friend in this evening gathering was most graceful, and could only have come from loving hearts

loaded down with grief. To all of them this death has come with a sense of personal loss, and from all a sincere sympathy will go out to the bereaved family in their terrible affliction.

## LETTERS FROM ABSENT MEMBERS.

The following cordial letters from absent members were received and will be found of general interest:

## SENATOR WILSON.

UNITED STATES SENATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15, 1886—*Hoyt Sherman, Esq., Chairman, Des Moines.*—DEAR SIR: I give you my thanks for the cordial invitation extended to me to attend a reunion of the surviving members of the Legislatures of Iowa prior to 1867, to be held in the city of Des Moines on Wednesday and Thursday, the 24th and 25th inst. It would be a great gratification to me to accept the invitation to attend on the interesting occasion. It would afford me an opportunity to meet so many of those men who have, in the years gone by, lent their best endeavors to up-building the magnificent commonwealth of which we are so proud. What interesting years those were stretching from territorial condition on down through the wondrous events and developments that occurred between that time and the year 1867! It would be a joy to meet the many workers of those great years who will be present in Des Moines at the coming reunion, but my public duties here are of such character as to render it impossible for me to absent myself for the length of time that would be required to make the journey to Des Moines and return to my station here. I pray you to extend my good wishes to all who may meet on the occasion, and I hope that at some future time circumstances may enable me to meet with them and others on like occasions.

Yours truly,

JAMES F. WILSON.

## SENATOR ALLISON.

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—*Dear Mr. Sherman, Chairman, etc:* Your kind invitation to the reunion of members of the General Assembly received. I regret that I cannot respond affirmatively. As I do not see my way clear to leave Washington for the time necessary to make the journey. Were it not for my public duties here, just now somewhat pressing, I would join you with very great pleasure. I am sure it will be an interesting occasion, and the permanent organization proposed will be productive of much good in many ways. Please convey these regrets to your association, and I am with great respect,

Yours very truly,

W. B. ALLISON.

HON. HOYT SHERMAN, *Des Moines, Iowa.*

## HON. J. T. LANE.

DAVENPORT, Ia., Feb. 22, 1886.—*Hon. Hoyt Sherman, Chairman Reunion Committee, Des Moines, Iowa*—DEAR SIR: I have delayed replying to

your invitation of the 6th inst., in hopes that I could advise you definitely whether I could attend the reunion on the 24th and 25th, but as it now appears to me it is extremely doubtful, although I am very desirous of attending, and will be there if it is possible.

Very truly,

JAMES T. LANE.

HON. JOHN A. KASSON.

924 McPHERSON SQUARE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1886.—*Hoyt Sherman, Esq., Chairman Committee*—DEAR SIR: I have had the honor to receive to-day your invitation to meet the reunion of the Veteran Legislators of Iowa, at Des Moines, on the 24th of the present month. Most sincerely do I regret my inability to be present. It would be for me one of the pleasantest occasions likely to occur in my experience. But the physical ailment from which I have been suffering for several months still keeps me under medical treatment, and the doctor warns me against the exposure and fatigue involved in the journey home at this season. I would gladly exchange greetings with the old Legislators of Iowa, many of whom were my colleagues in both general assemblies; but it is not now permitted to me. With hearty thanks for the invitation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN A. KASSON,

*Member of the 12th, 13th and 14th General Assemblies of Iowa.*

GEN. W. W. BELKNAP.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19, 1886.—*Hoyt Sherman, Chairman, etc., Des Moines, Iowa*—DEAR SIR: It is with great regret that I am compelled to decline the invitation to attend the reunion of the surviving members of the Legislatures of Iowa prior to 1867, to be held at Des Moines on February 24th and 25th. I remember with pleasure and real affection, those who were with me in the House in 1867, (the Seventh General Assembly) many of whom still living have made their mark in the Congress of the Nation, and many in its armies, while others have given their lives for the Union. I send the greetings of love and continued regard to my fellow members who may be with you, and wish for them a most happy and delightful time.

Very truly yours,

WM. W. BELKNAP.

HON. MORGAN L. MARTIN.

GREEN BAY, Feb. 19, 1886.—*Hon. Hoyt Sherman*—DEAR SIR: As a surviving member of the Territorial Council of Michigan, (comprising Iowa,) held at Detroit in 1834, it would afford great pleasure to meet with those ex-members of the Legislature of your noble State, who are to assemble on the 24th and 25th inst. The infirmities of age must, however, plead my excuse for non-attendance on that occasion. With many thanks for your kind invitation, and greetings to those who may assemble,

I remain very truly,

MORGAN L. MARTIN.

HON. CHARLES B. DARWIN.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Feb. 18, 1886.—*Hon. Hoyt Sherman*: DEAR SIR: I am sorry that overbearing engagements made before the receipt of your note, deny me the power of meeting with so many gentlemen, the acquaintance with whom was so long a perpetual pleasure, and whose memory lives associated with most that remains dear. Please convey to old friends and co-workers my kindest wishes.

Yours,

CHAS. B. DARWIN.

GOV. A. SAUNDERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18, 1886.—*Hon. Hoyt Sherman, Chairman Committee*: DEAR SIR: Your kind invitation to attend the reunion of the surviving members of the Legislature of Iowa prior to 1867, to be held on the 24th and 25th instant, has followed me round and has this morning come to hand. I am fearful that I shall not now be able to get off in time to be present at the meeting. I assure you it would be a great treat to me to meet so many of my old political friends as I would hope to see there. Some good and true friends with whom I mingled at the capital in the earlier days have passed over the river, have fallen asleep, and the reflection that I would not meet them would sadden the occasion a good deal. Among them I might name Governors Grimes and Love, and Senators Coolbaugh, Browning, Rankin, Test; Representatives Dewey, McFarland, Hall, Dorland and many others. If I fail to be there, and I now have but little hope of making it, remember that I shall be with you all in spirit, and that I wish for one and all a most pleasant and enjoyable time

ALVIN SAUNDERS.

JUDGE JOHNSTONE.

KEOKUK, IOWA, Feb. 20.—*Hon. B. F. Gue, Des Moines, Iowa*: DEAR SIR: I received your letter of the 19th inst. with circular letter accompanying it, this A. M. I have just returned from St. Louis, where I went to visit an oculist in behalf of one of my eyes, which is seriously affected. In its present condition it would be impossible for me to leave home. I am therefore reluctantly compelled to decline your invitation to the "Reunion of Pioneer Law-Makers at Des Moines on the 24th inst." Hoping that all of the proceedings of that day may be of the most pleasant character, and desiring you to convey to the surviving legislators my kindest regards and best wishes, I remain very truly your friend,

C. WARD JOHNSTONE.

## OFFICERS—1886.

## PRESIDENT.

John F. Duncombe.....Webster County.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Hawkins Taylor.....Washington, D. C.  
 Isaac N. Lewis.....Kohoka, Mo.  
 Alfred Hebard.....Montgomery County.  
 P. B. Bradley.....Jackson County.  
 Samuel Murdock.....Clayton County.  
 G. F. Green.....Jackson County.  
 Geo. G. Wright.....Polk County.  
 John T. Morton.....Topeka, Kansas.  
 A. K. Eaton.....Mitchell County.  
 H. B. Hendershott.....Wapello County.  
 A. H. McCrary.....Lee County.  
 J. B. Grinnell.....Poweshiek County.  
 W. H. M. Pusey.....Pottawattamie County.  
 Norman Boardman.....Clinton County.  
 John G. Foote.....Des Moines County.  
 T. S. Wilson.....Dubuque County.

## SECRETARIES.

Charles Aldrich.....Webster County.  
 Ben VanSteenburg.....Jackson County.  
 C. S. Wilson.....Polk County.  
 J. Scott Richman.....Muscatine County.  
 C. C. Nourse.....Polk County.  
 Jacob Rich.....Dubuque County.  
 H. G. Curtis.....Cass County.

## SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.

Isaac W. Griffith.....Polk County.

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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS

OF THE

SECOND REUNION

OF THE

PIONEER LAW-MAKERS

OF IOWA,

AT DES MOINES, FEBRUARY 27-29, 1890.

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## OFFICERS—1890.

## PRESIDENT.

Edward Johnstone.....Lee County.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

H. H. Trimble.....Lee County.  
 Dr. G. M. Davis.....Clinton County.  
 B. B. Richards.....Dubuque County.  
 L. L. Ainsworth.....Fayette County.  
 John Russell.....Jones County.  
 S. K. Cremer.....Wapello County.  
 Newton Guthrie.....Warren County.  
 L. W. Ross.....Pottawattamie County.  
 Samuel Rees.....Webster County.  
 R. A. Smith.....Dickinson County.

## SECRETARIES.

A. R. Fulton.....Polk County.  
 Charles Aldrich.....Hamilton County.  
 Ben VanSteenburg.....Jackson County.  
 C. S. Wilson, Editor-at-Large.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Geo. G. Wright.....Des Moines, Polk County.  
 P. M. Casady.....Des Moines, Polk County.  
 B. F. Gue.....Des Moines, Polk County.

## CIRCULAR OF INVITATION.

You are cordially invited to meet with us at the Second Reunion of the "Old Law-Makers of Iowa," on the 27th and 28th inst. and take part in their deliberations.

Come and renew old friendships and associations, and help to furnish material for the future historian of our great State.

The following distinguished old law-makers have signified their intention to be present and take part in the exercises: Hon. Edward Johnstone, Judge James Grant, Hon. T. S. Wilson, Ex-Senator Geo. W. Jones, Ex-Gov. Samuel J. Kirkwood, Judge Samuel Murdock, Hon. Geo. W. McCrary, Major R. D. Kellogg, Hon. W. H. M. Pusey, Hon. J. Scott Richman, Hon. Lewis Todhunter, Rev. I. P. Teter, Hon. J. B. Grinnell and others.

Judge A. R. Fulton will prepare a poem for the occasion.

The Reunion Association will visit the present General Assembly in a body and call on the State officers.

A reception will be given them at the Capitol by the Governor and Ex-Governors of Iowa.

A social Reunion will be held on the evening of the 28th at which five minute speeches will be in order, from every one in attendance.

## REDUCED RAILROAD RATES.

In order to obtain the reduced rates the applicant must procure from the ticket agent *at the place of starting* a certificate, paying there full fare to Des Moines. This certificate so obtained from the local ticket agent, must be presented to the proper Secretary of the Reunion at Des Moines to be countersigned by him in order to entitle the holder to the reduction of fare on returning home. The return fare will be one-third of the regular rate. *Be sure and obtain this certificate at the office where you buy your ticket.*

## HOTEL RATES.

The charges at the principal hotels will range at from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per day.

All in attendance are requested to come direct from the trains to the parlor of the Aborn House where badges will be furnished, and all information as to hotel accommodations, will be given by the Committee on Reception and Invitation.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO MEMBERSHIP.

All members and officers of Territorial and State Legislatures, Governors and other State officers, United States Senators and Representatives in Congress, who served prior to and including the year 1870; all ex-members and officers of Constitutional Conventions, and Board of Education.

Please let us know by return mail if you will be with us at the Reunion.

B. F. GUE,	} Committee of Arrangements.
GEO. G. WRIGHT,	
P. M. CASADY,	

*Des Moines, Iowa, February 17th, 1890.*

## PROGRAMME.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27—MORNING SESSION.

At 10 A. M. the Association will be called to order by the President at the Central Christian Church, Locust street.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Music by the Choir—"America."

Opening address of President John F. Duncombe of Fort Dodge.

Address of welcome by Hon. George G. Wright of Des Moines.

Address by Hon. T. S. Wilson of Dubuque.

Music.

Address by Ex-Gov. Samuel J. Kirkwood of Iowa City.

Address by Hon. George W. Jones of Dubuque.

Appointment of Committees.

Music by the Choir—"The Star Spangled Banner."

Adjournment to attend the Inauguration Ceremonies at the Capitol.

## EVENING SESSION.

Call to order at 7½ P. M.

Reports of Committees.

Inauguration of the New President.

Address by Hon. G. W. McCrary of Kansas City, on "The Old Times and the New."

Music by the Choir—Mrs. Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Five minutes extemporaneous speeches by members generally.

Music—"We are Tenting To-Night on The Old Camp Ground."

Adjournment to 10 A. M. Friday.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28—MORNING SESSION.

At 10 A. M.

Address by Hon. W. H. M. Pusey of Council Bluffs; Subject: "The Seventh General Assembly."

Music by the Choir—"Hail Columbia."

Address of Maj. R. D. Kellogg of Decatur; Subject: "The Eighth General Assembly."

Poem by Judge A. R. Fulton.

Music.

Address by Hon. Samuel Murdock of Elkader; Subject: "Early Courts of Iowa."

Letters from absent members, read by the Secretary.

Adjournment to 2 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

**Music.**

Addresses by Judge James Grant of Davenport and Dr. G. S. Bailey of Van Buren County on the "First Constitutional Convention."

Address by Hon. J. Scott Richman of Muscatine on the "Second Constitutional Convention."

**Music.**

Address by Hon. Lewis Todhunter of Indianola on the "Third Constitutional Convention."

Reception of the General Assembly and Speeches.

Response by Rev. I. P. Teter of Oskaloosa.

Music by the Choir—"Auld Lang Syne."



## PROCEEDINGS OF SECOND REUNION.

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 27, 1890.

At 10 o'clock a. m. the Association was called to order by the president, Hon. John F. Duncombe, of Webster county, at the Central Christian church, Des Moines, Iowa. The session was opened with prayer by Rev. A. H. Ames, of Des Moines, after which the choir sang "America."

### ROLL OF MEMBERS.

The Re-union opened with the following named members enrolled:

NAMES.	COUNTY.	BRANCH OF SERVICE.	YEARS OF SERVICE.	PRESENT ADDRESS.
Alfred Hebard.....	Des Moines.	House .....	1840, etc.....	Red Oak, Iowa.
Isaac W. Griffith.....	Lee .....	House .....	1848 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
John Russell.....	Jones .....	House .....	1862-64-66-68-70..	Onslow, Iowa.
L. W. Stuart.....	Jackson .....	House .....	1868-69-76 .....	Monmouth, Iowa.
A. McPherrin.....	Van Buren.	House .....	1846-54 .....	Keosauqua, Iowa.
Geo. Schramm.....	Van Buren.	Senate .....	1832-54 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
S. G. Matson.....	Linn .....	House .....	1846-47 .....	Viola, Iowa.
P. M. Casady.....	Polk, etc .....	Senate .....	1848-50 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
B. F. Gue.....	Scott, etc .....	House & Senate .....	1858 to 1868 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
T. S. Parvin.....	Territory .....	Sec. Council.....	1840 .....	Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
J. M. Browne.....	Madison .....	House .....	1865-66 .....	St. Charles, Iowa.
R. D. Kellogg.....	Decatur .....	House .....	1860-61-62-63 .....	Garden Grove, Iowa.
Samuel McNutt.....	Muscatine .....	Senate & House .....	1864 to 1873 .....	Muscatine, Iowa.
Samuel Murdock.....	Dub'que, etc .....	House .....	1844-6 and 1870 .....	Elkader, Iowa.
W. S. Hall.....	Dubuque .....	House .....	1854-56 .....	Onslow, Iowa.
L. L. Ainsworth.....	Fayette .....	Senate .....	1860-64 .....	West Union.
H. W. Peck.....	Decatur .....	House .....	1868 .....	Decatur, Iowa.
N. Everson.....	Washington .....	Senate .....	1850-52 .....	Washington, Iowa.
F. M. Knoll.....	Dubuque .....	House & Senate .....	1862, etc., 14 yrs. .....	Sageville, Iowa.
R. A. Smith.....	Emmet, etc .....	House .....	1868 .....	Okoboji, Iowa.
Jas. H. Rothrock.....	Cedar .....	House .....	1862 .....	Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
H. Bracewell.....	Wayne .....	House .....	1860-62 .....	Corydon, Iowa.
Thos. B. Knapp.....	Hardin .....	House .....	1866-68 .....	Iowa Falls, Iowa.
G. M. Davis.....	Clinton .....	Senate .....	1858-60 .....	Clinton, Iowa.
R. P. Wilson.....	Lee .....	House .....	1850 .....	Numa, Iowa.
J. F. Duncombe.....	Webster .....	House & Senate .....	1872-80, 8 years .....	Fort Dodge, Iowa.
S. S. Farwell.....	Jones .....	Senate .....	1866-68 .....	Monticello, Iowa.
A. C. Fulton.....	Scott.....	Senate .....	1854-56 .....	Davenport, Iowa.
H. G. Day.....	Emmet, etc .....	House .....	1870 .....	Albert Lea, Minn.
Isaac Millburn.....	Linn .....	House .....	1862 .....	.....
J. H. Powers.....	Howard etc .....	Senate .....	1860 .....	.....
Wm. P. Wolf.....	Cedar .....	Senate & House .....	1864, etc.....	Tipton, Iowa.

## ROLL OF MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

NAMES.	COUNTY.	BRANCH OF SERVICE.	YEARS OF SERVICE.	PRESENT ADDRESS.
R. S. Finkbine .....	Johnson .....	House .....	1864-66.....	Des Moines, Iowa.
S. K. Cremer .....	Wapello .....	House .....	1858-60.....	Agency City, Iowa.
B. B. Richards .....	Dubuque.....	Senate & House	1864, etc., 10 yrs.	Dubuque, Iowa.
Elwood Lindley .....	Dallas .....	House .....	1864 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
A. S. Faville .....	Mitchell .....	House .....	1870 .....	Osage, Iowa.
W. Galland .....	Lee .....	House .....	1864 .....	Ft. Madison, Iowa.
C. S. Wilson .....	House .....	House .....	1866 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
A. R. Fulton .....	Jefferson .....	House .....	1855-68.....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Charles Aldrich .....	Hamilton .....	House .....	1860, etc.....	Webster City, Iowa.
Charles Weare .....	Linn .....	House .....	1864 .....	Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
P. P. Henderson .....	Warren .....	Senate .....	1860 .....	Indianola, Iowa.
M. A. Dashiell .....	Warren .....	Senate & House	1868, etc.....	Indianola, Iowa.
Alonzo Abernethy .....	Fayette .....	House .....	1866 .....	Osage, Iowa.
Newton Guthrie .....	Warren .....	House .....	1862 .....	Hartford, Iowa.
S. V. Gore .....	Marion .....	House .....	1864 .....	Pleasantville, Iowa.
J. P. Teter .....	Keokuk .....	Senate .....	1861 .....	Oskaloosa, Iowa.
Geo. G. Wright .....	Van Buren .....	Senate .....	1848-50.....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Wm. Sanderson .....	Scott .....	House .....	1864 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Owen Bromley .....	Jefferson .....	House .....	1864 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
J. S. Maxwell .....	Clinton .....	House .....	1862 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Lewis Todhunter .....	Warren .....	Const. Con.....	1857 .....	Indianola, Iowa.
Nicholas Baylles .....	Polk .....	House .....	1864 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Edward Johnstone .....	Lee .....	House .....	1839-40.....	Keokuk, Iowa.
Geo. W. Jones .....	Polk .....	House .....	1870 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
J. Selman .....	Davis .....	Const. Con.....	1846 .....	Bloomfield, Iowa.
John Meyer .....	Jasper .....	Senate & House	1862, etc.....	Newton, Iowa.
Ben Van Steenburg .....	Jackson .....	Clerk and Sec'y	1866, etc.....	Preston, Iowa.
P. B. Bradley .....	Jackson .....	House & Senate	1848, etc.....	Andrew, Iowa.
Geo. F. Green .....	Jackson .....	House & Senate	1854, etc.....	Miles, Iowa.
John Hilsinger .....	Jackson .....	Senate .....	1866-68.....	Sabula, Iowa.
J. F. Hopkins .....	Boone .....	House .....	1870 .....	Madrid, Iowa.
H. H. Trimble .....	Davis .....	Senate .....	1856-60.....	Keokuk, Iowa.
Thomas Mitchell .....	Polk .....	House .....	1858 .....	Mitchellville, Iowa.
Hoyt Sherman .....	Polk .....	House .....	1866 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
John Mitchell .....	Polk .....	House .....	1862 .....	Des Moines, Iowa.
James C. Jordan .....	Polk .....	Senate .....	1854-56.....	Des Moines, Iowa.
Ed. Wright .....	Cedar .....	House .....	1856, etc.....	Des Moines, Iowa.
N. W. Rowell .....	Union .....	House .....	1868 .....	Afton, Iowa.
Green S. Clark .....	Marion .....	House .....	1854, etc.....	Pella, Iowa.
L. R. Bolter .....	Harrison .....	House & Senate	1866, etc.....	Logan, Iowa.

W. S. Hall, of Jones county: I move that at the next meeting of this convention the members of the different Assemblies, territorial and state, be requested to be seated together, reserving seats in front for our lady friends, if there be any present, and have the members and officers of the territorial legislatures just behind them, and so on. It will renew the friendships of forty and fifty years ago.

Motion carried.

Then followed the address of the President, Hon. John F. Duncombe, as follows:

*Gentlemen of the Old Law Makers' Association of Iowa:*

Since our last meeting another four years have been numbered with the dead past. All the events of that time have been unchangeably written in the great book of history. The rulers of the nations of the earth have been in constant activity, scheming for more power, seeking for larger possessions and larger fields in which to gratify ceaseless ambition. The priest and the

the preacher, the lawyer and the doctor, the moral philosopher and the scientist, the possessor of millions of wealth and the ragged beggar have, each in his sphere of action, done his work, and the character and quality of that work is absolutely unchangeable. The true statesman has honestly studied and labored for the best interest of the people of his own well beloved country, while the dishonest politician has, with equal vigilance and no less labor, sought to rise to a higher place by corruption and debauchery. The great struggle between capital and labor has been going on unceasingly, and the cry of each for four years as in all past time, has been for—not happiness but more money. Forms of government have been changed, and in one instance, at least, an honored king has withdrawn from his country, and his subjects have founded a new government of the people, by the people, for the people. A constant revision has been going on and the four years past have been no exception.

The world has revised its theories of electricity, of light, of sound. Revision has not spared our hymnals, our creeds, our New Testament or our religious ideas. Revision has been the watchword in our laws, in our political platforms and doctrines. Revision in form, in style, in subject matter, has seized upon the mighty press, until our daily metropolitan journals are great books of theology, law, medicine, political economy, logic, poetry, science, news, history, and all else that the human brain has ever thought of, or that human language can describe.

Theologians have discussed theology, and have proposed and formulated new creeds, have contended for new constructions of the Bible, and judges have sent forth hundreds of volumes of opinions, and other lawyers have written hundreds of volumes of law books, while writers of fancy and fiction have flooded the world with imaginary scenes of happiness and woe, kindness and cruelty, beauty and ugliness, and yet the same ceaseless activity with still increasing force moves on over the restless ocean of time.

We too, my friends, have been carried along in this great whirlpool of life. We too, have been parties to some of the many transactions of the four years last past. We have during that time made a part of this book of history. We have had our joys and our afflictions: We have rejoiced and we have wept. We have visited the houses of gayety and pleasure, and of sadness and sorrow. Some of us have seen our own homes made desolate by death, while others have been blessed with the new life of a new generation.

A few of our number since our last meeting have passed over the silent river. At that meeting we were admonished of the uncertainty of life, by seeing Judge Mitchell, one of our own loved companions, in our presence, after delivering a beautiful address, fall down before us and die, surrounded by those who had been his friends and companions for many years. To him and those who have lived the life of the good and pure, such a death brings no terrors. Change has impressed its mark on all of us. Our faces are a little more wrinkled than when we last met. The silver locks of increasing age have changed us somewhat, but let us rejoice that those of us who are present here to-day, have still light and joyous hearts; that we have refused to join the great army or unhappy growlers, and that we are getting better and happier every day as we approach the land of golden hope. We have come here to renew old friendships—to call back the pleasant memories of the past, and for a few hours to live over some of the most delightful portions of

of our lives. In recollection to fight over our battles, as a quarter of a century ago, we struggled with the intricate problems of how to save the country; how to enact more just and perfect laws than ever had been or ever could be enacted; how to lay the foundation of our grand state so deep and solid that our laws would be perpetual; how to so contend, so argue, so vote, so make a record, that we should be admired and honored by all future generations. To so perform our work that no future legislature would need to do anything but organize and pass appropriation bills.

While we failed in some of these noble ambitions, we need not fail here at this time to have a season of genuine pleasure, and a good old-fashioned jolly time. And to this end may we one and all give our best efforts, and if we do, this, like our last meeting, will be one of the bright spots in memory when decay shall do its perfect work and earth shall cease to interest us. And to each of you, my friends, let me say,

And if the passing clouds of care  
Have cast their shadows o'er thy face,  
They have but left, triumphant there,  
A holier charm, more witching grace.

And if thy voice hath sunk a tone,  
And sounds more sadly than of yore,  
It hath a sweetness all its own,  
Methinks I never marked before.

The address was frequently interrupted by cheers.

The President was followed by an address of welcome by Hon. Geo. G. Wright, as follows:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

To me has been assigned the very pleasant duty of welcoming all present and to come, to this second reunion of the "Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa," including in this designation, U. S. senators, members of congress, governors and State officers, members and officers of Territorial and State assemblies, prior to and including 1870, as also of the three Constitutional Conventions and Boards of Education.

I bid you a most cordial welcome. By my order and that of all the people, you are entitled to and are hereby given the freedom of the city. You can go where and as you please—if you don't see what you want, ask for it, and if possible it shall be forthcoming, as far as consistent with the prohibitory law and without regard to "age, race, color, or previous conditions and servitude!" If there be those, and there may be, who should be taken out of this general privilege, they will be warned from time to time, and placed under the eagle eye and watchful care of our chaplain or some one else alike capable and discreet! And still for all I say welcome, thrice welcome, and let this be for you, for the citizens of this Capital City, for all the people of the State, an occasion never to be forgotten, one long to be remembered for its happy associations and memories, and the great good accomplished for that State of which we are all justly proud.

In this as in all ages of progress we estimate only by comparison.

On this 27th day of February, in the year of grace 1890, I meet and welcome you not in the old Zion church at Flint Hills, as in 1838-40.

I welcome you not to a few hamlets and in the frame (Butler) building at Iowa City, nor in the old Stone Capitol, in my opinion among the most symmetrical in the State, where in crowded quarters we made, declared and executed our laws until 1858. Nor to Raccoon Forks, Fort Des Moines, in the then temporary brick structure furnished by the liberality of our citizens, but to a city of 60,000 people, to State quarters without superior in any of the 42—with churches and school houses and all the evidences of an active, intelligent and royal citizenship—all attesting the thrift, energy, enterprise, growth and development of our people.

I welcome some of you, as I know most joyfully to old and yet new scenes and memories. In the year 1854, that man of big brain, strong intellect, marvelous all around capacity, James W. Grimes, was made Governor of Iowa. Since then some of you "long (for 35 years) have sought and mourned because you found it not," the installation of a Democrat in that high place. And as that event occurs to-day, you have cause for rejoicing as members of one of the great parties of the Nation. I congratulate you without stopping to inquire whether it tends to show, by comparison, advancement or otherwise of the State.' As we lawyers (*curia advisare vult*). But this aside.

I welcome you not to a Territory or State with few people, small towns and cities without church spires or school buildings, but to scenes and surroundings hopefully and pleasantly otherwise.

*Comparison.* Seeking a home and stepping on to the ferry-boat at Burlington, on a September day in 1840, I asked what is the population of your territory? The answer was, about 40,000. I inquired again in 1850, and the answer was, less than 200,000. Go to the capitol now and ask the Secretary of State what is our population, and he will answer 2,000,000, for Iowa has increased, thanks to her soil, climate, good laws, good officers and good beginnings under the care of those now around me and their compeers, at least 40,000 each year.

I welcome you, not in times when on horseback or foot, or in the old coaches of "Frink & Walker" or "Western Stage Company," you made your slow and almost never-ending approach to halls of legislation and courts of justice, with drivers' horns announcing your approach to various little stations, at some of which you took your meals, consisting of rich golden buscuit, swimming islands of fat and lean bacon, hammer proof eggs, coffee, hardly the "nectar of the gods," helping digestion, both before and after, by a good supply of prime or poor whisky at a picayune a glass (doubtless there were some who thus indulged without reference to meals).

*Comparison.* Old stage coach, nine inside and four on top: "How far to Des Moines, and how long the drive?" "Sixteen miles, and I can make it in five hours if my horses hold out and the bottom of the road does not give way." That was at Apple Grove (Mitchell's), in 1854.

"How far to Des Moines and how long the run?" "Twenty miles and we will make it in forty-five minutes for my coaches run over a track of steel, drawn by a horse of steam." That was this morning at Indianola.

I do not welcome you to the capital of a state without a history, but one replete with all that learning can embellish, good laws adorn, able men illustrate, and a patriotism and devotion to the Union unsurpassed by any whether east or west, north or south. In a little more than a half century—1838-1890—how great our progress, how marvelous our growth. And

pertinent to my comparison how great this change from 1846 to 1861. If asked, what is the supreme achievement of civilization, I would answer, in the language of another "the substitution of arguments for arms, of an unarmed judge for a military commander, of the voice of justice for the edict of force;" and this for the nation as well as the individual. But neither in this chosen land of unequaled moral and religious influences, nor in others, have we reached this supreme and much desired condition, for force, the military commander, arms, still walk the earth and we are too apt to measure patriotism, devotion to our institutions and danger or safety to state or nation, by the numerical strength of, the people, and their promptness or otherwise in responding to a call to arms as the occasion may demand. Thus measured how proud our history, the history of that State for which you legislated and labored, in which history you took so prominent a part and for which the present and future generations owe you a debt never to be paid.

*Comparison* (one, I have often used). Standing on the steps of the old capitol at Iowa City your chief executive inquired how many men can Iowa furnish to resent the insult offered our flag by a neighboring republic? The answer was, *one company*, perhaps *two*. That was in 1846-7, in the war with Mexico. 1861-5 our grand old Governor (Kirkwood) asked, how many men can Iowa furnish to wipe out the Sumter insult, and the answer came up from prairie and woodland, shop and store, farm and office, 83,000; and if need be, thrice that number, "for the affections of Iowa, like the rivers of her borders, flow to inseparable union," and she now and always swears, "that though all things else perish the Union and constitution shall live." The result you know. For to-day the flag of forty-two stars floats unchallenged from ocean to ocean, from the snowy mountains of the north to the iceless gulf of the south, and never again let us hope in all our borders, are we to hear the one time heresy that this is a "League, not a Nation," nor that other, still worse heresy, "that the constitution is a charter of *death*, not of *life*."

But these things are of the past. And yet in such a State, with a history so proud, with such growth and prosperity, in this its capital, I welcome you. I could not well perform this duty in one justly of greater pride, nor to another body of men more truly entitled to a state's gratitude, nor those having more certainly the love and affection of a grateful, law-abiding and admiring people. Again, and finally, you are very welcome.

Hon. T. S. Parvin: Mr. President, I am anticipating that this will prove a business session, and to relieve our secretary I move the appointment of two assistant secretaries, Mr. C. S. Wilson and Mr. Ben Van Steenburg.

Motion carried.

Soprano solo by Mrs. Bromley—"Annie Laurie," which elicited enthusiastic applause.

President: Next in order is an address by Governor Kirkwood. I desire to say that Governor Kirkwood was invited to address the association and accepted the invitation. I presume there is not

present a single person but deeply regrets that on account of his sudden illness, of which we received notice last evening by dispatch, we are prevented from listening to the voice of one who in the affairs of the State of Iowa deserves great honor, great credit, and has the love and respect of all the citizens of the State of Iowa [applause]. I hope that some gentleman will respond, and I have thought of suggesting among the many that I here see present Hon. B. B. Richards, of Dubuque. Mr. Richards, will you please come forward and give us an address as one of us?

## REMARKS OF EX-SENATOR RICHARDS.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I would not have been more astonished if I had been told I was to be translated, and surely before such an audience as this you could not accept any poor words that I might have at command on the instant in place of an address from one so able who had prepared for the occasion. But I am glad of the opportunity to tell you, citizens of Des Moines and old legislators, how my heart was attached to my old friends of almost, yes, more than a quarter of a century gone by. Time has indeed changed them, but they are the same manly, cordial, friendly men that they were twenty-five years ago. The changes that the twenty-five years have wrought are, indeed, very many, and many of them very sad; but it is not an occasion to dwell upon that. Death comes to us all. It is as natural to die as it is to live. Thank God that so many of us are able to be here to-day in health and review the transactions of twenty-five, thirty or forty years.

I have been exceedingly interested in what we have heard from the President, and particularly what we have heard from our Judge Wright, who made, to my mind, an exceedingly happy address. It is easy for us as Americans, when we remember how wisely our fathers built, wiser than they knew, and when we see the growth from three millions to sixty millions, to count mathematically, that presently there will be in this great land more people than in all Europe. What force, moral or physical, will such a people exert in the near future. When we remember that public opinion is stronger in most lands, in all civilized lands, even in the land of the Czar, than armies, what force will two hundred and fifty or three hundred millions of such people as America produces exercise upon the governments of earth? The philosophic man says, how is it that America has been able to take in the diverse elements that have come to our shores in such swarms, what solvent has she to mould them into self-respecting, intelligent, upright American citizens? This, to my mind, is the most wonderful thing that America has done. Our enemies have prophesied all manner of evil from it, and we have suffered no little evil in the great cities where these swarms would go before they are Americanized to be the tools of demagogues, and to make bad rule in the great cities of America. But in the country at large we have a solvent that has made the boy of the immigrant of to-day an American citizen scarcely different from the descendants of the pilgrim himself. And how has this been done? Many forces are at work; many of them we could not

enumerate, but of all the influences to make out of these diverse elements, out of Celt and Saxon, out of Roman Catholic and Protestant, out of Hebrew and Greek, one mass, with one aim, and with one type of citizenship, in my judgment, nothing can compare with the influence of the common schools of America. [Applause.] The boy of the fresh immigrant joins the boy whose great-great-grandfather dated back to New England; they read together the same book, they hear the same lessons, they study together, they play together, their hopes and aims as boys are the same. They separate, and they are both American citizens; they remember each other as school fellows, and each is alike anxious for the triumph of the flag and for the perpetuation of the constitution. [Applause.] It is his country—no longer a foreign land. And certainly down in the pages of history there never was a case in all the former time when such a transformation has taken place from ignorance to intelligence, from the violent creed hates, race hates of the old world to be blended into one common mass of intelligent American citizens.

Travelers in America say your land is tiresome; it is full of monotony; I see your great plains; your mountains are so far apart that they scarcely relieve the terrible monotony of America. Your cities are substantially all alike; your people are on a dead level; one man has the same rights as the other man. But O, my fellow-citizens, even if there is something of truth in this statement, would we exchange for aristocratic Europe, where cast obtains, where the struggles are so hard to get recognition of the people at large, are we not happy even if there be something of monotony? Are we not happy in having parted company from these religious hates, race hates, caste hates, where the most of the people have been struggling against adversity; have we not made happy exchange to get rid of that, even if we get monotony where all men are equal and where in this equality we find the strength and glory of the nation? [Applause.] It is the first time in history where the people have really ruled and intelligently ruled, and given shape to the government.

Now, in this regard, old legislators, Iowa has cut no inconspicuous figure. She is quoted as one of the best types of American States. No large cities for corrupting influence and intelligent people spreading over a beautiful plain, all substantially equal in wealth, in position. It is a land of small farms and villages, and of intelligent, worthy women and worthy men, and it is typical of the American nation, and one of the proudest of the stars in the flag. [Applause.]

I was not invited here to take all your time. I have expressed my gratification; I will renew it at meeting you all, and I will now relieve your patience. [Applause.]

President: Next in order is an address by Hon. Geo. W. Jones, of Dubuque. It was expected that without fail Gen. Jones would be here present to address us. He is the first living United States Senator from the State of Iowa. He is a man who in the early history of our country, when this State of Iowa was a part of what was called the Michigan Territory, and Wisconsin was connected with it, took part in the struggles, in the Indian Wars, and in the various acts which disturbed the country during a long period of time. I

presume there is no man in the State of Iowa to-day who is more familiar with the history and growth of our State than Gen. Jones. I presume there is no man living to-day who has done more in the early history of our State to build up our State and give her a standing among the great States of this nation. Now bordering on ninety years of age—I don't remember his exact age—it would have been a great pleasure to us to have listened to him at this time in an address, recounting many of these things which to younger men are exceedingly interesting. But we are doomed to disappointment. He cannot be with us. His age, and the condition of the weather, altogether have prevented it. But I have thought that it would not be inappropriate under such state of facts as this to select some gentleman who was a representative of the old territorial times, and with that view, I call upon Ex-Senator Hebard, of Red Oak, to deliver us an address at this time.

HON. ALFRED HEBARD'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. President*—When I entered this hall, I said to myself, why this gathering? No constitutional requirement has brought us together, no statutory enactment has made it our duty to be here. Then why? It is a day of very great social activity. You can scarcely take up a paper in which you do not find accounts of the movings and the doings of guilds, and creeds, and sects, and organizations, almost numberless—aside from private ends sometimes had in view. They fill the welkin with boisterous demonstration, with rejoicings and good cheer. If so, why may there not be a quiet gathering of those whose life work has been in some degree identical with a grand, civil and political development, which is almost without historic parallel? I believe in fact I might drop the word, almost, and risk positive assertion without fear of gainsay or question. The single, simple fact, that a commonwealth of two millions of people, very generally in an enviable condition of culture and independence, read their whole history, within a period running back a little more than a single generation, seems akin to the marvelous, yet such is the fact. It is a bare half century since enterprise first crossed the father of waters on our eastern border, and commenced her busy work under circumstances as primitive as primitive could be. Camping in the groves that fringed the water-courses, our pioneers lived in cabins made of logs, uncleaned of their bark, with doors made of split clap-boards, and greased paper for windows. Nothing daunted, they saw promise ahead and willing hearts and working hands wasted no time. A common interest at once suggested rules to govern their intercourse, and neighborhood organizations enforced those rules under the name of "Club Law." No reports are on record, but memory to this day endorses the prompt and just decisions of those early times. Very soon kindred circumstances begat kindly, social relations, and no new comer, when ready to raise his rude cabin home, failed to find strong hands ready and willing to give him the needful lift. Then followed the simple spread of coffee and good cheer, more enjoyable than any royal banquet, or any fashionable luncheon that modern society con-

trives. Without indulging in much detail, I gladly refer to those initial times, because, like days of our childhood, the pleasanter scenes are held in memory, while the sharper angles of early experience have been rounded off or entirely forgotten. Early life in a new country is a struggle. Those who have known it by experience do not wish to know it again, and only those who have experienced it fully appreciate it. An old Latin proverb says "Labor conquers everything." It had its verification in the early settlers of Iowa; courage and persevering industry overcame difficulties and started them on a career of success, which has had but little interruption from that day to this, and the people of the State find themselves to-day where they are and what they are. I shall not follow the progressive steps of our advance, as I hope to hear others dwell more or less upon them. Our condition to-day is, and ought to be, a proud one. We would use no high sounding adjectives, no self extolling phrases, but we take pride in believing that we have attained unto a condition of material prosperity, and intelligent civilization, which rank us high among our elder sister states.

I would not undervalue material things. We beat the world in corn and cattle and the world knows it, and that is all I wish to say on that point. There are other things of value in this wide world besides those which can be measured in a half bushel or weighed on a Fairbanks scale—something else beside material products to clothe and feed us. The individual or the community that makes no distinction between mind and matter, that neglects the former and panders to the latter, never can rise above the lowest plane of life. Physical wants come first and their relief is a prerequisite for attainment in higher intellectual life, and for this end, if the Creator had given us the choice of all the lands he had made, we could not have made a selection preferable to the one Providence has assigned us. It is located in that belt of latitude that has thus far nursed and nurtured the energy, the activity, the push and progress of the world. It has a soil not *generally* of great productive capacity, but universally so—not a single acre between the great rivers, save the wash of some water course, or possibly some precipitous bluff, but is capable of becoming a garden of profit and pleasure. There is not a mountain, not a hill even, in the State to subtract a single rod from the great productive area. Valleys there are and beautiful ones to, eroded by the action of our streams and separated by intervening divides that only reach in their elevation the common level, thus securing perfect drainage without a foot of waste. No tedious monotony tires the eye of the traveler across our State. A succession of valleys and divides—the former in their placid beauty, and the latter ever varied by graceful contours of surface—furnish pictures of beauty at almost every stage. So far as our earthly homes are concerned we are certainly a favored people compared with any others past or present. Range this earth from pole to pole, go with the sun around its central circle, read the history of our race from Eden down to the dawn of this beautiful day now shining around us—search and examine—and then say, what the age, or where the land wherein mankind e'er had heritage like ours? The question to-day is, what have we done with this beautiful heritage entrusted to our keeping?

Have thorns and thistles disfigured its surface? Has moral pestilence stained its atmosphere? Has there been no advance since the roaming of

the Red Man? Let the free wings of the wind bring the answer from every nook and corner.

Opportunities have not been thrown away or trodden under foot. The inspiration of the age in which we live, has not been without effect, carrying us forward at least *pari passu* with the rest of the world, if not in some respects, in advance. It is claimed that we excel, not only in production, but in the facilities of inter-communication, as well as in the culture of the masses. I think I might add the care of the helpless unfortunates among us. At an early day some good angel spread his wings over our people and touched their hearts with motives which led them to regard this class as fellow beings, as entitled not only to sympathy and a share in the material comforts of life, but to any and all instrumentalities designed in any way to ameliorate their sad condition. As a consequence, we find them to-day occupying ten palatial homes within the borders of our State. If the deaf and dumb do not learn to talk, some do, and more might. If the blind, born to eternal night, are not made to see with the physical eye, their minds are enlightened and trained to reason, and their ears filled with music, so that life to them is by no means a blank. If those from whom reason has flown away do not again wear countenances of joy, their sad condition is relieved by all that tenderness and care can do. Wayward youth are trained to better ways, and even the destitute feeble-minded child, instead of being left to suffer till relieved by death, like a wounded bird in the forest, finds among us a nursery home of comfort and tender care. Heavy as the expense is, no murmur is heard, unless for extravagance or breach of trust. Questions of morals and questions of culture I pass by, for I wish to be brief, only stating that the latter cannot be neglected, when reports show an expenditure of nearly \$700,000 the last year for support of schools. Morals and culture are closely interrelated and improve or decline together. To properly construct a social and political fabric, that will encourage the right and restrain the wrong, that will keep in harmony the thousand and one delicate interrelations of social life, guarding all and infringing none, is a task too great for any one mortal man.

We borrow our laws from predecessors and adapt them to our use, just as they in their turn had done before, and so for ages back, even unto the days of the Decalogue, so that law after all is a growth of continued history, and now it is our turn to write our chapter and add it to that history, and what shall be the temper, the tone, and general characteristics of our contribution?

Charles the First believed in one man, and that man was himself, not responsible to any one, but holding his fellow man in the hollow of his hand, and claiming the absolute right to dispose of him at his pleasure, even to the sacrifice of life, limb and property. Cromwell, though born and reared in kingly times, did not agree with his king, and the consequence was King Charles disappeared and most of his cruel doctrines with him, and though monarchy was again restored, it has been limited to a degree that has destroyed its worst features. But a growing sentiment led many to believe that monarchies, limited or unlimited, were useless, costly adornments anywhere, and in our country we have boldly proclaimed it.

We believe in the oft repeated saying that everybody knows more than anybody, that everybody has more right than anybody, that everybody has more capacity and is more trustworthy than anybody. Individual efforts, however honest, always show individual idiosyncracies. Not so with the many. Hence, we believe that the Creator, instead of commissioning any one man to act as his vicegerent, has given credentials to all honest men to share in the government of which they are themselves the subjects. Hence, the Democratic system to which we all cling as a sheet anchor of our hopes. All men are naturally honest, but some require favoring circumstances of development. Bad as some have made themselves, I do not believe the Creator was ever cruel enough to place a responsible being in this world without giving him in his interior being some saving element capable of being polished into a shining jewel, and it is the province of education, not only to develop and improve the better qualities of mind and heart among our fellow beings generally, but to seize upon and fan into life the faintest spark of hope found among the lowliest. Then will average humanity be raised to a higher plane, and that consensus of human thought coming from enlightened human minds, will be for all a grand, fundamental and reliable law. Such an education is worthy the solicitude of every loyal citizen—no grander problem commends itself to our attention.

Those of us who have passed the meridian of life, or possibly the usual limit of life, ought to be wiser and better men than we were a score of years ago, or else we have lived in vain and experience has taught us nothing. With our every movement we touch our fellow men, and with every touch there is a subtle unconscious impression; it tells for help or it tells for hurt, it tells to encourage or it tells to dishearten. Example, manner and habit are effectual teachers, and these must be our methods. Hold fast to high ideals, they stimulate exertion and lead to noble deeds, they sustain us in the performance of duty while we tread the downward grade of declining years, and save us at last from the sorrow and shame of leaving behind us selfish, useless lives. We, the first generation permitted to make our homes in this beautiful State, will leave behind us no such repulsive record. Rather do we write our story both of war and peace on the folds of a proudly waving banner and float it to the breeze, believing it will have the endorsement of a consenting world.

#### A POEM.

Ex-Governor Gue: I hold in my hand a little gem of poetry inscribed to the Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa, by Mrs. John S. Briggs, daughter-in-law of the late Governor Briggs. I will hand it to the Secretary to read.

The Secretary read the following poem:

[Most respectfully inscribed to the Pioneer Law-makers of the State of Iowa, by Mrs. John S. Briggs, daughter-in-law of the late Gov. Ansel Briggs.]

“ EVERY YEAR.”

BY MARY E. BRIGGS.

Steadily the ages sow,  
     Every year;  
 Youth and old age come and go,  
     Every year;  
 Philosophize as we may,  
 'Tis sowing and reaping every day,  
 New buds and blooms of hope decay,  
     Every year.

Buoyant youth sows fertile soil  
     Every year;  
 Gathering crops by honest toil,  
     Every year;  
 Youth to manhood's reign departs,  
 Taking something from our hearts  
 And piercing us with cruel darts,  
     Every year.

Seeds of truth and right are sown,  
     Every year;  
 Sharper leaves from tougher roots,  
 Through misery's bitter weeds upshoots,  
 To crown life's cup with blighted fruits,  
     Every year.

Seeds of affliction purify  
     Every year;  
 Virtue blooms to testify  
     Every year;  
 Though nature does not frown,  
 Many will their growth disown,  
 And madly beat them down,  
     Every year.

Fame may wreath her laurels fair  
     Every year;  
 Bring golden grain from sun and air  
     Every year;  
 "False foundation, broken reed!"  
 Who ever prospered that to thee gave heed?  
 Who vainly wastes on thee will not speed,  
     Every year.

Welcome Liberty, free born flower,  
     Every year;  
 Where dwells a breath, a tone, a power,  
     Every year;  
 'Tis not a bud of foreign land,  
 For sowing may take with a liberal hand,  
 Seeds perennial for a future band,  
     Every year.

God bless our native land,  
 Every year.  
 Guard by Heaven's protecting hand,  
 Every year;  
 And make our rulers see  
 That men should brothers be,  
 And form one family,  
 Every year.

*Fair Haven Hill, North Omaha, Neb.*

At the conclusion of the reading, on motion a vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Briggs for the fine poem sent.

Hon. L. W. Ross, of Pottawattamie, presented the following resolution, which was adopted by unanimous vote:

*Resolved*, That we deeply regret the absence of General Jones and Governor Kirkwood, and we hereby tender to them our acknowledgment of the good work wrought by them for this commonwealth, and earnestly request that they furnish to this association copies of their addresses for publication and preservation.

Gov. Gue: I suppose that the members of this association are aware that four years ago, when we held our first reunion, it was such an enjoyable occasion that every member wished to make it a permanent organization. The sad death of Judge Mitchell, who was addressing us, caused our adjournment in confusion, but we had gone so far as to provide that this should be a permanent organization, that its meetings should be once in four years, that the officers of each meeting should be elected to hold for the term of four years. I move that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to select the names of suitable persons to act as officers of this association for four years, and that that committee be instructed to report this evening.

Motion carried.

The President appointed Governor B. F. Gue, ex-Senator Samuel McNutt of Muscatine, ex-Senator F. M. Knoll of Dubuque, ex-Senator S. S. Farwell of Jones, and ex-Senator P. M. Casady of Polk, as that committee.

Music by the choir, "Star Spangled Banner."

It was moved by Mr. Russell that a committee of three be appointed to invite the legislature, the Governor and staff, and Lieutenant-Governor to meet with the association during the session Friday afternoon. The motion was carried, and the President appointed John Russell, L. L. Ainsworth and L. W. Ross as that committee.

Here the meeting adjourned until 7:30 to-night.

EVENING SESSION, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1890.

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Meeting called to order by the president.

Duet by Mrs. Bromley and Miss Lawton.

T. S. Parvin offered the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, By reason of long neglect and indifference on the part of our former authorities and our citizens, many valuable records, pamphlets and other documents have either been destroyed, lost or gathered into public libraries abroad; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa in session that the general Assembly be earnestly invited and urged to take immediate steps to collect and preserve all documents written or printed pertaining to the history of the Territory and State of Iowa.

Mr. Parvin: I would like to say a word or two upon this resolution. About a year ago I undertook to write a history of the Constitutional Conventions of Iowa of 1844, 1846 and 1857. I remember I had originally duplicate copies of the Journals of 1844 and 1846, that I placed in the library of the State here in Des Moines; they had the Journal of 1857. I also placed with the Historical Society a second copy, supposing I had yet a third left. When I progressed in my history so far as to reach 1846, I found I did not have it. I then wrote to the Librarian of the State, to the Governor and Secretary of State to borrow a copy, when lo, the Journal of 1846 could not be found in the library. It might seem like exaggeration, but I have written to the 104 surviving members of those two conventions, to their friends and families where deceased, without securing a single copy of that Journal, and I know of but two copies in the entire State of Iowa, and they cannot be had for love or money. And yet that is the Journal of the convention which adopted the constitution upon which Iowa was admitted into the Union. I have suspended my work in the hope that I might get possession of a copy that I could control myself.

Again, I had occasion to write the history of the three capitals of Iowa, Burlington, Iowa City and Des Moines. I knew full well as an old settler, that the governor had issued his proclamation by which the legislature had been convened in Iowa City. I have written to the Executive of Iowa and the Secretary of State for a copy of the proclamation, and it is not on file in the office to-day. I knew, as an editor of a paper at that time, that I had published it, and so I commenced to search page after page until I found it published in the paper of that day.

Here are two essentially valuable documents upon which the history of Iowa largely depends, and yet they are not in the possession of the State

Library for the departments of this State. These things, and I might mention many others incidental to it, show most conclusively to my mind that we have been too long neglectful of the vital interests of our history; we cannot too soon amend that matter and remedy it as far as possible, and it is for this purpose that I have offered the resolution in the hope that it might go up to the Capitol on the other side of the river and meet a hearty response from the legislature now in session, and remedy in part the difficulty under which we have so long labored.

Ex-Governor Gue: I arise to second most cordially the motion made by my friend, Mr. Parvin. He is one of the most industrious of the historians of the State of Iowa. He has done more writing and made more efforts to preserve the early history of the State of Iowa than all of the State outside of him combined. I know that is a broad statement to make, but I know it to be a fact. I have been engaged, as some of you know, in the last five years, in trying to write a history of Iowa. I have looked over the documents preserved and presented without cost and without price, by Theodore S. Parvin to the State of Iowa, to make up our public records that the public officers had not seen fit to gather. I know he has contributed volume after volume to make up a collection that should belong to the State of Iowa. There are ninety-nine counties in the State of Iowa, seventy of which have had their histories written, and when I came to look in the State Library to find the histories of the counties there were only thirty-five there. I had to go to Madison, Wis., to the great historical library, to procure data for the history of Iowa, and spent weeks there in that library which has ten times the history of Iowa that is in the capitol on the hill. It is time we were taking steps to remedy this great neglect. We have lost years of valuable time. Time is sinking into the graves the men who have this history in their heads. We want a record of that we have lost year after year when no record has been left with the exception of a little from such men as Theodore S. Parvin and Judge Nourse. We are the body that should make this demand on the legislature. Some of our writers have called attention repeatedly to this gross neglect on the part of our State. The young men who are controlling the legislature of this State seem to know nothing of the history of the past. They do not seem to think that Iowa had a history worth preserving.

As men who founded the institutions that have made this a great State, we have a right to speak and a right to demand, in the language of Mr. Parvin, that some steps be taken now at once by this legislature to save what can be saved where so much has been lost. When I come to look up the history of the most gallant achievement, the most heroic achievement in the State of Iowa—I know it is a good deal to say, but I say it without hesitation—the Spirit Lake expedition, when I come to look for the documents in the vault in the Capitol at Des Moines, the report of Maj. Williams, the seventy-year-old commander who marched up there in the dead of winter at the risk of his life, cannot be found to-day in the records of the State of Iowa. And this is only one sample of the deficiency of that department. I have strong feeling in this matter because if we ever collect the data of the history of Iowa so it can be written, some one somewhere has got to have authority to do something and it is going to cost some money to do it. Can we afford to neglect it?

The motion of T. S. Parvin was carried unanimously, and the resolution was adopted.

Col. Scott: It has been suggested to me that the organization needs a committee on resolutions, I therefore move that the President appoint a committee of three on resolutions.

Motion carried.

The President appointed on that committee Col. John Scott, of Nevada; Judge John Mitchell, of Des Moines, and B. B. Richards, of Dubuque.

President: The next thing in order is the report of the committee on organization.

Gov. Gue read the report of the committee as follows:

Your committee appointed to present names of suitable persons to fill the offices of the Pioneer Law-Maker's Association for the ensuing four years would respectfully recommend the following:

*For President*, Judge Edward Johnstone, of Lee county.

*Vice Presidents*, Col. H. H. Trimble, of Lee county, Dr. G. M. Davis, of Clinton county; Hon. B. B. Richards, of Dubuque county; Hon. L. L. Ainsworth, of Fayette county; Hon. John Russell, of Jones county; Major S. K. Cremer, of Wapello county; Hon. Newton Guthrie, of Warren county; Hon. L. W. Ross, of Pottawattamie county; Judge Samuel Rees, of Webster county; Hon. R. A. Smith, of Dickinson county.

*Secretaries*, Judge A. B. Fulton, of Polk; Chas. Aldrich, of Hamilton; Ben. Van Steenburg, of Jackson.

Hon. C. S. Wilson, Editor at large.

Signed,

B. F. GUE, *Chairman*.

Judge Wright: I want to ask my distinguished friend from Polk county to strike out all those Honorables before those names and just report them as plain, simple Mr. Jones and Mr. Smith. Everybody in this house is an Honorable, and what is the necessity of keeping up the prefixes? I move to strike out all the Honorables and Judges and have it plain John Smith and Tom Jones.

Motion of Judge Wright carried.

The report of the committee as amended was adopted.

President Duncombe: I have the very great pleasure of introducing to you as president of this association for the next four years a gentleman who has been intimately connected with the affairs of our State and with the affairs of the Territory, and is familiar in every respect with the laws, the customs and the habits of the people, and acquainted with nearly all the old law-makers of this country; a gentleman who will do credit and honor to the State, and who will, in all his acts in connection with this institution,

make it decidedly and permanently for the benefit of all the members, and a matter of rejoicing to every one of us. I name therefore the gentlemen who has just been selected, the Hon. Edward Johnstone, of Keokuk, as the president for the next four years. (Applause).

President Johnstone on taking the chair addressed the Association as follows:

Meetings like this unavoidably call up reminiscences of the past. I landed at Burlington in July, 1837. It was not then Iowa, but Wisconsin. I found a strip of country not more than fifty miles wide, bordering the western bank of the Mississippi river. The remaining portion of what is now the great State of Iowa, was all Indian lands. The business of the settlements was confined to the country adjacent to the river, for with the far interior there was little traffic,

Indeed the great stretch of territory now known as the "Missouri Slope" was a *terra incognita*, and the country west of Des Moines was regarded as of but little agricultural value. Those great factors—I might justly say, the most potent factors in the development of our prairie State,—the railways, were unknown within its borders. It seemed as if the early settlers of Iowa must strip for the great contest, and, unaided, overcome all the natural obstacles that stood in their way. It seemed like a mighty work to spread over the vast country, between the Mississippi and Missouri, the blessings that flow from happy homes, and schools, and churches, and all the concomitants of an advanced civilization. But they entered into this great struggle and triumphed.

It is needless to speak of Iowa now; of her millions of inhabitants; of her stately cities; her pleasant villages; her railways traversing each of her ninety-nine counties; her high intelligence; her fair women; her honest men, and, above all, her churches and her schools, those two supreme guardians of the public weal.

"None fears the puny sceptic's hands,  
Whilst near the school the church spire stands;  
None fears the blinded bigot's rule,  
Whilst near the church spire stands the school."

There has been much fruitless investigation and controversy among archaeologists, and learned men, about the site of the ancient Garden of Eden. It may be that it will never be known where it *was*,—but we all know where the modern garden *is*—somewhere in the State of Iowa. The particular locality, I leave each man to determine for himself.

In looking down the vista of years gone by, we are compelled to turn to the years to come. I have often reflected on the vast agricultural and other probabilities of Iowa. She contains within her borders, 55,000 square miles, or about 35 millions of acres, of tillable land. Not one half of these acres—probably not one-third—is thoroughly cultivated, and yet, if we examine the table of our agricultural statistics, we are amazed at the yield of her cereal and animal products. When all her acres are tilled to their fullest capacity, who can estimate the total production? Add to this, the products of her

rich sister States of the Northwest, and where can a sufficient outlet for them be found? It will, and can only be found, in the great market of the world, for the Great World is the market for Iowa and the Northwest.

Although but few of us here present may live to see the wish realized, let us hope that the waters of every navigable sea will be vexed by the keels of American vessels, and that every commercial port in the universe, will, at some day—and that soon—welcome into their harbors our stately steamers, bearing aloft the stripes and the stars, and deeply laden with the products of Iowa and her sister States.

The past of Iowa, at least, is secure, and we, and those who follow us, must care for the future.

I had the honor of presiding over the sessions of the legislature in the winter of 1839-1840, and the summer of 1840 in Burlington. We met in the good old Methodist Episcopal church Zion—now no more, but, which I had hoped, would have been preserved as a memorial monument. The population for which we legislated was comparatively small, and its wants consequently not great, and we endeavored to enact as few laws as possible. It would be well if our present legislators would confine themselves within the same reasonable limits.

"The world is governed too much," and Iowa is not an exception to that apothegm. A few general new laws, a few changes in the old ones, and very little special legislation might suffice. Many of our statutes are so amended—they call it—or changed at every session—especially those relating to the revenue—and some of these changes are of such doubtful meaning that the bewildered taxpayer is like those engaged in the freewill and foreknowledge discussion of Milton, in "wandering mazes lost."

The future of Iowa, I repeat, is in the hands of her people, and they must see that it does not suffer. Among the States of the Union she is the most fertile and fairest, and stands in the front rank in the race of education. A resident for more than half a century within her borders, I know she is all I claim for her, and I know and feel that her people are always ready and competent to meet her enemies at the gates.

I know too,—and I think all present will be in accord with me—in adapting and applying to her the distich of the great Scotch poet:

"A State, that every State surpasses,  
For honest men and bonny lasses."

I again thank you, and beg you will pardon my brief and desultory remarks, promising that I will—in the well known ante-election pledge of candidates—"do my duty to the best of my ability."

Judge Wilson of Dubuque: I cannot let this occasion pass without giving my endorsement to my early and old friend Judge Johnstone. When he and I met together in early times, 1837, as he says (I think it was 1836), I met him at Mineral Point. He and I were boys, and I loved him. We met together, and I never knew a better man than Judge Johnstone. (Applause.) He and I were appointed on a committee by the first legislature to decide who were entitled as half-breeds to the lands in Lee county. I met him there in early times, when he and I were both wondering how we would ever make a living in this world; and we met together as friends, and I have known him as a true, good man all my life. He and I have been separated from each

other, but I have always remembered him with a great deal of gratitude and pleasure. He has gone with us through all the troubles and trials of our early life.

Judge Samuel Murdock: I wish to offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That we return our most sincere thanks to the Hon. John F. Duncombe for the able manner in which he has presided over our association for the last four years.

Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Judge Casady: I wish to state why Mr. Pusey is not here. He was with us four years ago and consented to be with us at this time, but recently his partner has been taken sick and he has to take charge of his business there at Council Bluffs. I will read a short note which I have received from him.

(Judge Casady reads note from W. H. M. Pusey.)

Gov. Gue: Geo. W. McCrary has notified me that he accepted the invitation to address this reunion, and he made all of his arrangements to come, and had chosen as his subject, "The Old Times and the New," and had prepared such an address as McCrary can prepare. Yesterday evening I received a dispatch from him that he was suddenly taken with the influenza, and his physician stated it would be imprudent for him to undertake the trip, and he, with great regret, was compelled to forego the pleasure of meeting with us.

(Gov. Gue read the dispatch from Judge McCrary.)

On motion of Senator Dungan it was ordered that all addresses from absent members be printed with the proceedings of the association.

Judge Wright: It seems to me that it would be proper before we adjourn that the publication of these proceedings be referred to a committee. Now, it will occur to us all that there may be many things that there will be no necessity or propriety in including in the pamphlet to be published. I suggest that gentlemen be requested to furnish a copy for publication, but that the same be referred to a committee on publication, and that they have power to select. I think that is the usual manner in such an organization as ours, instead of providing that everything should be published.

We can prune very often, and make it just as valuable to us as to publish everything.

Music by the choir, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

## FIVE MINUTE SPEECHES.

Mr. Russell, of Jones: As a question has been raised here in this meeting in relation to a certain letter that was written by Judge Wright, I would suggest that it would be perfectly proper for the judge to explain to this meeting what was the real meaning of that letter.

Gov. Gue: Mr. President, I move to strike out from the remarks of Mr. Russell the word "Judge."

Mr. Russell: I will consent to strike out the word "Judge" and insert "Geo. G. Wright."

Mr. President: Geo. Wright, I would be very glad to hear from you if it does not lead to any personal difficulty.

## GEO. G. WRIGHT, OF POLK.

Mr. President: I am not at all surprised that the gentleman could not read my writing.

Mr. Murdock: You cannot read it yourself?

Mr. Duncombe: I have been of that same opinion.

Mr. Wright: I am more and more satisfied that the leading democrats of this State are not educated and cannot read. (Great laughter.) The idea of Ed Johnstone and John F. Duncombe talking about another man's writing. (Laughter.) Now there are some things I can stand, but that is going beyond the line. I will venture anything in the world that the address you have just heard delivered was written by some person else. (Laughter.) He never could have read it on earth if he had written it himself. (Laughter.) Now Ed Johnstone, say right there to this audience that you wrote that. You never wrote a word of it. (Laughter.) I delivered a lecture to the law school at Iowa City and Judge Love was sitting behind me and after I had left, he did not have as much courage as Duncombe and Johnstone have, he told the next day that it was a pretty good lecture and he was not surprised because he knew I did not write it, as he looked over my shoulder and he could read it. (Laughter.) Now all I have to say about that is this, that I do not think I ever had as much trouble in my life as I had to get Judge Johnstone here, and I think what brought him was this: I told him that I had said twenty-five years ago, and you see what a prophet I am, that it would be a cold day when a democratic Governor was inaugurated in Iowa. (Great laughter.)

President Johnstone: Geo. Wright, your time is up, take your seat. (Great laughter and applause.)

T. S. Wilson: I do not blame our friend, Judge Wright, for his mistakes in reference to this matter, because when he wrote to me asking me to deliver an address here on this occasion, I took it all over town and there was not a democrat in town that could read it. I had to get a republican to read it for me, and I do not think that anybody ought to blame Judge Wright.

Judge Wright: You see that is only evidence of what I said just now, that the democrats could not read. My friend, President Johnstone, will not extend my time and I will have to give up.

H. H. TRIMBLE, OF LEE.

Mr. President—Pr

President: Come forward to the platform, Hank.

Mr. Trimble: Mr. President and gentleman, perhaps it is well enough to call on me, because I shall not indulge in any wit. If I should attempt it it would be a failure. You do not want it all pie and sweetmeats, and after I get through we will hear from our friend Geo. Wright, here. I was going to say I knew just the reason he did not write a respectable hand. He was educated in Indiana where I got my education, in a log school house.

Now, Mr. President and gentlemen, I have been feeling very happy this afternoon. At first it occurred to me it was because I had such pleasant surroundings and was meeting so many of my old friends, but afterward it occurred to me that possibly it was because we were living under a democratic administration.

It is very difficult for any person, a member of this association, to talk about matters that are pertinent to the purposes of our organization without saying something complimentary to us as a body. We must talk about the past because most of us are getting to that time in life when we look back. In thinking of the work that had been accomplished by the gentlemen who are members of this association and other associations from year to year, it occurred to me that perhaps very few of us realized the great work that has been accomplished by the Pioneers of this commonwealth. One of the great achievements of the human intellect is the founding of free government. In America it is not regarded as a very great accomplishment, because so many of that kind of governments have been founded in the last hundred years, commencing with the government of the United States and followed by the organization and building up of so many State governments.

And yet, considered in the light of universal history, it is one of the great achievements of the human intellect to found a free government such as the government of the State of Iowa. The pioneer law-makers of this State not only assisted in founding this commonwealth as a free government, but it is an exemplary one. It is one of the very best of the State governments of this confederacy of States. Its example has been followed by such new States as Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, California, and perhaps other western States. In 1847 the great State of New York commenced a series of law reforms that has accomplished very much for this country. It adopted a code of practice in 1849, I believe it was, and two years after that—if I am not correct in my recollection some of those older members of the General Assemblies will correct me—a committee was appointed by the General Assembly of this State, then only two years of age, to report a reformed system of practice for the State of Iowa, and in 1851 a Code was reported. I believe Chas. Mason was the chairman of that commission. That was the reformed Code of practice in Iowa, adopted just four years after the great State of New York had commenced its law reform, and that system of reform adopted by the State of Iowa has been followed, as I have already suggested, by several of the newer States. They have followed Iowa as an example in law reform. Now the first constitution, and I believe the present constitution also—and if I remember right my distinguished friend,

the handsome President of this association, took a hand in framing the constitution that is now in force, or the one before it—established a very simple government, the central thought of which was personal liberty, individual liberty—the right of every individual to acquire all that he could of this world's goods, honestly, and the protection of him in the exercise and enjoyment of these goods. That is the central thought of all free government, to allow every man—and when I say every man I mean every woman too, for this is an age of woman's rights—to acquire all that he can honestly of all the good things in this world, and then the next duty of government is to protect him in the enjoyment of these goods. It was suggested to-day that it was a marvelous thing that there was a moral power in this country, in America, that could so assimilate all the vast immigration from Europe as rapidly as is done in America. And some gentleman suggested that it was the common school that caused that. I beg leave to differ from that gentleman. I think it is the clear recognition of that great principle of human liberty, individual and personal liberty and right, the right of every citizen to acquire all he can honestly of the good things of this life and to be protected in the enjoyment of these acquisitions. That is what directs to us all the lovers of liberty all over the earth and permits them to assimilate themselves to our institutions and become American citizens. And just as long as this country keeps in view this great central principle of personal liberty and free government we may hope to perpetuate free institutions in America and to assimilate all the elements of the old world that may come among us and become a part of our citizenship. But when we once lose sight of this great central thought and idea, when we allow combinations of capital, or combinations of labor, to overturn this central idea, that moment we have abandoned the only safe ground of free government in this country, or any other country. (My friend Geo. Wright pulled at my coat-tail. I suppose he thinks the five minutes have expired that have been allotted to me.) We find that we are threatened with this curse of free government, combinations of wealth and capital on one side and on the other side combinations of labor. I cannot find fault with the laboring man if, when he finds wealth is combined against him, and trusts are formed everywhere, he forms combinations of labor. The government of this country ought to make it a crime for men of wealth, or laboring men, or any other class of men, to combine for the purpose of restricting this principle of individual and personal liberty. The doctrine of this country is that one man is just as good as another, and in the language of my old Indiana friend, a little better. If the governments of this country, state and national, tolerate these combinations of wealth and capital on one side and labor on the other, then we have got upon the descent that will ultimately lead to despotic government and the destruction of free government.

Now, Mr. President, I told you when I commenced talking that there would be no fun in what I said, and I suppose you are all aware of that fact by this time. I hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting all of you four years from now and hearing the address that has been promised by our distinguished president. I thank you for your kindness in calling upon me, and bid you good evening. (Applause.)

J. H. POWERS, OF CHICKASAW.

After listening to what Gov. Gue and Mr. Parvin said in reference to the loss of documents, I feel as though I was in duty bound to place within their reach or at least tell them where can be found a document that probably was the starting point of the undermining of the integrity of Iowa Legislators. I hold in my hand the first pass that was ever issued, that is one of the first series that was ever issued by Railroad Companies to the Iowa Legislature, and I may right here say that John Scott was an accomplice in that matter and received one as did also John F. Duncombe.

John Scott: I deny it.

John F. Duncombe: I take all good things.

Mr. Powers: This is the pass that was given to Senator Coolbaugh in 1860, the first pass that was ever delivered to my knowledge, and was so reported by himself, to an Iowa Legislator. What I want to say is that is the last one I ever received and I want to put these gentlemen who were with me on the confessional seat and see if they have been as innocent as I have been all these years. I had forgotten to say that Ainsworth had one also.

(A voice): Were you ever a member of the Legislature since?

Mr. Powers: No I have not been. (Laughter.)

I hear a great deal said about the growth of our State, about the increase of wealth. Now we as old men have seen the young man as he entered upon his farm in poverty and as he started using the utmost economy to lay the foundation of a future prosperity and a home. Now members of this convention I am satisfied that if you will recall the past Iowa owes her prosperity to our economies in early days. I recollect in 1860 when I introduced a resolution in the State Senate asking that they appropriate \$18 for a sidewalk from the Grout House up to the Capitol so that I could take my wife up to the Capitol with me, that John Scott voted against it because his wife was not here and could not go up with him, and it was extravagant, and it was suggested by John F. Duncombe that she pull herself up as his wife did, by the hazel brush a little farther east. And then the first row we had with the House was with reference to the sand boxes, they had tin sand boxes costing fifty cents, and we had sand boxes costing seventy-five cents and they came near passing resolutions of indignation. I have the sand box yet and the sand too but I did not bring it up. When I came here this morning and looked over this assemblage I did not think you would need any sand and I left it at the hotel. I refer to these things to show that we stand behind this prosperity by our early economy. (Applause.)

JOHN SCOTT, OF STORY.

I deny the statement of Mr. Powers. I never saw that pass before. (Laughter.)

Mr. President, it has been more or less in my thought from time to time in years past as to how the stone, when it should be set over my last resting place, might be best and most in my honor and still most modestly be marked. I speak of this as a mere matter of every day thought. I do not make a suggestion to any other gentleman in regard to that sort of thing but it is one of the matters of thought in connection with the business of life that we approach that time without fear and, as I trust, without shame

or regret for the past. I believe this evening I have found the motto that I will choose. I have thought as a dweller on the Iowa prairies now for nearly thirty-five years, with pleasure of one duty that I have endeavored to perform more or less in all these years and especially in the early ones. I have thought I would like to have it said of me to those who shall come after, "He planted these trees, he started these groves." I have thought of other things of the same character in which it has been my fortune to be engaged in connection with the furtherance of the welfare of this State, but it seems to me my last thought is the best, and that is that I would have marked upon that stone, "He was a pioneer Law-Maker of Iowa" and for this reason: that should that be done and I should rest in the center of this commonwealth, for it is very near the center where my home is, where my loved ones that have gone before now lie, my monument then would be all around me. Go east and go west, go north and go south, everywhere, look where you may, and see the monument of the Pioneer Law-Maker. Mr. President, am not sure but while I am in this vein I am inclined to take to myself—I am willing to divide with these gentlemen of course—but to take, on account of the accident of my being one of the Pioneer Law-Makers, a small part of the credit beyond what I think I am now willing to give to those who are more modern. Our State is finding to-day some difficulties, some grave questions are arising, and it is, I think, rather more than the law-makers of to-day are equal to. They are themselves putting forth their conundrums and saying, what will you do for this and what will you do for that, etc. They are really largely at sea in regard to many of these questions. I do not say that if these questions had come before us in that time that we should not have been at sea, but I believe that so far as the questions which come before us, so far as the questions which ought to come before us, and did come before us, the men who went before were more able to meet the demands of the occasion than the men are now. I beg pardon of my friend here (Senator Dungan) and there are probably a number of gentlemen here who are in the present Assembly. It seems to me they ought to have wisdom to lift these fellows out of dead-locks and everything of that kind if they wore such badges as these.

Senator Dungan: Didn't we do it?

Mr. Scott: But, Mr. President, seriously in regard to this. This question comes before me in such a way that I am not able to speak on it simply for five minutes, and five minutes is really more than a fair division of the time here amongst all the gentlemen and I wish to hear from the others. I heard *Sotto Voce*—I do not know what language that is in—a voice here in the rear that I would like to hear from more freely than I do from their seats.

GEO. G. WRIGHT, OF POLK.

To gentlemen that were present four years ago it will be remembered that a resolution was offered looking to the collection of statistics for data that should assist the preservation of the history of the State, and especially the histories of the several gentlemen who were among the Pioneer Law-Makers. That resolution was adopted and it was contemplated that responses should be made to the questions that were there contemplated before the adjournment. It will be remembered the sad circumstances

under which the adjournment took place, and therefore there was no response to the resolution. It was to the effect that each gentlemen of the association be requested to return answers to certain interrogatories as to the time of his birth, place of his birth, place of his education, perhaps, what services if any in the army, with what regiment, the present place of his residence, his profession, and also what posts he had held in Iowa or elsewhere. Now following that resolution, the committee arranging for this meeting have had printed certain interrogatories that I have been requested to call to your attention and ask that each of you before you leave this evening should call upon the Secretary and get a copy so that you can be prepared to return your answers to-morrow and leave them with the Secretary. It is intended if we can get full returns in this respect to have this data, or these responses, published with the proceedings of the meeting so that they may be of assistance, as they will be in gathering the future history of the State. I call attention to this at this time and hope it will be observed.

One thing more before I sit down. I have been requested, by the minister in charge, and also by other persons connected with this church, to say that in pursuance of a custom long observed by the the ladies of the church, to-morrow is the day that they furnish, as they do every two weeks, a dinner or lunch in the rooms adjoining this room. It is not prepared because we are here, but it is their day. To-morrow they will have a dinner prepared and they ask me to call your attention to it, and to say it will be ready and to have you all come. It will be for a mere pittance, and I trust you will all remember the ladies by this excellent lunch. We can go on with our work to a late moment. I mention this because they have been kind enough to open this church for us for a mere nominal sum, and I trust every gentleman present will remember what I have said about it.

A. C. FULTON, OF SCOTT.

I merely wish to speak of the Assembly of 1854 in a very few words. In that session the capital was removed from Iowa City to Des Moines. I am not well and not in condition to speak, but I did not wish to go home without saying I was here. As a member of the session of 1854, the extra session of 1855 and the session of 1856, the chief business I was interested in was the moving of the capital from Iowa City to Des Moines, and passing acts governing railroads, the first that were ever passed.

L. L. AINSWORTH, OF FAYETTE.

I thought nobody would think I ought to make a speech, but there was one thing I wanted to explain to you gentlemen, that Judge Wright spoke to me of before, and that was that when I became a politician, whenever I wrote I should write so people could not read it and then it would never knock me on the head afterward. That is the way Judge Wright comes to write so that people cannot read it.

There is another thing. It was true when I came to this State that Judge Wright and my friend, Judge Johnstone, and my friend Griffith, all of those men were the old men. We boys, Duncombe and I, were taught to look up to them as the old men of the State, and now, while it is said that

every year makes about as much difference with each man, Duncombe and I have about caught up. They are not the old Pioneers to the extent that they were then, because in the crowding in the activity of life the young men came forward as the men now are coming forward, and go to doing the business which the older men have retired from. Now my friend Powers, to-day is complaining because he has not had passes since 1860. The reason is he has got so old people think he is not worth having them given to him. (Laughter.)

There is another little thing that Col. Scott had trouble about; that is what he will have on his tombstone. I will tell you what I have concluded, while he was talking, to have on mine: "Here lies a fellow that did a good many good things, but was so modest nobody ever found it out." (Applause and laughter.)

It was moved that Judge Wright be excused for his bad writing on account of the explanation of Mr. Ainsworth.

President: If there is no objections he will be excused.

Soprano solo by Mrs. Bromley, "Bonnie Doon."

C. C. NOURSE, OF POLK.

*Mr. President, and gentlemen and ladies:*

I am not very certain that I can be reckoned as one of the law-makers of Iowa. I had the honor in 1854-5—I do not look it, but it is a fact—of being clerk of the house of Representatives of the State of Iowa. I was also clerk of that body at the extra session of 1856, and was secretary of the Senate in 1856-7. It was my duty only to record the wisdom of these gentlemen. I tried to make a faithful record so that your names and your doings might go down to a grateful posterity. I am very glad to see so many of my old friends and acquaintances here. My experience in Iowa has been a very peculiar one. The men that I got acquainted with thirty years ago I can tell as far as I can see them, I know them by the back. These new comers that have come to Iowa in the last ten years I am introduced to twenty times and I cannot tell them the next day, they are all alike. There is no individuality and no peculiarity by which I can remember. They make little impression upon my mind.

I had the honor in 1876 of being appointed by Gov. Kirkwood to make the centennial address in behalf of the State of Iowa, and three of the pleasantest weeks of my life I spent in gathering the material for that address, in hunting over the archives of our State to preserve, as far as I could condense in that brief address, something of the early history of Iowa. I want to say here in connection with that resolution that was adopted, when you go to find something of the early history of Iowa and something of the archives of Iowa do not go to the State Library. You will find in the old Capitol building, a dark room in the basement that is full of old papers from the ceiling to the floor, packed away in store boxes, moldy and full of dust in pigeon holes. The State of Iowa ought to send some competent person into that dark hole, if it is there yet full of those papers, to sort out and save whatever is valuable in that subterranean treasury and probably you will find the Journal of that convention there. I have found some very valuable matters.

in times past. I simply go to the janitor of the building when I want to find out anything there. This thing ought to be taken care of. I make this practical suggestion here and I hope that whenever any one is commissioned to do this work they will go at it right. You will find that Journal probably in some dark corner in that basement and cellar. In some old store box you will find stored away a great deal of valuable material.

Now gentlemen, I won't detain you at this late hour with any attempt to make a speech. You all understand and know what great men we all are. (Laughter.) You all know as well as any one what you have done for the State of Iowa. Your work is here around you, and it has been a glorious one, and I do not blame you for congratulating yourselves and thinking of what ought to be written on your tombstones. (Laughter.)

Thanking you very much for complimenting me with this call I will subside. (Applause.)

JOHN MEYER, OF JASPER.

I suppose we all at a period in our lives when we were young had a great ambition to go into life by ourselves. I remember I used to read Plutarch's Lives, and about Alexander the Great, and about Napoleon and what their ambition was, and I thought when I arrived at that age it was about time to do something for myself. I came from Pennsylvania to Ohio and could not find an opening there, and I came to Iowa thinking that there was a great chance to do something to immortalize me and get something on my tombstone. (Laughter.) I went to Jasper county and it was at a time when sheep raising was in vogue. We had thousands of sheep in Jasper county, and I found that there were a great many dogs there, and it was the desire of every body nearly that every body else's dog should be killed but his own. (Laughter.) I thought if I could just get to the legislature and have a dog law passed, that that would be sufficient to have something put on my tombstone. (Laughter.) I persuaded the people that they could not do any better than to send me to the legislature, and when I got there I found that my friend Mr. Duncombe and Mr. Russell and others were there filled with the same ambition. (Laughter.) We went to work and I found there was very little hope to expect that my tombstone should tower above all others. After we had passed the law we thought it would be all right and I went away crest fallen, thinking there would be nothing on my grave, it was so common. It is said in history that the Governor had to call an extra session and all of these gentlemen then fought with each other to see which could immortalize himself by having the dog law repealed. (Great Laughter.)

Music by the choir: "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground."

Meeting adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 28TH, 1890.

President Johnstone: As I have a little business to attend to this morning I will ask to be excused and call to the chair my old friend John Russell.

Mr. Russell: Before I take the chair I wish to introduce a resolution:

*Resolved*, That Messrs. A. R. Fulton, P. M. Cassidy, B. F. Gue, and Geo. G. Wright be appointed a committee on publication.

Resolution adopted.

Mr. Russell: Another thing, Mr. President, before you vacate the chair, I would beg leave to report this morning that the committee that was appointed yesterday to notify the General Assembly that their presence would be acceptable this afternoon here, have performed that duty by leaving with the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate a written notification to that effect to be read to their respective houses.

Here Judge Edward Johnstone vacated the chair and called to that position John Russell.

Prayer by Rev. I. P. Teter of Oskoloosa.

Music by the choir: "Hail Columbia."

President Russell: Judge Pusey, of Council Bluffs, was on the programme for this morning, as you see. He has not been able to be here, and Judge Thos. S. Wilson, of Dubuque, will entertain us this morning with an address, which I have no doubt will prove to be very interesting to all these old legislators. I have now the pleasure of introducing Judge Wilson, the oldest judicial officer in the State of Iowa. (Applause.)

## JUDGE WILSON'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. President, and ex-Members of the Iowa Legislatures:*

I thank you for the invitation to address you, and for the pleasure of meeting you. The object of this association is worthy and noble. It is a common thing for men of different nationalities among us, to form associa-

tions to keep alive the sympathies which exist between them. Men and women often clasp, with friendly hand, those whom they had never before seen or known, because they had first seen the light in the same Fatherland, known the same green hills and fertile valleys, and wandered beside the same streams and mountains. If there be such feelings amongst those who never before knew each other, how much stronger must that be between those who, from a common and noble impulse, gave up the endearments of home, and the pleasure and comforts of cultivated society, to carve out a name in the far west; who met together here amidst the savage Indians, with a common interest and a common object, and who, side by side, through many years, endured toil, hardship, and privation, to open up this bright and beautiful land to usefulness and prosperity. The descendants of the Pilgrims never fail to commemorate the landing at Plymouth Rock, and the merits of their fathers, and that is commendable. The neglect of a commemoration of western settlement is one reason why western men have never been properly appreciated. It is very easy for those who come here now, to overlook and disregard the first settlers. But, my friends, our population has always been composed of men of all nationalities; and I have never seen, from any State or country, not even from New England, whose intellect was not sharpened, and fertilized, and whose common sense was not expanded by residence in the west. To illustrate this I will relate an anecdote of an event at Vandalia, Illinois, between Ninian Edwards and John Reynolds, rival candidates for the Governorship. Edwards was reared in Massachusetts, was a graduate of Yale, and though talented, very egotistical and self-important, thinking that no one reared in the west was worthy of consideration. In his speech he said that the large State of Illinois needed a man of ability and education for governor, and this he claimed to be, while Reynolds, he said, in no measure came up to that standard; on the contrary, he was so uneducated that in using the pronoun "I" he used a small "i" and dotted it. This raised a laugh at Reynold's expense. But when old John took the platform he said: "Gentlemen, I do not claim to be a highly educated man like Mr. Edwards. While he was attending college in Massachusetts I was helping my old father make a farm in Illinois, driving back the Indians, and helping to open up the country. But it was not because I was uneducated that I used a small "i," it was because Mr. Edwards, in the campaign, had spoken so much of himself that he used up all the big "I's" and left none but the little ones for me." Old John was triumphantly elected, made an able governor, and was the successful manager of the Black Hawk war in Illinois. There was but one defeat there, Stillman's, but that was temporary. The noble old hero, Henry Dodge, conducted it in Wisconsin, and by his skill and bravery terminated it there.

When the Indians were defeated in Illinois they fled northwardly, and when a few miles east of Galena, and in Wisconsin, they were met at the Pekatonica river by Gen. Dodge, where the battle of Pekatonica took place, and where they were again conquered, and continued their flight northwardly.

The object of our government was to capture Black Hawk and thus end his depredations. Gen. Dodge overtook the Indians at Bad Axe river and captured Black Hawk and peace ensued.

Now let us refer to our early legislation. I was not nominally a member of the first Iowa legislature, but was so virtually. This body, immediately after its organization, having passed a resolution requesting Judges Mason, Williams, and myself, to report separately to that body such bills as might be deemed proper for adoption. I was then in Burlington, the seat of government, holding the term of the district court there for Judge Mason. But, on the adoption of this resolution, I let Judge Williams, who had just arrived for the first time in Iowa, take the bench there and Mason and myself commenced work at reporting bills, most of which were adopted so far as I now recollect. This occupied my time during most of the term of that legislature. After twenty-one years of service on the bench, I was a member of the legislatures of 1866 and 1868. My friend, Judge Wright, in his letter inviting me to address you on this occasion, requested me not to deliver a funeral oration, but to speak mostly of anecdotes and pleasant early reminiscences. As so much of my life has been spent on the bench my reminiscences must necessarily be in that line, leaving those which are legislative to other old legislators who will follow. I am glad to know that this society includes the early judicial officers of the territory and State, as well as the early legislators. As most of my official life was on the bench this, including judicial officers among our numbers, enables me to comply with Judge Wright's request to speak of anecdotes and reminiscences, rather than funerals.

The first term of the court in Jackson county, after the organization of our territory, was held in Bellevue in a building of Mr. Heffly, a grocer, erected for a dwelling house, but not yet occupied as such, but contained supplies for the store. To make room for the court a hogshead of molasses, which was there, was rolled against the side wall with the end upwards, back of a projection made for folding doors. Judge Grant was then trying his first case in that county, as an attorney. Many of you know his powerful, shrill voice. The day was warm. The attendants at court with the exception of those engaged in the trial of the case, were sitting near the court house, on the bank of the river, under the shade of the trees. Among them was Peterson the court bailiff, who was about five feet high, and four feet broad with legs about two feet long. When Grant commenced to speak to the jury it was in his usual tone of voice, which could be heard for a mile. The outsiders when they heard his voice, thinking there was a row in court, rushed there. The bailiff, whose short legs left him in the rear, cried "Silence," repeatedly, and vociferously on his way. Being in the rear of the crowd his low stature prevented his seeing what was taking place before the court, and he climbed upon the molasses hogshead to obtain a view of the situation. Standing on the top of the hogshead, he raised himself on his tiptoes and again shouted, "Silence," for Grant was still speaking, and every syllable was like the bursting of a percussion cap. When the bailiff stood upon his toes and shouted, "Silence," the head of the hogshead gave away, and the bailiff sank to the chin in the molasses cask. This was a sweet predicament for the bailiff. I suspended proceedings until he could be resurrected, and when that was done he rushed to the river and went in for total immersion. But the sound of Judge Grant's voice was not always productive of bad results, at least to himself. It was when he and Judge Murdock defended,

at Dubuque, the Indian boy who killed a whisky dealer at Sodom or Gomorrah, Indian towns on the Winnebago, neutral ground near Ft. Atkinson.

After the trial, the Indians met in council to consider what amount should be paid to those attorneys for their services. During the discussion one of the old chiefs arose, and in his own Indian language, stated that he was present at the trial, but did not understand a word that was said by the lawyers, but he thought that the little lawyer who hallooed so loud ought to have \$100 the most, and it was so voted, although Murdock prepared the case for trial and argued it to the jury with great ability.

At a term of the court at Garnavillo, in Clayton county, an amusing incident occurred. There was but one hotel there, and during the adjournment of court there for dinner, most of the attendants at court were sitting in the bar-room of the hotel. Most of them were feeling very happy from the taste of the beverages there, and were laughing and talking. A very tall traveler entered the room, and enquired of the landlord if he could have dinner, and his horse fed. His tallness, about seven feet, attracted the attention of the crowd, and one of the jolly ones remarked to another, "What a tall man that is, who in thunder can he be?" The other replied, "We will never find that out for he is too tall to hear any question from us." It was then agreed upon by the crowd that old Esquire Springer, one of their number, and a small man, should be sent up as a committee of one to make the necessary inquiries of the stranger. The Squire, who was also a little, jolly, agreed to serve, and four or five of the crowd took hold of the Squire's legs, and feet and elevated him until his face was opposite to the stranger's. The following conversation took place between them, the Squire commencing: "Sir, I have come up, as a committee, to ask you who you are, where you live, what business you have here, and from what breed of men you got those long legs." The stranger, very much amused, replied, "Sir, my name is Hutchinson, I reside in Iowa county, I am going to Ft. Atkinson on business, and I got my legs from my grandfather Long Shanks."

The Squire then directed his supporters to let him down as he was ready to report, and he was let down. "What does he say, old man?" inquired the crowd. The Squire then gave as his report the questions and answers as above related, when the crowd said: "All right he can have his dinner, and his horse fed. Stranger, take a horn with us." Hutchinson was a highly respectable man, and was subsequently a member of the Legislature. I hope he is here now among us.

How pleasant it is for many of us to witness the improvements and changes made in Iowa, the place which we selected for our early home. During my official term my district included at different times the counties of Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Cedar, Jones, Delaware, Fayette, Linn, Benton, Black Hawk, Grundy, Bremer, Floyd, Chickasaw, Allamakee, Winneshiek, and Buchanan. The supreme court was held first at Burlington, and secondly at Iowa City. There was no direct road established from Dubuque to Burlington, and we had to follow the bank of the Mississippi river, and this journey occupied five days; to Iowa City or Grundy Center, four days. In the winter time we travelled on horse back for the reason that, if there was snow, we feared to travel in sleighs, lest the snow should melt; if there was no snow, we feared to go in buggies lest the snow should come. Now, instead of being occupied five days, we can travel those distances in

five hours, without exposure to heat or cold, and without fatigue. The most important case in which I was ever engaged was what was generally called the "Dubuque claim case," involving the question of title to the land lying between a point on the Mississippi river, seven miles above Dubuque, extending along the river about twenty-five miles south, and nine miles wide. The claim was based upon an incipient grant from the Spanish government to Julien Dubuque, and was appealed from the United States court at Dubuque, to the United States supreme court at Washington. There are some pleasing reminiscences connected with the trial of this case, and particularly that of the intercourse of my colleague, Mr. Smith and myself, with the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, our opposing counsel. He was then at the height of his career as an attorney of the United States supreme court, having more cases then than any other lawyer, and crowned with professional success, and spending every winter in attendance upon that court. He had two very large libraries, one in his office at his residence at Baltimore, the other in Washington. He was noted for his affability and courteous demeanor. As soon as he heard of our arrival at Washington to try the case, he called upon us at the hotel, introduced himself to us, offered us the use of his law library and office, and gave us a key. We saw him often and enjoyed his society. One day when we were going to the court he said to me, "Mr. Wilson, I am told you have a farm on this disputed land, that you live upon it with your wife and children, and that all you possess in the world is invested there." I told him that such was the fact. He then said, "Well let the case be decided as it may, you shall not lose your home. I will make Mr Choteau convey it to you if we are successful." Knowing that he was sincere, I thanked him, saying that I hoped it would never come to that. After the case had been argued and submitted, and we had waited for weeks in great suspense, to hear the decision, and when Mrs. Wilson and I had taken our seats at the breakfast table, at the hotel, Judge McClean, of the United States supreme court, with his wife and daughter, sat down at the same table, and after bidding us good morning and alluding to what I had said to the court when arguing the case, and when trying to represent to the court the condition of the settlers in our town and county, if the decision should be against them, viz., that when turned out upon the prairies they would be in a worse condition than the Children of Israel, when in the desert, the Judge said to my wife, "Mrs. Wilson, are you ready to turn out upon the desert this morning?" She replied, "No Judge, and I hope you will make no decision that will render that necessary." Hearing this, I immediately arose from the table without breakfast, for I had not been served, and went rapidly to Smith's room. It was then 9 o'clock, but I found him in bed there, and as usual, with the door unlocked. Tapping him on the shoulder to arouse him, I said, "Smith, awake, we have gained our case." "How do you know?" said he. I then told him what Judge McClean had said at the table, remarking that he would never have joked with us upon the subject if the decision had been adverse to us. We immediately went to the clerk's office to learn the facts and found we had been successful.

I have alluded to the foregoing as a pleasant reminiscence of the most important case ever tried in Iowa, but the most pleasant one is yet to be mentioned, and that is the magnificent fee which we received for our services in the case from the city council. It is true that I worked for two years in

studying the history of Spanish grants, of which this was one, and I examined very many cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States which illustrated the validity of Spanish titles and the rules and regulations of that government in reference to its grants of land. It is true that I spent two winters in Washington, traveling there via Cairo, Ill., thence up the Ohio river to Wheeling, and thence by stage to Washington, and returning by the same route, paying my own expenses, and that I aided in arguing the case there; but what were these services in view of the fact that when we returned and presented to the city council the favorable decision of the Supreme Court, confirming to the settlers here, not only the right to all of the land in the city, but to two-thirds of the land in the county? What were all these things, in view of the fact that the city fathers handed us as a compensation an order on the city treasury for \$200 each! It is true that there was no money in the city treasury and that we had it discounted at 25 per cent, but that fact only enhanced the glory of their act, for it showed their confidence in our patriotism and love for our fellow-settlers, and their belief in our unwillingness to accept more. That sum of \$200 was the corner-stone of my fortune. Johnson received \$11,000 from Choteau as his fee for services, which would have been doubled if the case had been gained. The pendency of the Dubuque claim case before Congress for confirmation, and the successful efforts of the rich claimants to keep the lands there out of the market, was a great incubus upon the prosperity of our city and county.

Long after the settlers in the counties of Scott, Clinton, Des Moines, Lee, and all other river counties, had acquired the legal title to their farms, those in Dubuque had not, and very many emigrants located elsewhere, fearing to invest their money in improving land to which they could not procure title. It also retarded the development of our lead mines and caused harrassing and expensive litigation in the following manner:

A man named Flannigan, before our title was confirmed, desiring to become possessed of the rich lodes developed by the labors of such men as Richard and Robert Waller, the Langworthy brothers, Antonie Lore, and many others, procured from the government the appointment of agent of the mines here with instructions to lease the mines to whomsoever he deemed proper, and he proceeded to lease these mines and lodes to such persons as would share the profits with him, most of whom were loafers and dead-beats. When the discoverers of the lodes refused these lessees possession, suits were brought, based upon these leases, and petitions for injunction were filed by this pretended agent in behalf and in the name of the government to enjoin the discoverers from further mining or from selling the ore. This agent procured directions from the proper department at Washington, to the U. S. attorney of Illinois, Mr. Butterfield, to prosecute these suits, and he accordingly did so. After a long and tedious litigation it was decided that congress had never passed a law authorizing the leasing of the lead mines, except those in Indiana Territory; that in the absence of such a law the leases were void, and that the enjoyment of the public land and the settlement upon them had never been regarded as a trespass for which an injunction would lie. This decision disappointed and incensed the agent, and he wrote to Secretary Spencer asking for his influence for my removal. The secretary wrote to me complaining of the decision and stated that unless I decided that Flannigan's leases were good, at least in that part of Iowa which lay

east of the Mississippi river, he would urge my removal. Gen. James Wilson, our surveyor-general, and ex-member of congress from New Hampshire, an able lawyer and an intimate friend of Mr. Webster, was then in Washington, and hearing of this he showed my decision to the latter, who expressed his approval of the decision and informed Secretary Spencer that no part of Iowa lay east of the Mississippi river. This lesson in geography settled the matter; nothing was heard of the threatened removal. Flannigan decamped, the Langworthys, Wallers and Lore and others worked out their lodes, and they and their heirs are now enjoying the proceeds of their hard and meritorious labor.

The first court held in Iowa after its organization as a Territory, was held by me at Prairie La Porte, (now Guttenburg) Clayton county. There were then but three houses in the place and they were log cabins. There was no wagon road to Prairie La Porte and none directly to Delhi. The traveled road to the latter place was by Cascade, and what is now Hopkinton was then the farm and residence of Leroy Jackson, Esq., a former citizen of Dubuque. James Crawford, Esq., and myself, in going to Delhi to attend the first court there, went to Mr. Jackson's where we remained all night. The next morning Mr. Jackson piloted us up to Delhi. There was then no dwelling house there, the nearest being that of C. W. Hobbs, clerk of the court, which was a mile from the court house. The attendants at court dined out of their wagons. Mr. Crawford and myself dined sumptuously from the wagon of David Moreland, of Colony township. The court house was a one story log house on the bank of the lake, with one room below for the court, and one for the petit jury in the half story above. The floors were made of loose plank, and when the jurors walked over the loose boards above our heads, we were in constant apprehension that they would return into court without due deliberation. There being no place provided for the grand jury, they held their sessions in the adjacent grove with the foreman, Moreland, seated on a stump. A man who was held to answer for a criminal charge was discovered crawling through the grass to find out whether he would be indicted, was driven away. The county of Jackson was once in a great commotion, caused by an effort of the citizens of that county to remove a gang of horse thieves from their midst, who used the large cave near Maquoketa, as a harbor for the concealment and exchange of stolen horses from the north, for those from the south. Two or three men had been killed in this effort, among whom was the principal of the gang, a man named Brown, who resisted the sheriff when arresting the thieves. The Hon. E. B. Washburne, ex-Minister to France, in an address which he delivered afterward, refers to what took place at Bellevue at a term of court held there in April, 1840. He says: "I attended court there (Bellevue) a week or ten days, and was admitted to the bar by Judge Wilson. This was before I was admitted in Illinois. I have no time to speak of the wild and turbulent scenes of that term of court, and of which your staid prohibitionists of to-day can have but little conception. It would be hard to make you realize how matters then appeared to me, fresh as I was from the serious old State of Maine. When in Paris I wrote a letter describing what took place at that term of the court, and it got into the newspapers. I told of how it fell out, that in the little hotel where I stopped, and where I was to be put into the same bed with James Grant, of Davenport, and what was

my horror, when he commenced to undress, to see him pull out from under the back of his coat and lay beneath his pillow, a bowie knife which then and there looked to me three feet long. This fell under the eye of Grant and he wrote me a denial of the statement, and claiming that the bowie knife was only *two* feet long."

When Judge Lowe was on the bench, and with the other supreme judges holding court at Iowa City, and a case was being argued by the shrewd attorney, F. E. Bissell, Esq., who was presenting for his client, named Weigle, a very technical defense to a just claim, Judge Lowe looked over his eyeglasses very archly and said: "Mr. Bissell, did you say your client's name was Wiggle?"

The hardest lot I ever experienced in holding the first courts at a new county seat was at Edinburg, Jones county. The following extract from the *Anamosa Eureka* will serve as an illustration: "Edinburg, at the time of its location as the county seat, was a city of grass. Its streets ran in all directions. In fact it was all street. You could wander over its entire extent without getting sight of a wall of brick, wood or stone. The earth below, the blue vault above, were the only signs that the place was intended for human habitation; and, as all cities require ornament of some kind, a bounteous nature had planted there and reared a few scattering trees, and placed near its midst a quagmire for the benefit of certain long-nosed animals, the ever accompaniment of civilization. Such was Edinburg in the summer of 1840, and as we rode over it one day, alone and on horseback, and saw its newly driven stakes, its green grass, its quagmire, its trees, its vastness, and sent our gaze over the spreading prairies and into the blue sky above, we could not help exclaiming, in the language of Burns:

"Edina!" Scotia's darling seat!  
All hail thy palaces and towers."

"The old settlers will remember what followed. A log cabin of commodious size for the then small population, by way of court house and in which Judge Wilson dispensed justice with mild and even hand. And the log cabin for a store, built by Bill Hutton—that was his familiar name—for a general grocery, including the crather, and dry goods store which, not proving profitable, was soon discontinued. Then, after a year or two, followed a two story frame hotel by the same enthusiastic individual, the said hotel being furnished with nothing save a few chairs, a sheet iron parlor stove, the public table made of rough boards laid lengthwise, and by way of night's lodging a load or two of nice prairie hay, cut a few hours previously, and pitched into the upper windows. Being spread upon the floor it furnished bed and bedding to judge, lawyers, jury, witnesses and the other unfortunate mortals who did there congregate.

If such were the hotel accommodations in 1842, after the hotel was built, what were they before? In 1840, when the first court was held in Jones county, there was but one dewling house at the county seat, and that was a log cabin about fifteen feet square, with but one room, and but one bed. This was the residence of a Scotchman who had a short time previously emigrated from the Selkirk settlement in Canada. He had no table. A large red chest which his forefathers had taken from Scotland to Selkirk was used as a table, sofa, and for many other purposes. There being but one bed in the house

and that being occupied by the landlord and his wife, Mr. Malony, the deputy United States Marshal and I slept on a pile of straw at the side of the stove. The only other building in town was the log court house, consisting of one room. At the next term the members of the bar who went from Dubuque, the Marshal and I lodged at Farmer Hosterrers on our way to court. Mr. H. offered to load his wagon with beds, bedding and provisions, and proposed that we should encamp in the court house. We accepted his offer, and he fulfilled his promise. After court adjourned, and after we had taken our lunch, our beds were spread upon the court house floor, and at bed time we retired to rest. Many of the jurors and other persons attending court sought repose with us and laid upon the floor, which had been swept. But little did we know what was before us. We were not aware that the court house had been used as a stable and hog dormitory during the summer previous. But the discovery was soon made. Sleep had scarcely rested upon the eyelids of the inmates, when, in the language of Scott—

"At once there rose so wild a yell  
Within that dark and narrow dell,  
As all the fiends, from Heaven that fell,  
Had raised the banner cry of hell."

Some rushed out upon the prairie but soon returned, saying that flight was useless as the prairies were full of fleas, and one man swore that he tried the tops of several hay stacks in the neighborhood as places of refuge in vain, for the fleas covered the stacks both sides and tops. This was a flea from which they could not flee. This, I think, was the last court ever held there. Whether the flea insurrection had anything to do with it or not, I do not know, but the county seat was removed to Anamosa, where there were comfortable accommodations. During these times, and at one of the terms of court there, the United States Marshal did not arrive until mid-day, and then stopped at the cabin of the Selkirk Scotchman. Being desirous of seeing him before the impannelling of the grand jury, I called on him on my way to the court house, and found him at dinner. While I was talking to him he opened a warm biscuit and to his astonishment he beheld, in the middle of it, a mammoth bed bug thoroughly cooked, and whose blood had crimsoned the inside of the cake to the size of a 50 cent piece. The astonished Marshal inquired, "What in the world is that?" Some one replied, "That is a Scotch sandwich, double price, because its ancestors were imported from Scotland in the old red chest on which the bread was kneaded."

It has been suggested that reference should be made, on this occasion, to the case of Ralph, a colored man, on a *habeas corpus*, the first case cited in Morris' Iowa Reports, and the first case decided by the Territorial Supreme Court. The facts were that Montgomery, who lived in Missouri and owned a slave named Ralph, entered into a written contract by which the latter was permitted to remove to Iowa and to pay \$500.00 for his freedom. He was to be free when the money was paid. He worked industriously at mining for lead ore, but did not there make enough to pay for his boarding and clothing. Montgomery would, probably, never have claimed Ralph again had it not been for two kidnapers from Virginia who were here, who wrote to Montgomery that they would take Ralph to Missouri and deliver him for \$100.00. The offer was accepted. They then made an affidavit that Ralph was a fugitive slave and procured an order from a magistrate to the sheriff to seize

Ralph and deliver him to them to be taken to his master. Ralph was working on a mineral lot a little west of Dubuque city. He was seized by the sheriff and delivered to the kidnappers, who placed the negro in a wagon and took him to Bellevue, intending to take him to St. Louis on the first steamer. They avoided Dubuque, lest that a writ of *habeas corpus* should be sued out and a release ordered. Alex. Butterworth, a noble-hearted Irishman, who was plowing in a field adjoining, soon heard of the arrest and came immediately to my residence and demanded a writ of *habeas corpus*. An attorney drew up the application and it was granted. The sheriff overtook the party at Bellevue, and Ralph was returned to Dubuque. The case was heard, but at my suggestion was transferred to the Supreme Court of the Territory, because of its importance, where it was unanimously decided that Montgomery's written contract with Ralph whereby he permitted the slave to become a citizen of a free Territory, liberated him, and that slavery did not and could not exist in Iowa. These were mainly the same principles involved in the celebrated Dred Scott case which was decided many years afterwards by the United States Supreme Court. This decision was adverse to ours, but I rejoice that we had the opportunity to declare that Iowa was a free land, and the slaveholder could not, by bringing or sending his slaves here, establish slavery, and continue to sanction it, and in the face of constitutional provisions and organic laws absolutely prohibiting it. I rejoice further to believe that now no profound lawyer north of Mason & Dixon's line, or in any Christian land, where the common law prevails but who approves our decision and abhors the other. The difference between the two cases was that Dred Scott resided in free territory with his master who was an officer of the army, who was stationed there by order of the war department. Ralph afterward struck a rich lode, but died with the small pox. Iowa now has eminent Judges on the bench of the United States courts of whom we are justly proud, viz., Judge Miller, of the United States Supreme Court; Judges Love, and Shiras of the United States District Courts, and we formerly had Judges Dyer, now deceased, and Judge Dillon, who resigned. When I was holding one of my terms of court at Davenport, I had occasion to examine authorities in the library of John P. Cook, in the evening. Mr. Cook could not meet me there, but told me that I would find a law student there who would aid me in finding the books needed. I found the student there, who, when I informed him of the questions under examination showed a great deal of talent and wisdom. When I met Mr. Cook the next morning, he enquired whether I had succeeded in my search. I told him, I had, and that his law student would become an eminent attorney. That student was Jno. F. Dillon.

During the early days of our history there were practicing at the bar the following, to whom I refer with pleasure: At Mineral Point, Thomas P. Burnet and M. M. Strong; in Clayton county, Reuben Noble, S. Murdock, and J. S. Crosby; in Dubuque, Gov. Hempstead, W. W. Chapman, Judge Burt, W. Coriel, T. Davis, Jas. Crawford, F. E. Bissell, W. M. Mills, Judge Shiras, Hon. W. B. Allison, and Hon. W. Vandever; in Jackson county, P. B. Bradley and Jas. K. Moss; Clinton county, W. E. Leffingwell; Scott, James Grant, Ebenezer and John P. Cook, and John F. Dillon; Muscatine, Scott Richman, D. C. Cloud and S. Witcher; Des Moines, James W. Grimes, M. D. Browning, the two Starrs; Delaware, A. E. House, J. F. Peters, Griffin and

Brayton; Buchanan, Lee, Woodward and Jamison; Fayette, W. McClintock; Black Hawk, Judge Bagg, A. F. Brown and Mr. Bishop; Bremer, George Wright and Judge Ruddick; Linn, I. M. Preston, Judge Isbell and Judge Greene; in Lee county, Judge Johnstone, Judge Viele and D. F. Miller.

Among the names of eminent men residing in other States who attended the courts in former times in my district, were the following: Hon. Thos. Drummond, United States District Judge; Hon. Van H. Higgins, ex-Circuit Judge, at Chicago; Hon. E. B. Washburne, late Minister to France; Hon. J. P. Hoge, Hon. T. Campbell and Hon. J. Allen Barber, ex-members of Congress; Hon. J. Knox, Chicago; Hon. Mr. Butterfield, of Chicago, ex-United States District Attorney; Hon. James Wilson, ex-member of Congress from Vermont; Hon. Judge Drury, of Rock Island; Hon. Judge Huntington, of New York.

How many in both of these lists, and how many other talented attorneys who came here since, have passed away? How many of us have failed to attain that high destiny which our ambition and our desires promised us to end our days in the peaceful bowers which grace the mountain of fulfilled hope, are compelled to satisfy ourselves with that other peace which an author describes as the "peace of surrendered, not fulfilled hope; the peace, not of satisfied, but of extinguished longings; the peace, not of the happy love and the secure fireside, but of unmourning and accepted loneliness; the peace, not of the heart which lives in joyful serenity, afar from trouble and strife, but of the heart whose conflicts are over, and whose hopes are buried; the peace of the passionless, the peace of the happy; not the peace which brooded over Eden, but that which crowned Gethesmane."

Next came the address of Maj. R. D. Kellogg, of Dacatur county, his subject being "The Eighth General Assembly."

#### MAJ. KELLOGG'S ADDRESS.

*Mr President*—It is logical to conclude that the public events in which each member of this association took a part, are those most deeply engraven on his recollection. I therefore ask you to accompany me in searching in the ashes of the dead past, over which winter winds have blown and summer dews have fallen for the last thirty most eventful years. This brings us back to January 9th, 1860, at 2 o'clock P. M., when Stewart Goodrell called the House of the Eighth General Assembly to order, and on his motion Hon. J. C. Curtis, of Marion county, was elected speaker pro tem, and on motion of Mr. Wright W. P. Hepburn was elected chief clerk pro tem.

A permanent organization was effected by electing Hon. John Edwards of Lucas county as speaker, who made a deservedly popular presiding officer.

Charles Aldrich of Webster county, was chosen chief clerk, and the wisdom of that choice was a source of frequent comment, because of his able and efficient services.

But he needs no words of commendation from me. For he has erected to his memory a monument more useful than a bronze statue, and more durable than the marble shaft. The "Aldrich Collection" shall speak to and instruct all who behold it, both now and when its founder "shall sleep the sleep that knows no waking." In the brief time that I shall occupy, I will

speak only of a few members of the House, of the regular and called session of this Eighth General Assembly.

N. B. Baker, the experienced legislator, Judge J. C. Hall, the able jurist and Nestor of the House. Thos. W. Claggett, a true type of the old school Maryland gentleman, hospitable and generous, the earnest and determined H. C. Caldwell, now United States District Judge in Arkansas, the eloquent Gurley, the witty J. D. Jennings, the painstaking and thoroughly conscientious B. F. Gue, who had no time for folly, and the all round man Ed. Wright, the earnest good lawyer, the lamented Judge Mitchell, whose sudden death at the first reunion of this Association was such a shock to us all, the substantial G. W. Bemis, the irrepressible M. V. Bennett, the alert, active Rush Clark, the fluent, genial Pat Robb, and the accomplished Bowdoin G. W. Ruddick, were among the most conspicuous in debate, while N. G. Hedges, the unconquerable Stewart Goodrell, J. E. Williamson, Sam Rees, Ma-comber, Justice Clarke Whitacher and *many* others were noted for sound judgment and good work in Committee.

Taken as a whole, it has often been claimed to have been the ablest House in the history of the State. It was at least a notable body of law-makers. The General Assembly adjourned April 3d.

The cordial good byes and regretful leave-takings were made, and the Legislative halls deserted as all supposed till the time should arrive for the convening of the Ninth General Assembly. But time proved man's ignorance of coming events.

It was but a few short months, till the angry war cloud hung like a pall over the southern horizon, suggestive of all the dreaded horrors of civil strife. A dark gloomy day. Each man said, or thought, what is to be done. Hope, fear, anxiety and dread, failed to fill the full measure of the duty of the hour.

Action, though grievous, and hazardous, was imperative. Inaction, was to see the great American Republic divided, and ultimately subdivided into petty provinces, to become the easy prey of more powerful nations.

To our noble Governor to know his duty was to do it.

In obedience to the proclamation of Governor S. J. Kirkwood, the Eighth General Assembly convened in extra session May 15, 1861. Culbertson, of Johnson county, and Cutts, of Mahaska county, men of marked ability, were members of this extra session, but were not of the regular session. The condition of the country at this time tended to allay partisan feeling and to merge the partisan in the patriot. This was evinced by the non-partisan methods employed in the selection of the officers of the House, which was done by a committee of ten, reporting the names of parties to fill the different offices of that body, whose report was unanimously adopted.

As the object of this session was to secure such legislation as the exigencies of the time demanded, the more important bills introduced, emanated *from* or were referred *to*, the committee on "military affairs." This committee was composed of the following named gentlemen: Baker, Goodrell, Robb, Noble, Kellogg, Shipman and Moser; and so far as I have knowledge, Mr. Shipman and myself are the only survivors. The business in hand was thoroughly, yet vigorously dispatched.

The following concurrent resolution introduced in the House, and passed

by both branches of the legislature, reveals the settled policy of the people as proclaimed by their representative servants:

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has appealed to all loyal citizens, to favor, facilitate, and aid the effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of the national Union, suppress treason and rebellion against the general government; therefore

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring herein,* That the faith, credit and resources of the State of Iowa, both in men and money, are hereby irrevocably pledged, to any amount and to every extent which the government may constitutionally demand, to suppress treason, subdue rebellion, enforce the laws, protect the lives and property of loyal citizens, and maintain inviolate the constitution and sovereignty of the nation.

These were the days that tried men's souls. God grant that a similar occasion for convening a legislature in this State, or within the borders of this broad land, may never again occur.

The business of the session was concluded in fourteen days, and the legislature adjourned May 29.

One of the principal actors in the drama of those days, merits more than a passing notice. And the fragrance of any tribute laid upon his grave will be gratefully inhaled by all who knew him, and made a study of his noble traits of character. Adjutant General N. B. Baker, chairman of the committee on military affairs, was a remarkable man. Natural gifts were bestowed upon him with a lavish hand. Educated at one of our best eastern colleges, he won first place in his class, and graduated during his minority. Possessed with the born qualities of a leader, he was at the age of nineteen years editor in chief of the leading political organ of the then dominant party in his state, which was, also, the party in power in the nation. When scarcely twenty-one years of age he was elected a member of the House of Representatives and chosen speaker of the House. He was twice elected Governor of New Hampshire, his native state, read law with Franklin Pierce, and but for his modesty in giving the casting vote for Mr. Pierce, would himself have been the candidate for president instead of Mr. Pierce. He came to our State rich in experience, and was on the floor of the House but a short time till he was the recognized leader. He was largely instrumental in shaping the legislation of this eventful session. He was a man of powerful frame, a giant mind, an iron will, and a voice and manner that commanded attention and respect. He moved, and thought, and wrote, and acted with such force and rapidity, that to those of a different type, his methods savored of recklessness. But his public acts and records are a standing refutation of such a charge, and declare him to have possessed a *master executive mind*. While with my best efforts I should fall short of doing full justice to his great qualities of heart, and head, yet I would not canonize him. He was not perfect. He had sufficient faults to assert kinship to humanity. But he was a manly man.

He was gifted with a sound judgment, and with a perception of the right thing to be done when matters of the greatest moment waited upon his decision that seemed like intuition. His polar star was integrity, his friendship sincere, and he had a heart as tender as a loving mother. His great delight was to serve his country, his friend, or the needy.

But he, with most of his compeers, has passed the portals of death. Their voices are mute at roll call on earth. Having finished their work here, they have obeyed the summons "come up higher;" and

When I remember all  
 The friends, so linked together,  
 I've seen around me fall,  
 Like leaves in wintry weather,  
 I feel like one  
 Who treads alone  
 Some banquet-hall deserted,  
 Whose lights are fled,  
 Whose garlands dead,  
 And all but he departed.

Judge Wright: Before the next thing in order I beg to make a suggestion. It was provided on organization that we should meet every four years, and the organization was made permanent. It has been suggested to me by some persons who have given the question no little thought, that it were better we should meet every two rather than four years, and I therefore move you that the committee on resolutions be instructed to take into consideration the question of changing the rule and providing for meetings every two years at the time that the General Assembly should be in session. I move this in order that the matter may come to the committee on resolutions.

Mr. Noble: The four year term did not accord with my idea, but I made no opposition to it. I believed then and believe now that if this reunion is to be maintained it should meet once in two years instead of once in four years. The great majority of those who constitute this reunion will ordinarily prefer to visit the capital during the sessions of the legislature once in two years. Sometimes they have business at the capital during that period, and generally they want to meet their friends once in two years during the session of the legislature; and I believe it will keep up more interest in this organization. Four years is a long time with old men, and the most of us are getting along in years, and we would like to meet, I think, as often as reasonable and convenient. Therefore I would say to the younger members of the reunion that it can be no inconvenience to them to meet once in two years, and that they should accord to the older ones the privilege of meeting thus often as it is not in the nature of human affairs that they can meet many more times if we are to wait four years between times; therefore I second most heartily the motion of my friend Judge Wright for a change of programme in this respect, and I hope that the reunion will adopt it. Then I would add two years, of course,

to the date of service, instead of coming down from 1870 to 1874 I would come from 1870 to 1872; add two years at each meeting as we have so far added four. I hope, Mr. President, that the motion of Judge Wright will be sustained.

Mr. Scott: I think it is not necessary to refer that resolution to the committee on resolutions. It seems to me that the manner in which it has been presented is such as to satisfy every one that the resolution should be adopted. The members of the committee sitting near me should report back in favor of it.

Judge Wright: I suggested it be done in that way and I think it better for you to take it under consideration and frame the language of the proposed change. I will move you that the committee on resolutions be instructed to report a resolution so as to have a meeting every two years.

Mr. Abernathy: A suggestion occurs to me at this moment, that I will ask the convention to let me state, whether it might not be advisable for this committee or for other parties to suggest to the legislature the passage of a resolution or the passage of a law by which one day in a session should be set apart for a general convention in which the old members might be invited to take part. It would be making a recess for one day and giving that day to the Pioneer Law-Makers. It would provide us a home and an audience, but it might be entirely impracticable. I just throw out the suggestion at this time. It would obviate one difficulty we have, that of imposing upon the people of Des Moines in raising some hundreds of dollars to provide for this meeting.

Motion of Judge Wright carried unanimously.

Mr. Parvin: As the committee will come in this afternoon with their report, I suggest that the committee on resolutions be requested to report in proper language a tribute to the ladies whose services in the way of music have contributed so much to our enjoyment during the session.

President: I think that business may safely be left with Col. Scott.

Judge A. R. Fulton, of Des Moines, read the following original poem, addressed "To Iowa's Early Law-Makers" which was received with great applause:

TO IOWA'S EARLY LAWMAKERS.

Ye founders of a proud young State,  
Some muse inspired your deeds might tell,  
For you have planned a structure great,—  
Its ground work fashioned strong and well.

## PIONEER LAW-MAKERS

Not here to-day you come as Whigs,  
 Republicans or Democrats,  
 Though some may wear judicial wigs,  
 Or don official robes and hats.

In years by-gone 'twas you who gave  
 This Commonwealth her statutes just;  
 Her pioneers, so true and brave,  
 Assigned to you that sacred trust.

Proud Iowa will ne'er disown  
 The men who framed her early laws;  
 Whose wisdom, yielding palm to none,  
 Could find in codes all secret flaws.

If, in some hasty statute made,  
 Some lurking error found a place,  
 It surely could not long evade  
 Your searching skill defects to trace.

The best you gleaned from every code,  
 And winnowed well the chaff away;  
 You, on a grateful State bestowed  
 The grandest that she boasts to-day.

Mere party service not your aim —  
 'Twas for the right you firmly stood.  
 And heeded well the people's claim,  
 As servants for the public good.

Let Solons of this later age  
 Their annals now with your's compare;  
 They cannot show one brighter page,  
 Nor prouder laurels shall they wear.

On your foundations, strong and deep,  
 Grand superstructures they may rear,  
 If they in mind your virtues keep,  
 And faithful to your plans adhere.

Like Cincinnatus, famed of old,  
 Your State to serve you left the plow,  
 And institutions helped to mould  
 Which you may proudly boast of now.

A fertile land, with people rude,  
 May scarce deserve the name of State;  
 Refinement must succeed the crude,  
 With laws that tend to elevate.

A State is not confined to soil  
 In given metes and bounds embraced;  
 But men with brain and hand must toil  
 For homes, by all the virtues graced.

To form a State, all these combined,  
 With righteous laws for justice framed,  
 By men of stalwart mould and mind,  
 Were needed, as you wisely claimed.

In decades past you saw the need  
 To train in wisdom's way the youth,  
 And nobly wrought, their feet to lead  
 Along the shining paths of truth.

'Twas you, to bless the coming years,  
 A temple planned on every hill —  
 The Common School, where all are peers —  
 The noblest product of your skill.

As precious grains and fruits are grown  
 From soils by patient work and care,  
 So seeds of knowledge must be sown  
 In youthful minds, good fruits to bear.

All this you saw, with vision clear —  
 So for the future wisely planned;  
 And when no longer you are here,  
 Your temples still shall firmly stand.

Far-seeing men, profound of thought,  
 Who wear your honors with rare grace,  
 These better times your wisdom brought  
 To those who now assume your place.

Contrast the old and present day,  
 With all their comforts and their ills;  
 You cheerfully then paid your way —  
 Ten cents a mile, and walked up hills.

Men trudge not now the laws to make.  
 By \*Frink and Walker's weary line;  
 But gorgeous palace cars they take,  
 Where they may rest, or sleep, or dine.

'Neath golden dome, in marble halls,  
 Adorned by rarest skill and art,  
 Where statues pose on frescoed walls,  
 Lawmakers now enact their part.

Sometimes, aroused from dream, or trance,  
 Men's task unfinished, they renew;  
 Your work, to retrospective glance  
 Complete, you fondly now review.

You call to mind how some engaged  
 In conflicts fierce upon the floor,  
 Where mighty wars of words were waged —  
 But — words they were — and nothing more.

Where is the "rural member" now,  
 Whose manners quaint provoked your smiles,  
 Until one day — you scarce knew how —  
 He turned the scales by artful wiles?

He now is here — your hero brave —  
 For honors since have strewn his way;  
 A Nestor, silver-haired, and grave,  
 He walks among you here to-day.

All still are friends, for none were foes,  
 Though oft, opponents foes were styled;  
 Now dearly prized, your rolls repose  
 With mem'ry's treasures, safely filed.

Restrain not now a pensive tear  
 For vacant seats in those old halls;  
 Some colleagues gone, to mem'ry dear,  
 Respond no more at your roll-calls,

How surely do your meetings wane.  
 And weary waiting, one by one,  
 Each, leave of absence shall obtain,  
 When life's full calendar is done.

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\*Frink & Walker were proprietors of extensive lines of stage coaches in Iowa before the day of railroads.

The closing session soon you'll hold,  
 And may you then with pleasure find  
 That all your bills have been enrolled,  
 And ev'ry act approved and signed.

The architect with pride may view  
 The edifice his brain hath willed;  
 A grander temple honors you—  
 The Commonwealth you helped to build.

Music, alto solo, by Miss Lawton, "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs."

Then followed the address of Judge Samuel Murdock, of Clayton county, on the "Early Courts of Iowa."

#### JUDGE MURDOCK'S ADDRESS.

Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Association: I dislike very much to say anything personal in regard to myself, but some one said here last evening in the discussion that it seems necessary that we should refer to ourselves. The reference I wish to make to myself is made for the purpose of avoiding any mistake as to whom I am. Let me illustrate that by a little incident that occurred not very long ago in the city of Dubuque, the Capital of the State of Dubuque.

I was coming along down the street in company with a very distinguished lawyer from my part of the State when he met an old acquaintance on the street, and being a very polite man he thought he would introduce his friend to me when we approached. He says, calling the gentleman by name, "allow me, sir, to introduce to you my friend Sam Murdock of Clayton county." I can only illustrate how that gentlemen acted by referring to another little circumstance. It seemed that there was a balloonist exhibiting himself at an agricultural fair in the south, and he was in the habit, after rising in the atmosphere some three or four miles, of jumping out of the balloon and descending to the earth by means of a parachute. When the balloon arose into the air the wind wafted it off into the surrounding country, and at the proper moment he jumped from the balloon and sailed down. There happened to be an old negro working in the cotton field, and he had never heard of a balloon nor of a parachute, but he had read that some day or other they expected the return of the Saviour. He happened to look up and he saw the balloonist about a half a mile off in the air, and as a matter of course the poor old man thought it was in fact the Saviour descending to the earth, and the old man fixed himself up and thought he would be very polite to him when he came down. The man happened to light within a few feet of the old negro, and the old negro run up to him and says, "Hello, Jesus, how is your fader?" and so it was with the man my friend introduced to me. He says, "How is your father up there; how is the old man now? I used to know him a great many years ago. Are you a son of the old man that used to be up there, the Judge of the Tenth Judicial District?" After speaking to him I passed on and in a few moments I heard a great laugh behind me. The lawyer had told him that I was the old gentleman himself. (Laughter.) I tell that anecdote so that you will understand that the old gentleman himself is here, and not one of the boys. (Laughter.)

Another preliminary which I wish to refer to before I go on with the address, and that is this: I had the honor of serving in the two last sessions of the Territorial Legislature of Iowa. This is a melancholy subject for me to talk about for the simple reason that there is no one here in this Association to assist me in representing those two sessions of the Legislature. They are nearly all gone, and it makes my old eyes water think about it. I want to say here to you that perhaps some day I will endeavor to give you a history of those two sessions of the Territorial Legislature. And I want to say to my friends, Mr. Gue and Judge Parvin, that the history of that old constitution that was first adopted by the first constitutional convention can never be properly written unless you thoroughly examine the journals of those two sessions of the Legislature. You are aware, those of you who are acquainted with the history of Iowa, that that old constitution was voted on by the people, and consequently that threw upon us in that Legislature the burden of doing something for the future prosperity and happiness of the State of Iowa. The parties were then Whigs and Democrats. The Whigs were violently opposed to that constitution, it was too Democratic. They assailed it in every word and line contained in it, and they aroused public opinion against it throughout the territory for various reasons, and the people voted it down. We, at that time, calling ourselves Democrats concluded that it was a gem of a constitution and that we would make the people adopt it whether they would or not. So we passed an act to re-submit that constitution to the vote of the people and Governor Chambers vetoed it, but we passed it again over his veto and it was re-submitted to the people and was adopted as the constitution of the State.

Now the history of that can never be written until you see the attacks and the discussions that were made upon every word and line of that constitution in that legislature.

Begging your pardon, gentlemen, for this digression, I now proceed with the address. I want to say to you further that when I was informed by your committee that this subject was set apart for my consideration, I was not aware of the difficulty and the magnitude of the task that was imposed upon me until I began to examine the subject, and I trust you will see when I get through what a task they did impose upon me as a historical matter. I felt also that some one who was better acquainted with the early history of Iowa stretching away back into the dim past than I was ought to have been selected. I knew there were one or two men of that character in the State of Iowa, one in particular was one of the gentlemen I have already referred to, the Hon. Judge Parvin, who may be set down as the real historian of Iowa. However, begging your indulgence now for a few moments and hoping that you will pardon any errors that you may discover that I have committed, I propose in the few moments allotted to me to briefly follow the history of the courts and jurisprudence of Iowa from its early colonial and territorial times until the land that we now occupy became a sovereign State, a parcel of the great American Republic.

"Columbus had been dead but a few years when the wonder and excitement created by his discovery began to subside, and the nations of the old world had come to look upon it with apathy and indifference, and but for the occasional arrival in some seaport of an adventurous sea-roving ship

with an exciting and valuable cargo, the great discoverer and his achievements would have been forgotten.

In the year 1541, Ferdinand De Soto, in company with a band of adventurers, discovered the Mississippi river, but his death on its banks terminated his expedition and his followers returned without making any permanent settlement, and it was nearly a century and a half afterwards before other adventurers came to verify his discoveries.

About the beginning of the seventeenth century the English people began to plant settlements along the coast of North America, and called them New England.

France had also about the year 1608, established a few settlements along the banks of the St. Lawrence and called them New France, while Spain at the same time had planted her colonies in the West Indies and along the Gulf of Mexico, and called them New Spain, and for many years all of these settlements seemed to have struggled along under every conceivable adversity to maintain themselves, and it was not until about the middle of the seventeenth century that these three great nations had begun to take active measures to increase their respective settlements in order to establish over their territories as they supposed, as many great and powerful empires deriving their laws, customs, and religious sentiments from their parent countries. North America was never large enough, and never will be large enough to allow even two rival governments founded upon different customs, laws, religions and languages, to permanently exist and flourish upon its soil, without the one absorbing the other, and when we take into consideration the history and character of the various races of the men of these early colonial days, it is no wonder that the schemes and projects of these three great nations were failures from the beginning. Every movement on the checker board of politics in Europe, involved the weak and struggling colonies, and with them the red man of the forest, and taking the whole history of these early days into consideration we have before us nearly two centuries of border wars, and constituting the bloodiest chapter in the annals of the human race.

In 1673, Marquette had rediscovered the Mississippi river, and had followed it down to about the mouth of the Wabash, and, in 1682, LaSalle had discovered its mouth, and France, eager to take advantage of these discoveries, soon established a line of forts along the lakes and the tributaries of the great river, and disputing Spain's right of discovery by De Soto, called the country Louisiana, after the great French king, Louis the 14th.

This claim of France extended from the mouth of the Mississippi to its source and westward without limit, and included within its bounds the land now known as the great and prosperous State of Iowa.

In the year 1712, as we read, this great French king granted a charter to one Crozat as vice Roy of Louisiana, and in it stipulated that the municipal laws, customs, edicts, and ordinances of the city of Paris should be observed as the laws of said colony, and it is here that we find in the ancient history of Iowa, as a part of said colony, the first set of laws that were ever promulgated for the government of her people, and it was for the purpose of explaining and interpreting these laws of the city of Paris, that the Roman civil code was from time to time referred to, until it finally became an indis-

pensible statute, which to this day holds its place in some of our southern states.

In 1762 France ceded all the country west of the great river, including the city of New Orleans on the east, to Spain, and all on the east side to Great Britain, and as soon as this treaty became known in the colony, all the French settlers on the east side abandoned their homes, crossed the great river, and settled on the west side; and it was in one of these stampedes that in the year 1763 St. Louis was selected and settled as a town site.

Spain did not take possession of the country on the west side, until 1769, and in the meantime the inhabitants held on to the laws of the civil code, but when the Spaniards did come, they attempted to introduce into the territory a system of Ecclesiastical laws supported by the terrible Inquisition, but the French settlers revolted against it, and the Nuncio was compelled to flee to save his life.

In the year 1800, Spain retroceded the whole of Louisiana back to France, and in 1803 France ceded it to the United States, and in 1804 congress divided the country into two territories by the line of the 33d parallel of North latitude, and called the south part, the Territory of New Orleans, and the north part, the District of Louisiana; and by this act of congress the Governor and Judges of Indiana were empowered to make laws, establish courts, and to provide all needful rules and regulations for the government and well being of the people of the northern district. And this Governor and these judges were not slow to act, for we find them as early as October, 1804, promulgating laws in relation to crimes and punishments, justice courts, revenue, attorneys, constables, sheriffs, oaths, marriages, and courts of quarter sessions, etc., and, as we are informed, these early law-makers took for their guide both the laws of Indiana and of Pennsylvania, and it is here that we meet with a change from the laws of the city of Paris, the Roman civil code and the Spanish edicts over said territory to the institutions and jurisprudence of the English common law, as provided by the statutes of said states.

But this system of laws did not long remain in force, for we find by an act of congress, dated March 3d, 1805, that a governor and three judges were appointed by the President, for what was now for the first time called the Territory of Louisiana, with full power to establish inferior courts, and to make all needful laws for the government of said Territory, as they might deem necessary. These early law-makers divided the territory into five counties, established terms of courts in them, and provided that the practice and procedure therein should be conducted according to the principles of the English common law.

In the year 1806 and again in 1812 congress passed laws empowering the people of said Territory of Louisiana, to elect their own legislature, and in the act of 1812, we find the name of the Territory changed to that of Missouri. Under these two congressional acts the legislature of the now Territory of Missouri in the year 1816 enacted "That the common law of England, of a general nature, and the statutes of England, passed prior to the fourth, year of James I, of a general nature, should be hereafter the laws of the Territory of Missouri." And it was by the force of this enactment that the laws of France, Spain, and the Roman civil code, ceased forever in said territory.

By an act of congress, approved March 6th, 1820, the Territory of Missouri

became a state with her northern boundary limited to the line of 36°30' of north latitude, and this left the country north of that line entirely without the pale of any law whatever, and this condition continued until 1834, when congress attached the territory north of Missouri and west of the Mississippi, to the Territory of Michigan, and called it the Iowa District; and by an act of the legislature of this Territory, dated September 6th, 1834, the two counties of Dubuque and Des Moines were organized.

By an act of congress, approved January 30th, 1823, all that country lying north of the state of Illinois, and between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river was organized into a judicial district, divided into three counties, called Crawford, Mackinac and Brown, and provided for terms of court to be held at Prairie Du Chien, Green Bay and Mackinac, and attached the whole to the Territory of Michigan.

The legislature of said last mentioned Territory by an act, enacted October 9, 1829, organized all the country south of the Wisconsin to the Illinois line into a new county called Iowa, fixed its seat of justice at Mineral Point, and in the organization of the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines, as I have before stated, they were attached for general judicial purposes to this county of Iowa, and thus they became a part and parcel of the judicial district already referred to, as established by Congress in 1823.

It is here in this act of the legislature of Michigan, approved October 9, 1829, sitting at the city of Detroit, that we first meet with the word "Iowa" as applied to a tract of territory south of the Wisconsin river, and it is more than probable that it was this and the subsequent acts of said Territory in organizing the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines, together with their attachment to this "Iowa" county for judicial purposes, that suggested the name of "Iowa" for the new Territory west of the great river when it came to be subsequently organized, and if this be true, then the general history of our State will never be completely written until we learn something of the name and biography of the man who at this early date introduced that bill, together with the circumstances that prompted him to attach the name of "Iowa" to his new county.

By an act approved April 20, 1836, Congress organized the Territory of Wisconsin, with its western boundary from the mouth of the White Earth river down the main channel of the Missouri to the northwest corner of the State of Missouri, and thence with the north line of said State, and also with that of Illinois on the east, and this included what is now the State of Iowa and a part of Minnesota. By section nine of said act, the said Territory was to be divided into three judicial districts, and that the judicial power therein should consist of supreme, district, probate and justice courts, and by the fifteenth section thereof the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines were to form a part of one of these judicial districts, and all civil and criminal causes arising therein were to be tried within their respective limits. In obedience to said act, the legislature of said Territory in November, 1836, assembled at a little town in Iowa county called Belmont, and among their first acts was the formation of a judicial district west of the Mississippi river, composed of the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines and their attached territory, and assigned it to the jurisdiction of the Hon. David Erwin, one of the three Judges provided for by the act of Congress aforesaid,

and in the spring of 1837 this early Judge held a term of court in Dubuque county and one in Des Moines county.

Here then, we have the history of the first legal court, of original, appellate and common law jurisdiction, in both civil and criminal cases, that was ever held within what is now the limits of the State of Iowa, with the possible exception of a session of an inferior county court held at Burlington in April, 1835, under the laws of Michigan, but of which we have now no history to relate. It is to be deeply regretted that we have nothing at present but tradition to tell us anything of the biography of this early pioneer Judge, David Erwin, but that alone informs us of his high and eminent abilities as a jurist, and his honesty and integrity both as a public officer and as a man, and with only this we must be content.

By an act of the legislature of said Territory, approved December 21st, 1837, Clayton county was organized, and in the spring of 1838 the Hon. Chas. Dunn, one of the three Judges of Wisconsin, held a term of court in said county at Prairie La Porte. This eminent man continued to be the Judge of the first judicial district of Wisconsin until she became a State, and during his long term of service was held in the highest esteem by the bar and the people, and he died many years ago beloved and lamented by all who knew him while in life.

On the 4th day of July, 1838, by an act of Congress, approved the 12th day of June previous, Iowa was organized into a separate Territory, and Charles Mason, Joseph Williams and T. S. Wilson were appointed district Judges thereof, and conjointly to hold a supreme court for the correction of each other's errors if any were committed on their respective circuits, and these eminent men being assigned to respective districts the Hon. T. S. Wilson held at Prairie La Porte in Clayton county, in the fall of 1838, the first court that was ever held under the organization of the new Territory. This eminent man was born in Ohio in 1813, and graduated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1832, and in 1834 was admitted by the Supreme Court of his native State to the bar, and in 1836 he landed in Dubuque and began to practice his profession, and it was while thus engaged, and without his knowledge or application, he was appointed one of the said Judges, as aforesaid, when he immediately entered upon the discharge of its duties, and continued his services on the bench during all of Iowa's Territorial days and until one year and a half after the State was formed, when he resigned and went back to his former practice. Soon after the State was organized he was elected Judge of the third judicial district, and held the office until 1863, when he again returned to the bar, and this remarkable man is still alive and well, still in his law business, and is here to-day, mingling in the festivities of the hour. Having been intimately associated with him, both in public and private life for a few months less than half a century, I can truly say of him that he was always regarded by the bar of his district a profound and able lawyer as well as a calm, cool and deliberate judge. In his long official career but very few of his decisions were ever reversed, and when he retired he left behind him both a public and private record, and upon neither of which is there a single stain.

Of this early court Charles Mason was the chief justice, and always distinguished from the others by his tall figure and his apparent and seemingly reserved manners, but upon a close and intimate acquaintance with

him this apparent austerity vanished, and he would become as social as a child, and one could then easily see that what the outside world had taken for reserve and austerity, was extreme bashfulness on his part before strangers and the public.

His education had been thorough, his knowledge of the law was extensive, and his judgment profound, and these qualities, coupled with his commanding figure upon the bench, always gave to his decisions therefrom the most implicit confidence in their soundness.

He was born in Pompeii, in New York, on October 24, 1804, graduated at West Point, where he had for his classmates Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.

After Iowa became a State he declined to continue any longer upon the bench, and in 1851 he assisted in completing the Code of Iowa of that year; in 1858 he was elected a member of the State Board of Education, and the same year he was appointed by President Buchanan Commissioner of Patents. After leaving this office, we find him again in the practice of law at Washington City, and afterward as editor of the *Scientific American*, but ill health seemed to be driving him from place to place until he finally returned to his home in Burlington, where died some years ago, venerated, beloved and lamented.

Associated with the other two, was the Hon. Joseph Williams, distinguished above all others in those early days for his humor, his wit, and for his musical talent, which, in spite of himself and the dignity of his office, led him to mingle in all crowds as a hail fellow well met, yet we must not judge from this part of his history that he was dissipated, or that he encouraged dissipation in others; far from it, for during our long acquaintance with him we never saw him intoxicated, and he allowed no man to become his peer in the practice and dignity of a gentleman. He was not a profound lawyer, but he had the quickness and sagacity to see the right of every question, as well as the courage and the manhood to seize upon it and declare his convictions, irrespective of parties or favorites, and it was these qualities that made him a most popular judge.

To any one who approached him for a favor he could never say no, and men frequently took advantage of this failing to procure his endorsements, which in very many instances he had to pay, and this kept him constantly embarrassed, and worried his life to the end; but rather than evade these obligations he has been known to encumber his home and hypothecate his salary in advance.

He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on December 28, 1801, and I have it from his own lips that when a youth he was taken by a distinguished citizen of his native state, from a company of traveling mountebanks and made a man of; and often in after years he would refer to this benefactor with all the tender expressions of a son for a departed parent. In 1857 he was appointed by the President one of the District Judges of the Territory of Kansas, and in this new field he soon became a popular judge, and was highly honored by the bar and the people of his district.

It was during the early days of the great war that we happened to be in the city of Memphis, Tennessee, and learning on the street that a supreme court was in session, curiosity to see and hear its proceedings soon led us to the room and there, to our surprise, sat our old Iowa friend Joseph Williams upon

the bench, and he recognized us in an instant, and beckoning the marshal to him, he pointed us out, and in a moment we were seated within the bar, and when court adjourned he rushed forward to bid us a hearty welcome and to invite us to become his guest. We learned from him that President Lincoln had become so pleased by his judicial services in Kansas that he transferred him to this court.

After a few hours talk over our early days in Iowa, we parted and we never saw him more.

After the war was over he drifted about among his friends, and finally died at Fort Scott in Kansas in 1870. We have thus in a rambling manner sketched the outlines of the early history of the courts and jurisprudence to which the soil we now stand upon has been subject to, from its earliest discovery and settlement by the white men, until it became an organized Territory, and we may venture the assertion that no other tract of territory can be found in North America that has from time to time been subject to so many and such various jurisdictions of Kingdoms, States and Territories, to become at last at the end of the 19th century, a sovereign republic, where law and order under enlightened statutes, reign supreme, and where millions are enjoying life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We have also here contributed a few sketches of the early fathers of our present judicial system, upon which learned and eminent jurists have since builded that splendid structure of jurisprudence which has given to Iowa a name, and a fame wherever the English language is spoken. All honor then, to those venerable living and departed fathers, and let us hope and pray that the citadel they have reared upon this soil shall forever remain as a covert and a shelter for human liberty while its grasses grow green, and while the two great rivers of its borders shall flow onward in harmony to the sea.

At the close of Judge Murdock's address, on motion of Geo. G. Wright, the meeting adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

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## AFTERNOON SESSION—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1890.

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At 2 o'clock P. M., President Johnstone called the association to order. Charles Aldrich submitted a paper regarding his collection now in the library room at the State Capital, which had been referred to in the remarks of Major Kellogg and others. The paper was ordered printed in the proceedings, and is as follows:

### PAPER BY CHARLES ALDRICH.

MR. PRESIDENT: I desire to extend to every member of our association an invitation to call at the State Library and inspect the collection of autographs, letters, manuscripts and portraits which I have presented to the

people of Iowa. If your time will not admit of this in these inauguration days, I will be very glad to have such inspection made upon any subsequent occasion. I also desire to say that I will take great pleasure in placing in that collection, with appropriate biographical data, a portrait of every member of this association. As all we say here is to be reported and published in the pamphlet to be printed and sent to each one of us, I will add brief directions in regard to this matter. An engraved portrait, if it meets your approval, is preferable to any photograph, on account of its great durability. Our photographs are expected to fade after a few years, or at least to grow brown and discolored. It is, however, understood that photographs finished in India ink will last indefinitely, and photographers are able to do this or have it done. In the absence of an engraved portrait, it is next best to send such a photograph. These should not exceed the cabinet size. The name and residence of the party and the date should be written by himself on the front side—not on the back. Our printed pamphlet will have such biographical data as may be furnished to the secretary by members, which will be printed and may accompany the portraits. I would be glad to pay for these portraits myself, but I am unable to do this. It has never been the policy of our State to render any pecuniary aid to a collector of materials for its history. If you will individually aid me to this extent, I will be very glad to place these memorials where they will no doubt be most carefully preserved for future times.

I also wish to place upon record a word of thanks, and my own sense of deep obligation, for kindly and most timely aid in my work in the State Library, from several of the pioneer lawmakers of Iowa. First and foremost on this list I must place the name of my friend of thirty years, Hon. B. F. Gue, of Des Moines. Without his aid and encouragement I should have abandoned the work at an early day, when it became the object of a most annoying opposition. His son, Horace Greeley Gue, has spent weeks of valuable time in helping me to arrange the collection. It is due also to the able and discriminating pen of Judge A. R. Fulton, of Des Moines, that my work has become widely known to the people of our State.

I have received not only generous words of encouragement, but most valuable contributions from Hon. John A. Kasson, our illustrious Iowa statesman and diplomat; the Hon. James Harlan, one of our great United States Senators and the associate of Abraham Lincoln during the war; the Hon. Theodore S. Parvin, the most eminent and most successful collector of historical materials in our state; the Hon. William Larrabee, our retiring governor, who has given the work both private and official encouragement during the whole of his administration; Gen. Granville M. Dodge, our most illustrious surviving Iowa soldier, who has contributed liberally to the work, freely giving materials which will be priceless for all time; and our distinguished president, Hon. Edward Johnstone, for half a century a citizen of Iowa, who has aided me on many occasions in my search for those valuable memorials of the pioneers of his section of the state. To all whom I have named, as well as to many other appreciative friends of this work, my most grateful thanks are due.

The State Library of Kansas has preserved the portraits of all that state's law-makers, from its territorial days until now. Iowa has cared for nothing of the kind, though our people contemplate all these objects with deep inter-

est. Now, if you will kindly aid me, I will strive to the best of my ability to gather all that time has left us. I hardly need add that men, whose heads are so rapidly whitening should not delay a matter of this nature.

After the reading of the memorandum by Mr. Aldrich, Samuel McNutt, of Muscatine, offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That as the early history of every state is a matter of great importance, and the historical collections in the State Library, known as the "Aldrich Collection," are now, and in coming years will be of great value, and the time and labor necessary to be spent in attending to the same, are more than any private citizen can afford to give without compensation, therefore we respectfully ask the general assembly to make sufficient appropriation therefor.

John Russell: Mr. President, I second the resolution proposed by Senator McNutt. I have been somewhat conversant with the efforts Mr. Aldrich has made in the past to make his collection as valuable as it has become, and have had the opportunity of knowing something of the great amount of labor and expense which he has so unselfishly devoted to the realization of his plan for giving to the State the finest and most extensive collection of autographs and portraits of distinguished men and women, first of our own State and of the nation, and of those eminent characters in other lands who have contributed to the progress, the intelligence, and the civilization of the human race. I know that Mr. Aldrich has devoted most of his time and much of his limited means in making this great historical collection. I am conversant with the fact that he has made more than one trip to Europe mainly with the purpose of securing valuable material which he already has arranged in the cabinet at the capitol. It is the great ambition of Mr. Aldrich to make this the crowning glory of his life. I have no doubt that it is already the best collection of autographs and portraits of distinguished characters to be found anywhere in the west, if not in the country. It would only be a slight recognition of his indefatigable and unremunerated services if the legislature now in session would give him a small appropriation to enable him to still further pursue the work to which he has devoted so much of his time and personal means. It will be a grand and enduring monument to his memory long after he has run his race on earth and passed over the river to that unknown life in the eternal future. It will only become properly appreciated in proportion as time moves on toward eternity, and the generations of Iowa will be able more and more to realize the great value of the collection as the procession of the ages moves along the highway toward the boundless realms

of the unknown. I hope, Mr. President, that the resolution introduced by Senator McNutt will be adopted.

The resolution of Mr. McNutt was ordered to be incorporated with and made a part of the report of the Committee on Resolutions. Col. Scott from that committee then submitted a partial report and read the following resolutions, which were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the committee of publication is hereby instructed to ask the General Assembly to instruct the State printer to print in pamphlet form for the use of the General Assembly and this association, 2,000 copies of the papers and records of this quadrennial meeting, including also in said pamphlet the proceedings of the first meeting of this association, held in 1886.

*Resolved*, That as the early history of every State is a matter of great importance, and the historical collections in the State library, known as the "Aldrich Collection," are now, and in coming years will be of great value, and the time and labor necessary to be spent in attending to the same, are more than any private citizen can afford to give without compensation; therefore, we respectfully ask the General Assembly to make a sufficient appropriation therefor.

*Resolved*, That John F. Duncombe, G. G. Wright and C. C. Nourse are respectfully asked to present this matter to the General Assembly by bill and memorial, and to secure favorable action, if possible.

*Resolved*, That we extend to all infirm and absent comrades of this association our sincere sympathy in their disappointment in not being able to meet with us in this reunion, and in an especial manner toward C. F. Clarkson, whose long continued prostration and suffering has excited this sentiment throughout the State:—that we pray for their speedy recovery, and that they and we may yet long enjoy these pleasant meetings.

*Resolved*, That if the representatives of the family of Ansel Briggs, first governor of Iowa, will assent to the removal of his remains to a suitable burial place within this State, that it is the sense of this association that the people, through the Governor and General Assembly, should provide for the same, and for a monument to his memory.

*Resolved*, That the regular meetings of this association shall be held biennially, at Des Moines, unless otherwise ordered, in February of each even numbered year; and the executive committee is hereby instructed to fix a date for the next regular meeting in February, 1892, to issue invitations therefor, and to make all necessary preliminary arrangements.

A message was received from the State Senate, carried by Senators Mack and Cleveland, inviting the old law-makers to come to the Senate, and the following resolution, offered by T. S. Parvin, was adopted, and a committee appointed to present it to the Senate:

*Resolved*, That the Pioneer Law-Makers' Association cordially thank the Senate of the Twenty-third General Assembly for their very kind invitation to visit them at the Senate chamber, and express their regret that by reason of prior orders and engagements we are unable to accept.

Judge Wright: Now let me say, while these gentlemen are here, that if they will be so kind as to say to the Senate which they represent that we should be exceedingly glad to see them here, and also the other branch of the General Assembly, at any time before we adjourn, and we will receive you most cordially and give you an old-fashioned greeting.

Senator Mack: I desire to thank the gentleman for his cordial invitation on behalf of the Senate, and will say that owing to the fact that our organization has been so long delayed and the press of important business, it has seemed unadvisable to adjourn and come and meet with you. We should be glad to do so if it were possible.

Rev. I. P. Teter: I see on our programme that the present assembly was to be represented. Some one, I suppose, was to represent the present assembly in an address of some character. Ought we not to invite the Senate to send somebody over here to represent them in our deliberation? I think I will be placed in an anomalous position. I am appointed to respond to the speeches that were to be made by the present representatives of the State, and I will not have anything to respond to unless they are represented; and we ought to ask the Senate to send over some one to represent them in an address before this body this afternoon, so that I will have something to strike at or respond to.

Gov. B. F. Gue: While this matter is under discussion, and in reply to what Brother Teter has said, it seems to me if these representatives of the Senate who are here would remain half an hour, that Brother Teter would deliver his address and they could act as representatives of the Senate on that occasion.

The motion of Senator McNutt in regard to the Aldrich collection was adopted unanimously.

T. S. Parvin: Inasmuch as we shall adjourn this afternoon, and cannot very well as a body visit the Senate, I think we should appoint a committee to visit them to-morrow. The committee, as representatives of this body, might appear before that body and present our compliments and make such general statements in connection with the legislation we have suggested here as would be proper. I move that such a committee be appointed.

Motion carried.

Mr. Teter moved that Mr. Parvin be that committee.

President Johnstone: If there are no objections we will name as the committee to visit the Senate, Mr. Parvin and Senator McNutt.

Music by the choir, "Beautiful Sea."

Col. Scott: While the strains to which we have just listened linger in our ears and fill our hearts I wish to offer this resolution, which, I think, will be heartily received by the boys that occupy the front seats.

*Resolved*, That we greatly appreciate the excellent music furnished by the choir, which has added so much to the pleasure of the occasion.

A rising vote was called for, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

A resolution was presented and adopted in regard to the work of the members of the Pioneer Association in Des Moines in preparing for the meeting, as follows:

*Resolved*, That we recognize our obligations to the veteran comrades of our Association in this city in so liberally providing for our comfort and the success of this meeting; that our thanks are due and are hereby extended to the various railways for courtesies extended to the Association, and to J. S. Polk for compliments of the capital city street railway.

Next came the address of Lewis Todhunter, of Indianola:

MR. TODHUNTER'S ADDRESS.

I will detain you but a little bit, as I have to leave at an early hour. The subject that has been allotted to me is the work of the Constitutional Convention in 1857.

It is well known to all of you boys as well as myself that Iowa, when it was first settled, seemed to be settled by democrats, and it has always been a mystery to me how that came, for it was said as long ago as I can remember that the democrats had no shoes, and how did they come here into this cold country and take possession of it before anybody else got here, if that was true? Now they must have borrowed moccasins of the Indians in order to get here.

A voice: They came by water. (Laughter.)

I do not see how they could subsist after they got here without shoes. Now I want to call your attention to a few articles only of the constitution that was made in 1857. The article on the bill of rights was changed somewhat, and on the right of suffrage it was left very much in the condition that we found it. But the article on the legislative department was changed considerably, and the executive department was changed radically. Under the old constitution the Governor held his office for four years; the new constitution reduced it to two years, and added to that executive department a Lieutenant Governor, which was a radical change from the original. The judicial department was materially changed. Before that time the judges of the Supreme Court were elected by joint ballot of the legislature, and that was changed to an election by the people. And there were other changes that were material. The article on militia was not interfered with. It was adopted just as we found it. The article regulating the State debt, which was the 7th article of the constitution, was somewhat changed. The old

constitution did not allow the State debt to exceed \$100,000, but the new constitution changed that to \$250,000, and not only that but it allowed the legislature to take in the school fund and university fund and become liable for those funds as a State debt really. That was a provision in the constitution. There is a very material change in the articles on corporations. There were but two sections in that article on corporations and that was all there was of it. The first one absolutely prohibited any banking in the State. No one was allowed to bank in the State and issue paper in circulation. Not only that but they were prohibited from using other bank paper in the State. That was the old constitution. That was materially changed as you all remember. The new constitution granted the right to the legislature to pass a State banking law, and also an independent banking law, but both of those laws provided that if the legislature passed a law of that kind before it should go into force within the State it should be submitted to a vote of the people of the State. And that was done. The legislature in 1858 passed a State banking law and also a general banking law, the first on the 20th day of March and the second on the 22d day of March, 1858, with a provision that before they went into force they should be submitted to a vote of the people. That vote was taken on the 28th day of June, 1858. The State banking law carried by a majority of 37,891 votes, and the independent banking law carried by a majority 19,972 votes, which shows very clearly that the people of the State of Iowa were ready for that radical change in the constitution with reference to corporations when this public vote was taken after the work of the constitutional convention. That is the 18th article of the constitution.

The educational article was very materially changed also, and the article with reference to the management of the school funds and school lands. The article on the amendment to the constitution was materially changed. There were I think only two sections of that article and those sections provided that if the legislature concluded it was necessary to amend the constitution they should pass a law submitting that question to the people to vote upon it, and it could not be amended in any other way than to submit the whole constitution again to the people. Now the new constitution provided that any amendment could be offered by either branch of the legislature, without any reference to the entire constitution, but upon any point that they saw proper. That was the change in that.

The 11th article was a miscellaneous article. I am going to call your attention now to the 12th article, that is, the article of the schedule. If I remember correctly there was more contention with reference to that article than any other, unless it was the one on corporations. That article of course had to make the arrangement for putting the constitution into effect, and it had to be provided in that schedule with reference to the officers that were in power at that time. As I now remember about it the schedule provided that the apportionment that had been passed two years before that with reference to the legislature should continue in force. That was one of the objections raised to that article. Another was that it should extend the time of the election of the judges of the Supreme Court until 1859, instead of the October election of 1858. The time of election was changed by the constitution from the first Monday in August until the second Tuesday in October, and some of those officers were to be elected at the first election in

1858. The provision was made that that portion of the Senate that had been elected the August previous to that should hold over until the next election in 1859, but that the entire lower house should be reelected at the October election of 1858, and under the apportionment that had been passed some two years before that. That was the regulation, and that was the bone of contention. There was a long protest filed, as you will find in the proceedings of the convention, against that article. And when it came to a vote on the adoption of the constitution there were seven of the members voted against the entire constitution. There were some other of the articles that there were objections to, but the schedule was the part principally objected to, as I remember it, except the article on corporations. But the reason for it was on account of this apportionment; and another reason was on account of putting the legislators, then elected in the lower house, out of office entirely and to have a new election on the second Tuesday of October, 1858.

That is the matter in brief, and as I have to leave here I do not think it necessary to say anything more to you about it. You can all understand it and read the proceedings of the convention and get it as correctly as I could detail it to you, and better perhaps. It is 32 years since that constitution was formulated and it is difficult to remember that long, especially a boy like myself. (Applause.)

It was moved that Judge McCrary's communication be read to the meeting.

John F. Duncombe: I would suggest that as this communication will be placed in our records and each one of us will have an opportunity to read it hereafter that perhaps the reading of the communication might be dispensed with. I think that would be more satisfactory perhaps than to read it. Therefore as I would not want to vote down a motion of that kind I hope the motion will not be made.

Mr. Aldrich: I move that the communication of Judge McCrary be published in the proceedings of this meeting.

Gov. B. F. Gue: Judge McCrary was one of the first persons invited to address this convention. He accepted at an early day. He prepared an address that is not lengthy, and it is one full of interest to every member of this association. Every citizen of this State honors Judge McCrary for his noble character and the good work he has done. I would like to have this address receive the same treatment that it would have received if Judge McCrary had been present. It will not take over twenty minutes to read it, and I hope we will pay the same respect to Judge McCrary in his absence that we would have if he had been present with us.

In response to calls of "Read" Hon. C. S. Wilson, editor at large, read Judge McCrary's address, as follows:

ADDRESS OF GEO. W. M'CRARY.

KANSAS CITY, MO., February 26, 1890.

*Hon. B. F. Gue, Des Moines, Iowa:*

DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry to be unable to attend the reunion of the Pioneer Law-Makers of Iowa, as it would afford me great pleasure to be permitted once more to stand in the presence of an Iowa audience, and especially to meet and greet so many of the pioneer law-makers of the State, with some of whom I had the honor to be associated in the public service some thirty years ago. To visit you now, after some years of residence in another State, would be to me like coming home, for although I may wander beyond your borders, wherever I go, and however long I stay, my heart turns, and shall ever turn, with longing affection toward the home of my childhood, youth and early manhood, and the noble and generous people among whom I lived so long and to whom I am under so many and such lasting obligations.

I promised you that I would say something about "the old times and the new,"—a subject naturally suggested by the presence in your splendid and populous city of some of those who made laws for the pioneers when Iowa was, in great part, a trackless plain or an uninhabited wilderness.

The new times are in many respects as different from the old as they could be, if we were another people and inhabited another country. The younger generation will never be able to realize the mode of life of the early pioneers. Only the few who remain of that noble body of heroic men and women, who laid the foundations of this grand commonwealth, can recall in all its details the picture of the times of the pioneers. My memory barely reaches back to the territorial days, but I recall with vivid distinctness the struggles and trials of the early settlers.

The old times which we endured, and at the same in a certain sense enjoyed, during the territorial days, and the first decade of our Statehood, have gone to return no more. The new order of things is no doubt a vast improvement upon the old. It is better, far better, to have railroads, telegraphs, telephones, phonographs, electric lights, fine cities, prosperous and populous communities, convenient mills and factories, magnificent hotels, comfortable school-houses and churches, improved farming utensils, and the thousand other improvements which have come with the last quarter of a century, than to have continued in the primitive way of living which was inseparable from the life of the pioneers of Iowa.

It may also be that our social life has grown more delightful with the building of crowded cities, and the nearer approach of neighbors in country and town, but I must be allowed to express some doubt upon this point for reasons I shall mention presently.

I remember (some of your number will better remember) how we had to go long journeys to mill, and wait sometimes for days for "our turn," in the mean time camping in our wagons; how our newspapers, if we had any, came by slow mail, at long intervals; how we longed for news from relatives and friends in the older states, but could not afford many letters because the postage was twenty-five cents; how we waited patiently, week after week, for returns from presidential and other elections; how we were in a word isolated and cut off from knowledge of the current events of the outside

world; how we toiled and struggled to live, the men and boys in clearing, fencing, and opening for cultivation the new farms, or in building warm and comfortable cabins in which to dwell, or in planting and cultivating the vegetables on which we were to subsist, and the women and girls in spinning the flax and wool wherewithal we were to be clothed.

A garment not homespun was, especially among the farmers' boys, the exception, and if the term "dude" had been discovered we should have applied it to the possessor of such elegance.

I remember, too, when the school-master first came and opened his subscription school, and how the boys and girls often waded through deep snow for miles to reach this fountain of learning, in a cabin school-house, with those primitive seats made by splitting a sapling and inserting legs so as to form a rude bench. I remember, too, quite vividly, the very persuasive and effectual method by which some of those early teachers enforced discipline and maintained the inviolability of the "rules" of school which were regularly promulgated at the opening of each term.

The pioneers came to this new land, not in splendid railway coaches, moving at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour day and night, but for the most part in heavy wagons, sometimes called "prairie schooners," moving at the rate of less than that number of miles in a day. There was no crowd rushing into the territory and jostling each other in their efforts to secure the best locations. It was reserved until the present day to present the spectacle of railroads built into a new territory before it was opened for settlement and the consequent inundation of home-seekers who poured into Oklahoma, on the day and hour of the opening. Our pioneers had plenty of room and choice of homes in a vast public domain, as beautiful and fertile as any land upon which the sun ever shone. Let us note this one great advantage and blessing in the midst of the hardships and trials which they underwent. Nor did they fail to notice it. They were men and women of intelligence, courage, industry, enterprise and hope. If they had not been such, they would have remained at ease in the older States where they might have escaped the privations and hardships of the new territory. They looked with delight upon this fair land. They were inspired by the vision and were willing to endure all things to the end that their children, if not themselves, might do well in comfortable homes, in this land of promise. To-day their children are enjoying the fruits of their sacrifices.

I have said that the new times are the better, and yet I venture to affirm that the rugged discipline of the early days had some advantages over the present more effeminate times. I fear that we have substituted ease, comfort and luxury for the battle and struggle of the earlier days. But battle and struggle are necessary elements in the development of strength and vigor of body and mind. It is a fact worthy of mention that many of the strong men of our times were raised in the country and in early life subjected to the discipline of poverty, hardship and toil. Go into any of our great cities and inquire into the history of the men who at the bar, in the pulpit, in any of the professions, or in business, are leading the van, and you will be surprised to learn what a large proportion of them were raised in the country and on farms. I once sat at a banquet in Washington where the numerous guests, myself excepted, were all men distinguished in the public service, civil or military. The fact I have just mentioned being called

up, our host proposed to test the matter by ascertaining how many of his guests had in early life lived in a log cabin. The roll being called nine-tenths of the guests answered "aye."

The hardships of the pioneers were, therefore, not without compensation. The education to be obtained in schools was necessarily limited, but the training and discipline acquired in the fierce conflict in which they were engaged developed true manhood and womanhood. There was, too, in those days, a genuine thirst for knowledge which enabled the young to make the most of their opportunities, and many acquired a thorough practical education without the "cramming process" or any of the other facilities and aids of our time. And so it has come to pass that so many of the boys and girls of the pioneer times are the strong men and women of to-day. They possess the physical and mental excellence and vigor which are only to be acquired by labor, by difficulties encountered and overcome, by battles fought and victories won. They were not pampered; they knew not the comfort and ease that comes with wealth; they labored to secure food, clothing and education, and when the task was accomplished, the fruits of their labor were appreciated and enjoyed. Their struggles toughened the fibre of body and mind and gave self reliance and courage. They were not without ambition. The glow of youthful strength and vigor engendered by their mode of life, filled them with confidence and hope. They acquired amid their unfavorable surroundings great strength of character. I would not willingly discourage the youth of the present day. They may have advantages and blessings which were unknown to the pioneer days, but they must, if they would be properly equipped for the struggle of life, remember the lesson to be drawn from the history of our pioneer days, as well as from all experience, viz., that they must labor if they would achieve; they must not sit down and enjoy in idleness the good things which have come to them; they must not expect that character, discipline, strength, courage and self-reliance can be imparted to them by others, but must realize that all these must be sought and earned. Our youth cannot go back to the pioneer days and take upon themselves the responsibilities and duties of the youth of that day, but they may find work to do of a different kind, which if faithfully done will make them worthy to be American citizens.

I think also there was something in the social life of the pioneer times which we miss to-day, especially if we dwell in cities. When neighbors are few and far between they are appreciated. There was a heartiness and genuineness in the hospitality with which the pioneers greeted each other, and a thorough enjoyment of social converse, which is now to a great extent wanting. There was less formality, much less style, among the pioneers, but vastly more sincerity and heartfelt friendship. The pioneers were generally poor, but what little they had, they stood ready to divide with a needy neighbor. Borrowing and lending was universal, and very few failed to live up to their obligations. A visit in those days was a visit—not merely a call to pay a social obligation. It generally lasted a whole day, every moment of which was utilized and enjoyed by guests and host. I wish we could revive in these times something of this old fashioned good neighborhood and blend it somehow with our new surroundings.

The pioneers had few books and newspapers, but they made excellent use of such as they had. They read them "for all that was in them." It has

been said that Mr. Lincoln's early reading was almost wholly confined to the Bible and Shakespeare, and I see no reason to doubt this, for certain it is there is enough in these books, if thoroughly read, to develop the highest type of character. Mr. Lincoln in this respect, as well as in others, was a typical western pioneer. He read few books, but read them exhaustively. It is different now. We are fairly inundated with books, magazines and newspapers. We glance at our daily papers, noting the headlines and stopping to read an occasional paragraph of exceptional interest. Thus, we readily fall into the habit of careless, hasty and superficial reading. We do not, as the pioneers did, make the most of the reading matter which is within our reach; in fact we cannot, because if we read our daily papers, and current literature, with even tolerable care, we should have no time for anything else. It is, however, a serious question whether we should not select from the great mass, such books and papers as we can read carefully and thoroughly, and confine our reading to them.

The pioneers were without cities. I can scarcely venture to assert that this was a blessing, but I will say that it had its advantages, as well as its disadvantages. The population in pioneer times was almost wholly rural. All enjoyed the wondrous beauty and unbounded freedom, of a magnificent country almost in a state of nature. They were free from the restraints of fashionable society. Each man was his own master. Character, not reputation, was the standard of excellence. No man could hide himself in the crowd. The pioneers were known to each other through and through. Cities with all their elegance, refinement, taste and beauty, are at the same time aggregations of poverty, vice and crime. Our daily papers teem with accounts of the wickedness and crime of the great cities. Blessed is the boy who is reared in the country.

That matchless orator, Col. R. G. Ingersoll, in speaking of the early life of Abraham Lincoln, has beautifully and truthfully said: "People separated only by distance are much nearer together than those divided by walls of caste. It is no advantage to live in a great city where poverty degrades and failure brings despair. The fields are lovelier than paved streets, and the great forests than walls of brick. Oaks and elms are more poetic than steeples and chimneys. In the country is the idea of home. There you see the rising and the setting sun; you become acquainted with the stars and clouds. The constellations are your friends. You hear the rain on the roof and listen to the rhythmic sighing of the wind. You are thrilled by the resurrection called Spring, touched and saddened by Autumn, the grace and poetry of death. Every field is a picture, a landscape; every landscape a poem, every flower a tender thought; every forest a fairyland. In the country you will preserve your identity—your personality. There you are an aggregation of atoms, but in the city you are only an atom of an aggregation."

Here we have a picture of the bright side of the life of the pioneers. They lived amid the beauties and glories of nature; the great prairies were as we then beheld them, nature's flower gardens, and as they were moved upon by the winds they seemed like a floral sea, in which the billows were gently rolling. All this glory and beauty passed away with the coming of civilization and settlement, but it will be long ere the picture shall pass from the memory of any who had the happiness to see it.

Yes, the old times are gone to return no more. We cannot even find their like by searching for it in our new territories, for the new times are there as well as here. Doubtless we should rejoice, I suppose we all do rejoice, that the days of the pioneer have passed away forever, and yet I fear that, among those who remember best those days, this rejoicing will always be mingled with a sort of regret. They will, in spite of themselves, and against their better judgment, sigh when they think of the ample room they had, of the friends they cherished, of the freedom they enjoyed, of the bright hopes they indulged, and of the really happy life they lived, in spite of many hardships, in the good old times.

Sincerely wishing you a happy and profitable reunion, I am

Yours truly,

GEO. W. McCRARY.

During the reading of Judge McCrary's address Messrs A. J. Chantry and Wm. Blatty appeared as a committee from the house of representatives of the 23d General Assembly and reported as follows:

We have the honor and pleasure to state to you that we represent the House of the 23d General Assembly, and invite you to the courtesies of the House to remain with us during the afternoon or during your pleasure, and are authorized to return your pleasure to the House.

Judge Wright: Mr. President, since we have passed a resolution in response to the committee from the senate, I propose the same resolution and the same return of thanks to this committee in order that they may know what our determination is. The gentlemen of the association all understand what the motion was and I need not repeat it.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary was instructed by the president to copy the resolution and hand it to the gentlemen from the house.

On motion of Mr. I. P. Teter, the committee appointed to wait upon the Senate, was also directed to wait upon the House.

After the reading of the address from Judge McCrary was finished, President Johnstone called on Col. Abernethy for some remarks.

Col. Abernethy: Will you allow me to say, as my name does not appear on the regular programme, and as there are other exercises, I desire to ask to be excused from taking up any of the time of the association this afternoon. I understand there are further exercises that ought to take place and I therefore ask to be excused.

Judge Mitchell of Des Moines: I have a short resolution I would like to offer:

*Resolved*, That our thanks are due and are hereby extended to the officials of the Central Christian church for the use of their auditorium, and to the ladies who have given us the fine repast to-day.

Judge Davis of Clinton: Mr. President, I have been told that you have no provision in your constitution, or articles of Association, or whatever you may call them for an executive committee. It seems to me that you need some such body, that there are duties to perform here in making arrangements for the Pioneer meetings that are to take place hereafter that will call for work from somebody and that somebody should be authorized to perform it. It is likely to be better done than if a man assumes to do it at his volition. I have a resolution to offer to that effect which I will read:

*Resolved*, That an executive committee of three members be appointed by the president at each biennial meeting whose duties shall be such as usually pertain to such committees."

Resolution was unanimously adopted.

On the suggestion of Judge Wright the President deferred the appointing of the committee until after the close of the meeting. The chair afterward appointed as said executive committee, Geo. G. Wright, B. F. Gue and P. M. Casady, all of Polk county.

An alto solo by Miss Lawton, "Old Folks at Home," was received with applause.

Mr. T. S. Parvin: I have a resolution I desire to offer drawn out from the fact that so far as I have discovered in our constitution and prior experience of this session, no provision has been made to the membership of this body who have passed away during the past four years. I was, while very much interested in the paper presented verbally by our good friend Todhunter, disappointed that he did not refer to the death of the six members of the Constitutional convention who have died in the last four years. It is customary in all bodies with which I have associated to have a committee whose duty it is to report at each session the name, together with the biographical or other notice of those who have passed away, and it is with the view that at our next biennial meeting we shall have a presentation of such names that I offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the President appoint in advance of our next meeting a committee of three whose duty it shall be to present a list of the members deceased during the recess and, as far as possible, a brief biographical notice of the same."

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

B. B. Richards: I am reluctant to take even a moment of the time now, but I wish to offer a resolution on a subject, the importance of which I am very profoundly impressed with, a subject above creed or party, and I take it, and the legislature of Iowa would take it kindly from this body of men who are past all political activity, and who wish only well to the great commonwealth, and that it may have some influence in the schools by directing a policy on the part of the State that I think important:

*Resolved*, That the common schools of Iowa are our pride and boast, and our State University we regard as a proper complement of our educational system. That we urge upon all departments of the state government such liberality as will make our chief state educational institution a university in fact as well as in name; an honor to the great state whose name it bears; the equal if not the superior of any state university in our country."

Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. S. G. Matson of Linn county: I was one of the Old Pioneers of Iowa. The Old Pioneers saw fit to send me to the convention that framed the constitution of 1846, and to the General Assembly of 1846 and 1847. In my letter of invitation I saw a notice that there would be five minute speeches. I have not said anything yet, neither do I mean to spend five minutes, but only a few moments. I was chairman of the committee on schools in the First General Assembly of Iowa. I got up the bill that located the State University at Iowa City, and I have been proud of the result of it, the educational influence in Iowa since that time. When I came here to-day I felt that an education from those institutions had raised up boys that were better able to talk than myself. (Applause). I have refrained from saying much here but I have a resolution to present. The resolution that my friend Parvin presented last night upon reflection I thought did not cover the whole grounds that ought to be covered. I was a member of the convention and of the First General Assembly, and I thought to myself that there were certain items of information that every individual member of all the legislatures up to 1870 might submit that would not come under that resolution, and I have written a resolution here that I would ask to be put in with those other resolutions, that every member of the Assembly, and every other one who has seen anything they think ought to be in the history of Iowa should present that item, and the thousand little items that are interesting will help to make out the history:

*Resolved*, That each member of this Association be requested to give the date and place of his birth, the time of his coming to Iowa, and such of his

public positions and acts as he thinks important in a true history of Iowa, subject to compiler or historian. If they are too extended let them be simmered down.

The resolution was adopted, and Dr. Matson continued:

When I came to Iowa we had no schools. In some instances they held their schools in their covered wagons, and there were mothers and sisters who were teaching their children and brothers and sisters in their wagons. Also we had no churches. But we now have colleges and such institutions, and our State has grown up a pride to the whole nation. As Iowa's constitution was first presented the Governors of different States came in and were anxious that we should start right. The Governors of the different States came in and saw me, as I was chairman of the committee on schools. The members from Massachusetts wanted us to pattern after Massachusetts, and so on. We can say now that they should pattern after Iowa. (Applause.) I am glad to know that the boys can now talk better than I can.

A. H. McCrary: Fellow pioneers, my mind has been impressed considerably while we have been listening to the little speeches, and I feel that it would be well for us to remember what we have done, the old pioneer legislators that began with the constitution of the State, and I must necessarily refer to myself very slightly. I was in the second session of the legislature in 1848-9; I believe it was the second. I remember that we were limited then to \$2 per day for our services. Our board and everything connected with the expense must come out of that. Then I was a member also in 1851, when we adopted the Code of 1851, as it has been referred to here to-day. I remember that we exceeded the fifty days that the constitution allowed us, and as we had not got through with the adopting of the Code we spent sixteen days legislating at \$1.00 per day. The constitution did not allow us but \$1.00 per day if we went beyond fifty days. We failed to get through in the fifty days and we remained sixteen days longer at \$1.00 per day. Then when we look at the privations and the sacrifices we made I feel like referring to the progress of the State with a small beginning. In 1848 and 1849 it was almost a wilderness where now fine cities have been built up. It was almost a journey in the wilderness to Des Moines, "to the Fort." I remember that teamsters had to take on provisions for their teams at "The Narrows," which was Oskaloosa. Then when we remember that we made these sacrifices to build up this country; when we remember that we were organizing schools and school districts from the very start; when

we see to what extent our school system has grown from this small beginning; when we find now that fine school-houses and well organized districts, colleges and universities are all over our State, we should be proud of the part we have taken in the early history of Iowa. I can remember when it was thought that Massachusetts had nearly all the learning in the United States, and now while their percentage of illiteracy is about three, ours is only one and one half. When we find the flourishing condition of our schools, when we find that our sons are progressed far beyond their parents, I feel proud that I participated in the work of the early days in this State. I have spent 53 years here. I came to this State when it was a Territory. I was here when the Territory was organized. I have never had a home anywhere else for 53 years. When I look over these venerable heads, when I know that they participated in that work, I feel proud that I had an humble part in bringing Iowa to this high state of perfection. (Applause.)

A. McPherrin, of Van Buren county: On hearing the remarks of Dr. Matson I thought I would explain how it came that he was appointed chairman of the committee on schools in the First General Assembly. I was appointed as chairman of so many committees that I resigned the committee on schools and they put Dr. Matson in that place. I entered a protest in the journal to a holiday of two weeks that the members took to go home. I was there all the time at work. I drafted the bill that was sent up on the subject of temperance at that time. I was then a single man and was there busy and I thought it was rather a bad thing for them to be away on a holiday and playing when I was there at work, so I entered a protest on the journal, thinking it was not right for our young State to go in that expensive way for a holiday.

Rev. I. P. Teter: I dislike to break in on this love feast meeting; I am a Methodist and I like to see these venerable fathers have a good time. There may be some comparisons in the brief address I have to make that will not be befitting because I was to speak for the old and somebody was to speak for the new; but if these things go out to the old, the old wont know but what the whole General Assembly and Governor Boies and the balance of the human family are all here. My friend, Judge Wright, wrote me a very legible letter. After two or three days I was enabled to decipher it fully, and in it he said to me to be brief, "ten minutes, boil it down, Bro. Teter." He is a good hand to send out notices. I will now proceed with my lecture:

## ADDRESS OF REV. I. P. TETER.

The statehood of Iowa is less than a half a century. On the 28th day of December, 1846, Iowa was admitted into the Union, and the 4th day of July following the twenty-ninth star appeared upon the azure of the flag of the republic, and after these many years I am happy to say no act of her people has dimmed its glory. It has been assigned to me to speak especially of the old law-makers of this now great and growing commonwealth, and I might say our present proud position among the States of the republic is an evidence of how wisely and securely the foundations were laid. It will be proper to name a few of the builders from each department of State government. In the constitutional convention preceding the admission of the State we find such men as Leffler, Lowe, Saunders, Bissel, Grant, Dibble, Johnstone, Patterson, Hall, Edwards, Wilson, Harris, Springer, Price, Clark, Harnard, Parvin, Bailey and many others of equal devotion to principle, with no desire but to secure the best results and promote the highest interests of the people they were serving.

Beginning with the State government we find Briggs, Hempstead, Grimes, Lowe, Kirkwood, Stone and Merrill honored as chief executives of the State, each wise and patriotic in their respective administrations, unsurpassed by any of their successors in all those eminent qualifications needed for the high trusts committed to them. The judicial department of the State for the first quarter of a century presents a list of able and distinguished jurists: Mason, Williams, Greene, Wright, Lowe, Stockton, Dillon and their associates, the peers of their successors.

The legislative department has associated with it men of eminent ability.

In the national legislation of the country we find Jones, Dodge, Grimes and Harlan; men who gave our State a national reputation. I should not fail to mention those in the House of Representatives—Hall, Leffler, Thompson, Henn, Allison, Curtis, Wilson, Kasson, Price, and others whose names have become associated with the history of the republic. You see I aim to go backward from seventy, and especially speak of the ancient worthies of our State. Most of them are gone. Yet they builded for themselves a monument more enduring than granite, which is seen to-day in our fair State, as she stands in the fore front of the sisterhood of States, her civic record in war and peace all garlanded with glory.

I might refer to my associates in law making, among whom are G. W. McCrary, T. W. Woolson, James S. Hurley, John G. Foote, Gen. Leake, Shaffer, Burdick, Redfield, Smith, Angle, McPherson, Duncombe, Scott, Woodward, Ainsworth, Boardman and Warren S. Dungan, who I believe is the only relic of the past that is found in our present Senate. I am glad to see him so hale and vigorous. I shall always remember the lamented President of the Senate, the gentle, manly John R. Needham. These men I have named and their associates compare favorably with those gentlemen of the new, notwithstanding the more elegant environments of the present.

But, gentlemen and ladies, while I am not a pessimist, yet what we did makes it possible for you to do what you are doing.

Broad and deep and solid were laid the foundations of our State and upon this solid foundation has risen the grand structure of our great commonwealth. Her system of free schools, the glory of the State, was conceived

and born under the old and not the new law-makers. Our humane and charitable institutions received their birth before you appeared upon the arena. It is a fault of the age to look and treat with indifferent consideration the opinions and philosophies and acts of other ages; to exalt the present and depreciate the past and draw unjust comparisons, when in fact the old orators are the masters and teachers of to-day in the fields of polemic discussion.

The laws of to-day embody the ideas of Solon and Lycurgus, while civilization and the rights of mankind are far in advance, yet the basic ideas reach far back into the centuries. Bacon unlocked the door of science and opened the realms of thought and laid the foundations of all future possibilities in the fields of mental achievements. Newton discovered the law of universal gravitation and laid the foundations of the science of mathematics. Franklin, of whom Lord Chatham said "was an honor to the human race, is present to-day in all the various uses to which electricity is applied. I might multiply examples almost indefinitely in which the present is indebted to the past for all that makes the glory of the present century.

And so our State may, without almost a single exception, remember with pride all who have been associated with her history, politically, legislatively and judicially.

From the first appearance of our star upon the nation's banner, its radiance has shone with increasing brightness, until we now stand first in general intelligence, with less illiteracy than any State in the Union, with an educational fund of over four millions, with colleges, normal schools and universities, and all the educational equipment needed to keep step with our increasing population, and a people ready and waiting to meet the larger demands of the future; and while other States have been asking protection for iron, steel, wares, cotton, wool, tobacco, tea, coffee, Iowa has protected the home, the boys and the girls. They are worth more than cotton, wool, tobacco or rum. Proud Iowa, humane Iowa, philanthropic Iowa, with churches and school-houses and no saloons. Who would by ballot or voice bring back these breeders of nihilists? We hang the anarchists till dead. Shall we let the viper go free? Gentleman, I have not a political aspiration under the sun, and I would no political significance should be attached to what I say. The party or the individual that would bring back into our fair State this spot, this cancer, this foul enemy of the home and of mankind, is an enemy of his race.

As early, I believe, as '51, our State by the wisdom and courage of our Democratic friends then in power, seeing the evil of this foe, made wise provision for the protection of the people, declaring Iowa would take no part in the commerce of the sale of liquor; and let me here say, it stands as one of the most worthy deeds on record in connection with the Democratic administrations of our State and the old law-makers. I would that I could influence my Democratic friends to come back to their first love.

The highest interest of the State is the home. That country that can present the greatest number of happy, contented and prosperous homes, stands upon the most enduring foundations. So, gentlemen, let all party considerations, all love of power, all mercenary cravings for the spoils, be lost in that sublime loyalty to, and recognition of the rights and interest of every citizen, however humble he may be, remembering that the mission of

all civilized governments is to lessen burdens, lighten taxation and to educate the ignorant, and to reform the wayward and uplift mankind. To-day Iowa is in possession of all the material, intellectual and moral forces to insure increasing prosperity and larger influence in determining the destiny of the nation.

By special request, at the conclusion of Mr. Teter's remarks, Mrs. Bromley repeated her solo, "Bonnie Doon," which was again received with applause.

Judge Wright: I understand that there are a number of letters from absent members that should be read, but I suggest, in view of the lateness of the hour, that they go to the hands of the committee on printing and it will not be regarded as a disrespect to anybody whose letter is here, and I trust that the representatives of the press will give proper notice to them.

T. S. Parvin: I would like to say a word at this time. I think one of the wisest sayings I ever read was that made by Oakes Ames, to whom the world is indebted for the construction of the Union Pacific Railway. When asked what he did with certain bonds he said he put them where they would do the most good. Now there is no doubt that in the possession of many of these old Pioneer Law-makers there are documents relating to the early history of our State and Territory. They are doing no good in their possession and when they pass away the documents will be consigned to the flames. I have been long engaged in writing up the history of those matters and collecting such documents. My request is that all that are here now and hear me will take the pains to gather up those old papers of the early day having any bearing on the history of the Territory or State of Iowa. If they will pack them up and express them to me at my charge I will be very happy to receive them, and pledge my reputation that I will place them where they will do the most good. I had gathered together a very valuable library and collection. I passed over what was generally valued at least \$2,000 to the academy at Davenport. I donated to it my scientific library. I have donated other works to other institutions in their special line. I want to serve the State and I want to rescue from oblivion these old pamphlets and documents pertaining to its history. Will you not pack them up and send them to me that I may dispose of them in such a way as we think will inure to the benefit of the State?

Judge Trimble: It would hardly be proper on an occasion like this to enter into any political discussion, but I think it appropriate to rectify a mistake made by a gentleman who has addressed the

Association; my friend, Bro. Teter, whom I admire very much, stated that in 1851, the Democrats, who were then in power in the State, adopted a prohibition law. He is mistaken. What the Democrats in 1851 did was to abolish the saloon, but provided that all kinds of intoxicating liquors might be sold exactly as coffee, tea, sugar, calico or anything else. That was the law. I want to know whether my friend Bro. Teter indorses that kind of law, whether he would be satisfied with that to-day. If he would I think we could compromise with him.

Rev. I. P. Teter: I want to say that there stands on the record a statement such as I made, that declared that Iowa will take no part in the sale or commerce in liquors. It is there; so my speech is not subject to the criticism of Judge Trimble.

Judge Trimble: Now one more suggestion. I presume that every member of this Association read in the morning paper the fact that a gentlemen by the name of Caldwell had just been promoted to the office of Judge of the United States Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. It is composed of the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri and Arkansas. Perhaps all of the members of this Association did not know that Judge Caldwell was one of the Pioneer law-makers of Iowa. He was raised in the State of Iowa, he was educated here, and studied law with Judge Wright—Geo. Wright I mean—and had the misfortune to marry George's niece. He was a Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, and then Colonel of the Third Iowa Calvary which he and I assisted in raising in southeastern Iowa.

Mr. Murdock: I desire one moment to correct an error which I made in my preliminary remarks here in reference to the proceedings of the last Territorial legislature of Iowa. I find upon refreshing my memory and consulting with some of my associates here that I was in error in stating that the first constitution was adopted by a vote of the people upon the second ballot. I find that not to be the case. The legislature had passed an act calling a constitutional convention. That convention assembled and adopted a constitution which the people, in consequence of the dislike that they had to the congressional boundaries fixed by Congress, voted down. The legislature previously had taken care to provide, in case the people voted that constitution down, for the election of another legislature which was to assemble on the first Monday in May. On the first Monday in May we assembled together in that legislature and we passed an act resubmitting that constitution to the people. That act Governor Chambers vetoed, as stated before, and we

passed the act over his veto by one majority in the house. The people again voted down that constitution, but we took good care to pass an act in addition to that providing that in case the people voted that constitution down again, another legislature should assemble on the first Monday of December thereafter. The people having voted it down, that legislature assembled on the first Monday of December thereafter and passed an act providing for the assembling of another constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a constitution, and from that second constitutional convention we had our first constitution. With these remarks, gentlemen, I will leave the matter with you. I do not care at the present time to say anything in regard to the last two sessions of that last Territorial legislature because it is a melancholy subject for me to talk about at the present time, from the fact that those men are nearly all of them now in their silent graves. Whenever I come in the vicinity of those men's sepulchers I intuitively express the sentiment that in those graves lie good, honest men.

Mr. Russell: Mr. Chairman, we passed a resolution some time ago here in relation to the Aldrich Collection, which was introduced by my friend Senator McNutt. That resolution contemplated some legislative action favorable to the collection and to help Mr. Aldrich. There was no provision made in the resolution, I believe, for bringing it particularly to the attention of the Legislature. I would therefore propose that the resolution be referred to the committee that has been already appointed to bring the matter of the publication of our proceedings before the legislative bodies.

Motion carried.

Judge Wright: I assume that we have substantially finished the work that we came here to do and we have come to the closing. You know it is arranged by the program that we are to have "Auld Lang Syne." I want all of these old law-makers, including the ladies, to arrange themselves along the two walls and come together in the center and all join hands while we sing "Auld Lang Syne," and when we have concluded the chaplain will pronounce the benediction.

Gov. Gue: In accordance with the suggestion I turn over to the Secretary to go among the archives of this Association and to be mentioned in this report the letters of distinguished persons who were not able to be present with us at this meeting.

## IOWA, 1838-1846.

Hon. T. S. Parvin submitted the following list of persons still living who were connected with the various departments of the Territorial Government, from 1838 to 1846:

Of all the members of the Executive Department in all its branches, Theodore S. Parvin, private secretary to Gov. Robert Lucas, 1838-9, is the only surviving representative, in 1890.

Of all the members of the Judicial Department, in all its branches, Hon. Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, Judge of the Third District, is the sole survivor, in 1890.

Of all the members of the bar of 1838, T. S. Parvin and S. Clinton Hastings are the only survivors, the latter now residing at Portland, Oregon.

Of the members of the Territorial Legislature the following are known to be still living:

1838—Dr. G. S. Bailey, Vernon, Iowa.

1838—Laurel Summers.

1838—Hawkins Taylor, Washington, D. C.

1838—S. C. Hastings, Portland, Oregon.

1839—Edward Johnstone, Keokuk, Iowa.

1840—Francis Springer, Columbus City, Iowa.

1840—Daniel F. Miller, Keokuk, Iowa.

1840—Alfred Hebard, Red Oak, Iowa.

1840—Thomas M. Isett, Canada.

1841—James Grant, Davenport, Iowa.

1841—C. H. Booth, Dubuque, Iowa.

1842—David Bunker, believed to be living in Illinois.

1843—Wm. Thompson, Bismarck, North Dakota.

1845—Philip B. Bradley, Andrew, Iowa.

1845—Richard Noble.

1845—Samuel Murdock, Elkader, Iowa.

1845—Fred. Hancock, Bonaparte, Iowa.

Of the officers of Territorial Legislatures still living are T. S. Parvin, 1840, and J. S. Kinney of Nebraska, and Wm. Thompson of Dakota, 1845.

1844—First Constitutional Convention—Elijah Sells, Salt Lake, Utah; Jas. Grant, Davenport, Iowa, and Dr. Gideon S. Bailey, Vernon, Iowa.

1846—Second Constitutional Convention—John J. Selman, Bloomfield, Iowa; Wareham E. Clark, ———, Iowa; Jas. Grant, Davenport, Iowa; J. Scott Richman, Muscatine, Iowa; Dr. S. G. Matson, Viola, Iowa; Alvin Saunders, Omaha, Nebraska. William Thompson, of Bismarck, North Dakota, was the secretary of this Convention.

Several of those named as members of the Territorial Legislature for the first year of service were members of later sessions, and some of them for several years.

The members of the Association now, in accordance with the suggestion of Judge Wright, joined hands around the room, and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

President Johnstone: I have just a few words to say, and that is that the great Giver of all good may spare your lives for many years to come; that you may all get safely home, and that at the next meeting of this Association you may all be here.

Judge Wright: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen, I want to say as we are about to separate, that I forgive the President, I forgive Governor Gue, I forgive every person else for what they have all said about me and the slurs they have attempted to throw upon my chirography; they are all forgiven. And now, as it was my pleasure to welcome you on yesterday morning, so now in behalf of the citizens of Des Moines I return to you thanks for the great pleasure they have had in your company. Their wish and my wish is, that you may live to the next biennial meeting and all be here, and many more. One word more, we are all getting old; we in some sense are of the past; we belong to that generation that assisted, in part at least, in building up this great State. It is said—is it history or tradition?—that in the palmy days of one of the republics of old, when their soldiers returned from the battle field, and after a great contest and great victory they marched in the procession, and in advance were the old soldiers, and they sang in that Spartan land, "We have been brave;" and then came those of middle age, and they sang as they went, "We are the brave;" and then came the little girls and boys, and they sang as they went, "We will be brave." Gentlemen, looking back fifty years ago, and thirty-five and forty years, we can say here to-day, as I believe and trust, "We have been true;" those of the present generation engaged in more active life say, as I trust, as they remember how much Iowa asks and expects of them, "We are true;" and when the younger generation shall come and follow them as they followed us, I trust, under the influences of our institutions in Iowa, that they shall continue to say, "The grand-fathers have been true, the fathers have been true, and we will, under the blessing of God, be true also." I bid you, on behalf of the citizens of Des Moines, welcome here, and I trust that you will all return home safely.

With a benediction by Rev. I. P. Teter the sessions of the second reunion of the Pioneer Law-Makers or Iowa closed.

#### THE PIONEER LAW-MAKERS TO THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

In pursuance of the action of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, a committee, consisting of Hon. T. S. Parvin, Hon. B. F. Gue, and Hon. W. S. Dungan, on Saturday, March 1, 1890, appeared at the door of the House and were conducted to the

Speaker's platform by Representative Holbrook, whereupon the Speaker presented the gentlemen of the committee to the House. Hon. T. S. Parvin then said:

*Gentlemen of the House:* It is my pleasure to present to you one of my colleagues, Gov. B. F. Gue, who is too well known to the people of Iowa to need a formal introduction at my hands. As many of you know one of the objects of our association is to gather up and preserve for record all facts and incidents relating to the early history of our State, and especially that portion pertaining to its pioneer legislation. Gov. Gue has, for many years, been engaged in collecting material for an elaborate history of our State, and every one who feels an interest in such a work should send to him such facts worthy of record as may come into their hands. I now give way to Gov. Gue, who will address you for our association.

Hon. B. F. Gue then addressed the House on behalf of the committee as follows:

*Mr. Speaker:* The Hon. Theodore S. Parvin and myself were delegated by the late second reunion meeting of the Pioneer Law-makers' Association of Iowa, to convey a message from that body to the Twenty-third General Assembly.

We are commissioned by the old law-makers to express to the new, our appreciation of the invitation you so courteously extended to us, on the last day of our session, to visit your honorable body and exchange greetings. It was with deep regret that we were compelled to forego the pleasure such a visit would have afforded every member of our association.

The hour of our final adjournment was close at hand when your message reached us, and many of our members had already departed for their homes.

We beg to assure you that we appreciate the spirit of fraternal feeling that prompted the invitation, and regret that time would not permit a meeting between the law-makers of the past and present; and an interchange of the fraternal greetings that would have been fraught with so much of mutual pleasure.

Our association embraces in its membership a long roll of law-makers of a past generation, whose mission it was to enact the first laws ever placed upon an Iowa statute book; to devise the first, second and third constitutions for our Statehood. They gave us all our early codes, our common school system, our great State University, our Industrial College, most of our charitable institutions, our revenue system, and the innumerable laws under which our State has grown, prospered and attained rank second to none in the American republic.

When civil war came suddenly upon our common country, the old law-makers were equal to the direful emergency; they organized, equipped and officered as brave an army, 80,000 strong, as ever marched to the field of battle.

In short, they laid a foundation in the early years, broad and enduring, upon which has been reared one of the foremost States of the Union.

Their work has passed into history; how well it was done is not for us to say. Of that posterity will be their impartial judge.

To our successors of the younger generations we extend a fraternal greeting. You are the law-makers of to-day. Living under the light of the accumulated wisdom, that time suggests to all, we trust, and believe that your work will stand the test of imparial criticism, and bring added honor to those in whose hands it is intrusted by the people of our great commonwealth. In this hope and confidence we give you our cordial greeting.

Senator Dungan was then called for and addressed the House.

Mr. Holbrook moved to appoint a committee of four to draft proper resolutions relating to the meeting of the Pioneer Law-Makers' Association, which was carried. Mr. Holbrook moved that the address delivered by Gov. Gue, on behalf of said association, be placed on the journal, and it was carried.

The committee also appeared before the Senate and, being introduced by the president, Prof. T. S. Parvin addressed the Senate as follows:

PROF. PARVIN'S ADDRESS TO THE SENATE, MARCH 1, 1890.

*Mr. President and Senators of the Twenty-third General Assembly of Iowa:*

The Pioneer Law-Makers of Iowa, Territory and State, is an association of gentlemen, who, in territorial years, 1838-1846, and the first quarter of a century, 1846-70, of our State history were associated in the executive and judicial with the department of legislation in the government of Iowa. An association organized and continued for the purpose of keeping afresh the memories of the past, renewing early acquaintances and cementing more closely the friendships of those who met and labored in the public interest, while yet you and others were young and preparing for the work in which you are now engaged. This association which so recently held its second quadrennial reunion, before its adjournment on yesterday appointed Hon. B. F. Gue, ex-Lieutenant-Governor; and myself a committee to wait upon your honorable body. We are especially instructed to express to the Senate the profound regret of your predecessors of the long ago that circumstances of such public interest—the inaugural ceremonies of the Governor-elect and of your honorable President—prevented them from visiting this body in obedience to your courteous invitation, and that for the same cause your honorable body could not have met us when in spirit, from the reading of the several papers so full of historic interest, your members might have been carried back to earlier days and learned from those who builded wiser than they knew, when they laid the foundation stone of that wise legislation which has built up the State and developed its resources and people which has not only given to Iowa a name as well as local habitation, but placed her in the front rank of her sister States for all those attributes which constitute a great State. Our Association, encouraged by the success which has crowned these two reunions, has resolved to make them a permanent factor in our State legislative history, and will probably hold them in the future biennially and during your sessions. It is also the desire of our Association that the old and new may become better acquainted and that you may learn by contact and association with the pioneers and fathers of legislation, some-

thing of their foils and trials, and be led to more highly appreciate the privileges you enjoy. We are deeply impressed with the fact that while your lot has been cast in pleasant places you are eminently worthy of the high trust our people have reposed in you. And we could utter no more fervent prayer than that when you too shall become old and look back upon your labors of to-day, you may witness as grand a success as that which has crowned the labors of those for whom we speak. We are proud of the past history of Iowa, in the Senate, the forum and in the field, when grim visaged war threatened the life of the republic. And feeling thus proud, in which you join us heart and hand, we are the more solicitous that the early records of the past history of our territory and State should be rescued from the neglect and oblivion so fast overtaking them. In this commendable work we humbly invoke your aid.

In conclusion let me say, with the great Corsican who, when about to engage and overthrow the enemy upon the sands of Egypt, addressed his brave soldiers by way of stimulating their hopes and inspiring their action to heroic deeds, in these memorable words, "Soldiers, forty centuries look down upon you to-day." So, fellow legislators of Iowa, of the year '90, may I say to you that forty years look down upon you to-day, and these years, so long in our history, so brief as measured by the dial of historic time, contain infinitely more than the forty centuries of old in all that concerns the welfare of States and nations or relates to the people who since then have gone forth to conquer the world to civil government, human liberty and progress, and develop the mind and heart of man for the enjoyment and blessings of this life and the hope of a glorious immortality in the life to come.

May these noble aspirations animate your minds and control your actions to the end that Iowa, the land of the beautiful, may be made more beautiful and her intelligent people more wise and better; that you have lived and labored for her good, and that you may see the flowers of your good works blossoming into ripened fruit which shall prove a healing balm to the poor and sorrowing of earth.

Our mission is ended, with the wish that you may long live to serve the public.

## LETTERS FROM ABSENT MEMBERS.

HON. HAWKINS TAYLOR.

*Committee Pioneer Law-Makers:*

The history of Iowa can be divided into two periods, the one being before what the world calls civilization, lasting about fifteen years, commencing May, 1834. During that period the settler had no use for locks and none were used except by merchants. I lived in the Territory fifteen years before I ever had a lock. I had a carpenter shop in the middle of Main street in Keokuk that had no door. The mechanics and laborers left their tools over night where they were using them and found them there in the morning. During this time Keokuk was often evil spoken of by tenderfoots, but no gamblers nor crooks were allowed to stop in the town. There was a vigilance committee which looked after these things and if a suspicious character came to town he was in the most polite manner informed of the hours when the stages and packets left and advised to arrange his business as soon as convenient, and he went without a second notice. I do not think he remembered Keokuk as a pleasant place of residence for his friends to settle in. There was very little filthy lucre in the town but no family was allowed to suffer for want of care. Doctors Millard and Collins were the town doctors. They attended the poor not able to pay and they attended those able to pay alike, and with equal care, furnishing their own medicines, and I do not think that they received more for their services in money than they paid for the medicines that they used. Both of these noble men are now in the better world. Those were glorious times of good will and fun. While living in West Point from 1836 to 1840 there was a Methodist circuit rider by the name of Cartwright that preached once a week in West Point and then went to Van Buren county. There were but few settlers then between West Point and the Des Moines timber at Baker's Point some fifteen miles. There was an Indian trail and the dreariest road that I ever traveled during the winter and spring. It was open prairie facing the northwest winds sweeping down the prairie divide between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers, but Cartwright would once a week cross this dreary road on horseback, summer and winter, through rain, sleet and snow and often the thermometer far below zero, without a failure.

The first thing the proprietors of West Point in Lee county did was to build a log school house, large enough for a church also, securing a school teacher, and opening the door for any and all preachers, no matter of what

denomination. This was the rule and custom of all the settlements of the Territory. I built a brick Methodist church in Keokuk in 1844 or 1845, which was 40x60 feet, for six hundred dollars, and took the subscription paper for pay. I collected less than fifteen dollars in cash; the rest was paid in what could be eaten and worn by the men who did the work for me. I do not think any lady ever went to that church to either show her own, or criticise her neighbors' bonnets.

Keokuk since the days of civilization has been a great factor in politics in both of the leading political parties, getting and holding good fat offices, National and State, but with scarcely an exception they have been the men who were of the first era of settlement. Nothing to me is clearer than that the foundation of later success was due to the wisdom and foresight of the settlers of the early days.

The winters were days of amusement and sport of all kinds. "Sile" Haight was master of ceremonies in holding what he called "Yellow Hand-bill Meetings." Sile would get out immense hand-bills for a public meeting to discuss probably twenty different subjects, none having connection with any other, and charge 10 cents admission. Everybody would go and have a free and easy time. Each speaker would discuss any question he chose to speak on, and a man that graduated at those meetings was well qualified for any political convention.

In those days there was a class of lawyers that I do not believe can be duplicated in the state as lawyers. There was in Lee county, Reid and Johnstone, Judge Love, Judge Eno and Veile, Alfred Rich, D. F. Miller, L. R. Reeves, Gov. Lowe, Geo. H. Williams, G. C. Dixon, Sam'l R. Curtis, S. F. Miller, the ablest judge on the supreme court bench, Rankin, G. C. Mathews, L. E. Johnson; in Van Burren county, Judge Geo. G. Wright, Judge Knapp, James Hall, Big Headed Weld, Gen. Swazey; in Des Moines county, Grimes & Starr, Higgins & Mills, Breckenridge & Bullock, J. C. Hall, Bowlegged Starr, M. D. Browning, D. Rorer, W. W. Chapman, Shep Leffler, Tom Bowie, L. D. Stockton. Outside of the old settlers I do not believe the lawyers named can be duplicated in the whole state to-day. Secretary Noble graduated in Keokuk; Withrow studied law with Dan F. Miller; Mason, the brilliant and witty congressman from Chicago, is a product of Judge Wright's old county, Van Buren.

It was almost four years after the first settlement before the public land was surveyed, and there was scarcely a single settler suited in the survey. After the survey the cabin of one settler would often be on the same quarter section of another settler's farm. In some cases the quarter section, or 160 acres, located by the settlers would be in four different townships. Yet all these complications were amicably adjusted by the settlers themselves, and with entire satisfaction. Could this be done in the present days of civilization, if the old lines were abrogated, and new ones run from a different starting point?

The first Iowa Territorial legislature had in Gen. Jesse B. Browne and Wm. H. Wallace, as presiding officers, the peers of any presiding officers that I have ever seen in either house of congress, or any legislature. In that legislature there were James W. Grimes, Stephen Hempstead, Col. Wm. Patterson, S. C. Hastings, Warner Lewis, Gen. Swazey, Dr. G. S. Bailey, James M. Clark, and Gen. Frierson, all of whom have figured more or less

since. During the whole session I never saw a member under the influence of liquor,

You have railroads now; we had none then. You have banks now; we had none then. You have cushioned pews to sit on in church (if able to pay for them); we had rough benches—not good to sleep on. You have locks to your doors; we had our latch-string always hanging out. But there is no use following the comparison. \* \* \* \* The first lobby that ever invaded the Iowa legislature was when the "Owl family" located at the "Des Moines House", asking that the grant of land given to the Iowa Central road, should be taken from that road and given to the Clinton, Cedar Rapids & Missouri. Crocker, the president of their road, naturally headed the invading army. He had been educated in service in Albany, N. Y., then and now standing at the head as a successful school in the education of lobby skill and cussedness. Crocker was a dignified gentleman in manners, and the color and cut of his hair, his large eyes and solemn aspect made him a perfect duplicate of the large wise-looking, dignified owl. Col. Bodfish was the turvy-top representative of the party. Bodfish was of large and commanding proportions, and his pose and deportment was to subdue the "rowdy west" legislator, Gov. Nat. Baker. The big-hearted, noble Nat. was the recruiting officer, and he had a small army of scouts to run down members, and sound the gong of the "Owl family." It was a sight never before seen when this outfit, including the scouts, went over the river to the capitol. In the hotel they occupied several rooms on the lower floor, and the mustering officer and scouts kept the rooms well filled with members and others. I do not think that they drew largely on their bank account, but they were liberal in promising the land they were trying to get from the legislature.

They had a well stocked gift entertainment in the liquor line of all qualities. Bodfish as the department man, was the dispenser of the good things where the governor, members of the supreme court, and legislators were served. The smaller fry, still supposed to be useful, were served by the scouts. Gov. Lowe, being a temperance man, would not imbibe, until Bodfish, in all his department dignity, assured him that all of the devil's part had been extracted. Bodfish assured the governor that the whisky that they brought with them to Iowa had all ran down a yarn string from the fifth story of a warehouse to the cellar, taking out all the impurity, and was known as "string whisky." This was entirely satisfactory to the governor, coming from such high authority. The next day the governor told Judge Wright of the new and harmless kind of whisky that had been served to him by Col. Bodfish, called "string whisky." Judge Wright, without a smile, questioned the governor about his "string whisky" as he would have questioned a witness, apparently feeling great interest in this new kind of innocent whisky. That night at a dinner party, Judge Wright told the story, as the Judge can tell a good story. The laugh was hearty, except as to the governor, who could not see where the laugh came in.

The only excuse for the Judge's cruel sell of his noble friend, was that it was in the early days of civilization, and after all the governor enjoyed the sell, and loved the Judge none the less.

HON. J. B. GRINNELL.

GRINNELL, IOWA, Feb. 26, 1890.

HON. B. F. GUE AND JUDGES WRIGHT AND CASADY, *Committee*:

GENTLEMEN:—To my regret a throat trouble will prevent, not only speaking, but a personal interview with the early legislators. My associates in the State senate thirty-one and thirty-two years ago, were gentlemen of character, many of whom attained to national distinction. Alas! that so many have passed over to the silent majority! Senators Trimble, Cook, Pusey, Thompson, Gov. Kirkwood, and Gov. Saunders, of Omaha, could either of them tell of the sharp debate, lowering war clouds, and the enactment of a free school system, the corner-stone of our commonwealth, which I trust may be burnished anew down the later generations as the sardonyx symbol of old, gleaming on the sacred ark of the covenant. This radical law, aiding in making a proud State record as to the intelligence of Iowa, I trust will aid in rescuing the soon dead actors in a memorable epoch from early oblivion.

I offer a sentiment: "Our free school system, based on a popular tax levy, the Urim and Thummim, polished and enduring sardonyx corner-stones of our social and political State fabric."

Trusting you will with happy inspiration, have the good time which your programme promises, I am,

Fraternally yours,

J. B. GRINNELL.

HON. JAMES HARLAN.

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA, February 24, 1890.

MY DEAR GOV. GUE: Thanks for your note at close of printed statement relating to the "Second Reunion of Iowa Pioneer Law-Makers." I regret that I will not probably be able to be present. I have been down with a severe (second) attack of "la grippe," and am now only able to sit up a portion of each day. It is not probable that I will be sufficiently recovered in time to make the journey to Des Moines by the 27th inst. I hope you may all have a glorious time together, and live to hold many more reunions. With great respect.

Yours truly,

JAS. HARLAN.

HON. S. J. KIRKWOOD.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, February 2, 1890.

HON. B. F. GUE, *Chairman*:

MY DEAR SIR: I have a letter from Judge Wright requesting me to attend a meeting of the "Pioneer Legislators" at Des Moines on the 27th and 28th inst., and to respond to a toast, and he requests me to reply to you. It will afford me great pleasure to attend the meeting if I can, but my doing so will depend very much on the weather and the condition of my health. All I can say is I will go if I can.

Very respectfully,

S. J. KIRKWOOD.

HON. W. B. ALLISON.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27, 1890. }

GENTLEMEN: Yours of the 17th inst., inviting me to be present at the Second Re-union of Pioneer Law-Makers of Iowa, at Des Moines, 27th and 28th inst., is received. Many thanks for the invitation, but my engagements are such that it will be impossible for me to join these veteran legislators at the time indicated. Wishing you all a happy re-union and a pleasant time, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W. B. ALLISON.

TO HON. B. F. GUE, et al.,  
*Committee of Arrangements.*

HON. JOHN T. MORTON.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, February 2, 1890.

MY DEAR JUDGE: I have not been able, until to-day, to decide that I see no chance to attend the re-union. I came to this conclusion with the most sincere regret. I would enjoy the occasion very much, but I am very hardy pressed by my business, and do not see any way to get off. Will you kindly mail me your dailies, giving an account of the proceedings? My best regards to Mrs. W., in which, with regards to yourself, my wife heartily joins.

Yours truly,

JOHN T. MORTON.

HON. W. H. M. PUSEY.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, February 26, 1890.

HON. P. M. CASADY:

DEAR SIR—My partner, Mr. O., has been confined for some days to the house, and business of the bank has been thrown upon me, which will preclude the possibility of being with you on the 27th and 28th. Convey to my old friends and colleagues my regrets, and hopes that they, one and all, may enjoy the re-union.

Respectfully,

W. H. M. PUSEY.

HON. T. B. PERRY.

ALBIA, IOWA, February 25, 1890.

HON. GEORGE G. WRIGHT:

DEAR SIR—I learn through the papers, and from Dr. Ramsay who received your card of invitation, that there will be a re-union on the 27th and 28th of this month at Des Moines of ex-members of the Iowa Legislature, of the Constitutional Conventions and State Board of Education. I would like very much to be present at this meeting and participate in its deliberations. I was a member of the Board of Education, having been elected at the October election, 1858, and remained a member until the office was abolished, some three years after that. I was the youngest member of the Board, and am not aware of there being any other member alive at this time except Judge Chase, of Hamilton county. I have heard that Judge

Ellis of Clinton, is the same person who was a member of the Board. Owing to our court being in session, I do not suppose that I can very well be present. If it is proper for my name to be enrolled as an absent member I shall be glad that it may be done. I trust, as I have no doubt, that you will have a royal good time, as the older we become, the warmer are our affections for each other.

Respectfully,

T. B. PERRY.

HON. J. SCOTT RICHMAN.

MUSCATINE, IOWA, Feb. 11, 1890.

HON. B. F. GUE, Chairman:—

DEAR SIR,—Your letters in reference to my attendance at the Pioneer Law-Makers' Second Reunion, on the 27th, and 28th inst., to address the reunion on the work of the second constitutional convention, have been received. I would have replied to the first letter before now, but have been, and am, quite unwell with the grippe, or something worse, and am getting better so slowly, if at all, that I feel constrained to decline the proffered honor of delivering an address. I am not equal to the preparation of such an address as the occasion would demand. If able to attend the reunion, I shall try to be present to hear what may be said, to take old acquaintances by the hand, and to enjoy the pleasure peculiar to the old—namely: that of "looking backward."

Truly yours,

J. SCOTT RICHMAN.

HON. WILLIAM THOMPSON.

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA, Monday, Feb. 24, 1890.

MESSRS. B. F. GUE, GEO. G. WRIGHT, and P. M. CASADY, *Committee of Arrangements*:

GENTLEMEN,—Your kind invitation to attend the second reunion of the "Old Law-Makers of Iowa," on the 27th and 28th inst. and take part in their deliberations, has just been received, and while I am deeply impressed with the compliment paid me by the invitation, and the pleasure it would have afforded me in finding myself again a participant in so desirable a reunion; yet, under the circumstances, and for want of a little more time, I find it absolutely impossible to attend. Having been a participant of your former reunion, four years ago, and having then learned that a recurrence would take place every succeeding four years, I had fondly looked forward to this one as an additional joyous occasion of meeting many of my old time friends, whom without such an occasion, I would never have an opportunity of meeting.

It is now over fifty years since I commenced mingling my destiny with that of many who will have the pleasure of this remarkable and enjoyable reunion; and while at the close of the rebellion, in which your noble state achieved her brightest and most perennial laurels, untoward circumstances forced me to seek a subsistence in other climes; still her wonderful history, her unequalled adaptations to all her subsequent achievements, her development of great men whose names are legion, her wonderful career in politics, her persistent struggle for the right, and her wonderful power in the national

government, have all conspired to fill the hearts of all her old legislators with pride inextinguishable.

Be pleased to present my kind remembrances to all my old friends, and with many regrets at not being able to attend, and with assurance of my vigorous health, I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

WM. THOMPSON.

HON. ELIJAH SELLS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, SALT LAKE, UTAH, February 24, 1890.

HON. B. F. GUE, GEO. G. WRIGHT, AND P. M. CASADY, *Committee*:

GENTLEMEN:—Your kind invitation to be present at the second re-union of the Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa, is received and in reply thereto say that I exceedingly regret that I cannot be with you. The distinguished gentlemen who have signified their intention to be present are names familiar to me, and names that I love to honor. I know of nothing that could give me more pleasure than to meet and greet with the hand of true friendship all those whom you have included in your invitation as pioneer law-makers of Iowa.

The memory of Iowa's early law-makers I shall cherish to the end of my life. My heart is with you. My official duties as Secretary of the Territory during the sitting of the Legislature now in session will prevent me from enjoying your interesting re-union.

Respectfully your obedient servant

ELIJAH SELLS.

HON. EDWIN MANNING.

KEOSAUQUA, IOWA, February 24, 1890.

HON. GEO. G. WRIGHT:

DEAR JUDGE—I regret I cannot accept your kind invitation and enjoy the festival of the early law-makers. Mr. Brown has been down with the la grippe for the past three weeks. I have to take his place, and I assure you it keeps me in the harness more than ever. Give my regards to the old law-makers.

Yours truly,

E. MANNING.

HON. JAMES GRANT.

DAVENPORT, IOWA, Feb. 27, 1890.

HON. G. G. WRIGHT:

MY DEAR JUDGE:—I regret to tell you that I am not able to meet with you. Remember me to the friends of my youth.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES GRANT.

HON. WILLIAM HARPER.

MEDIAPOLIS, IOWA, Feb. 27, 1890.

HON. CHAS. ALDRICH, SECRETARY:

MY DEAR SIR:—I regret very much that I cannot be with you during the second reunion of the "Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa." It would give me great pleasure to take by the hand the remaining few survivors of the 3d

General Assembly, and to review old friendships and associations of the 13th General Assembly. I remember with gratitude the uniform kindness shown me by yourself and your assistant clerk, Ben VanSteenburg. Wishing you all a jolly good time, I am

Yours fraternally,

WM. HARPER.

HON. JOHN G. FOOTE.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, Feb. 26, 1890.

HONS. B. F. GUE, G. G. WRIGHT, AND P. M. CASADY, *Committee of Arrangements*:

GENTLEMEN:—Your kind notice of the meeting of the Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa is at hand. I regret to announce my inability to be present at said re-union. I feel it my highest pleasure in my advanced life to meet associates and friends, and review the incidents and realities of old and former periods, and particularly the re-union of the earlier formative legislators who gave us the present influential and prosperous State of Iowa.

Yours truly,

JOHN G. FOOTE.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

[NOTE—The following sketches of members of the Association have been compiled mainly from the data furnished in the blanks returned by members. It is to be regretted that so many have neglected to return the blanks filled with the desired information. In some instances, also the modest lack of detail, on the part of members in filling blanks, has necessarily restricted the committee on publication to comparative brevity. It is expected to continue these sketches in future reports of the Association, and it is hoped that in due time every member will have a place in the record.—COMMITTEE.]

**ALONZO ABERNETHY**—Is a native of Ohio, born April 14, 1836; came to Iowa in 1854, and soon identified himself with its educational work and progress. When the rebellion came on he entered the service in the Ninth Iowa Infantry regiment, and held all positions from private to lieutenant-colonel. He saw active service in about forty battles and skirmishes, including Pea Ridge, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Jackson, Black River, Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Siege of Savannah, etc. After the war he was elected from Fayette county as a representative in the Eleventh General Assembly. He was subsequently elected for three consecutive terms to the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, serving from 1872 to 1877, inclusive. He was elected to civil office always on the republican ticket. His present residence is at Osage, Mitchell county, where he is principal of the Cedar Valley Seminary.

**LUCIAN L. AINSWORTH**—Was born in Madison county, N. Y., June 21, 1831, and came to Iowa in 1855, engaging in the practice of law in Fayette county. He was elected State Senator by the democrats, and served from 1860 to 1864. In 1872 the same party elected him representative in the General Assembly. At the close of his term, in 1874, the anti-monopolists elected him representative in the Forty-fourth Congress from the Third District of Iowa. During the rebellion Mr. Ainsworth entered the volunteer service, and was captain of Company "C" of the Sixth Iowa Cavalry. He was engaged in several battles, including the engagement at "White Stone Hills." Mr. Ainsworth's present residence is at West Union, Fayette county, where he is engaged in his profession as attorney at law.

**CHARLES ALDRICH**—Was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., October 2, 1828, and came to Iowa in 1857. He is well known throughout the State as a journalist, having been engaged in editorial work on a number of

prominent and leading newspapers, and the proprietor of several. He has held various responsible public positions in the State, serving as chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives in 1860, 1862, 1866 and 1870. He was representative from Hamilton county in the General Assembly in 1882-4. Among other civil offices which he has held was that of Des Moines River Land Commissioner, 1872-8, under State authority, and under Federal authority by appointment of President Grant, 1874-6. Mr. Aldrich, first and last, has either been the author or originator of several important measures which have found a permanent place upon the statute books of our State. Among these were the laws for the publication in the county newspapers of the statutes, sheriffs' sales, proceedings of boards of supervisors; for the change of county government, in 1860; for the protection of the birds, in 1870; and several other measures of importance. He also secured the passage by the House in 1882, of a bill establishing a State Board of Pardons, but it failed in the Senate. He was sent by Gov. Carpenter to Washington to aid in procuring legislation in behalf of the settlers on the Des Moines river lands. During the war he was adjutant of the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, 1862-4. He was the first secretary of the Pioneer Law-Makers' Association of Iowa, and rendered efficient service in its organization. His greatest service, however, and that by which he will be best known in the future, is the service which he has rendered to Iowa as the founder of the "Aldrich Collection," now in the library rooms of the State capitol at Des Moines. This collection consists of autograph letters, manuscripts, portraits and Iowa historical data. The Twenty-Third General Assembly recognized the value and importance of his work by appropriating \$3,000 to continue and enlarge the work, and to collect and preserve historical data in connection therewith. To Mr. Aldrich has been assigned special charge of this matter, so that his present address is now at Des Moines, Iowa.

**NICHOLAS BAYLIES**—Is a native of Vermont, and was born April 9, 1809. He became a citizen of Louisiana, where he held several public positions, being register of the land office at Greenburg in that state in 1838, a member of the Louisiana legislature in 1841-8, district attorney and district judge for the 8th Louisiana district from 1843 to 1853. He was elected or appointed to all his public positions before coming to Iowa as a democrat of the Jacksonian stamp. In 1858, Mr. Baylies came to Iowa and settled in Polk county. He was elected in 1864 from that county as a representative in the Tenth General Assembly by the republicans. In 1866 to 1869, inclusive, he was a member of the Polk county board of supervisors, and was twice chosen as president of the board. At this writing he is living a quiet retired life in Des Moines, honored and respected by all who know him.

**PHILIP BURR BRADLEY**—Few men were more intimately connected with the early legislation of Iowa than Mr. Bradley. He was born in Ridgefield, Conn., January 5, 1809, and graduated from the high school when sixteen years of age. He then took a classical course in Union college, at Schenectady, N. Y., and graduated with honors from that institution in 1829. Soon after this he commenced the study of law under Hon. Reuben H. Booth, at Danbury, Conn. In 1834 he came west to Galena, where in August, 1836, he commenced the practice of law, and was appointed prosecuting-attorney by Gov. Ford, of Illinois, and was in 1837 commissioned postmaster of Galena. In 1839 he resigned his position as postmaster and

moved to the Territory of Iowa, purchasing three hundred acres of land in Jackson county. He then turned his attention to farming. In 1840 he was elected probate judge of Clinton county, but not caring for the office, he did not qualify. Three years later he was appointed clerk of the district court, and then removed with his family to Andrew, Jackson county. He held that office until the spring of 1845, when he was elected to the Territorial Council on the democratic ticket. In 1846 an admiring constituency sent him to the State Senate, in which he served four years with honor. In 1850 he was elected secretary of the State Senate by the democrats of that body, and held that office, or the office of assistant secretary of the Senate almost every session until the removal of the Capital to Des Moines. In 1857 he was elected representative, and served Jackson county in the first session of the legislature held in Des Moines. In 1861 he was elected county judge of Jackson county, and after serving one term, resumed the practice of his profession. Again, in 1877, he was elected representative, and served with distinction in the Seventeenth General Assembly. He then retired to private life, with the consciousness that in public position he had always been true and faithful in the discharge of his duties. His party in 1852 honored him as chairman of the Iowa delegation in the National Convention, which met in Baltimore, when Franklin Pierce was nominated for president. During his fifty years in Iowa, as Territory and State, few men were better or more favorably known among politicians, for he was always recognized as a leader in his party, and was an active participant in nearly all its State conventions. Mr. Bradley died at his home in Andrew, Jackson county, March 27, 1890, aged 81 years, 2 months, and 22 days.

**OWEN BROMLEY**—Born in Wales, May 20, 1825, and came to Iowa in 1827, settling in Jefferson county, where he was for some time engaged in coal mining. In 1863 he was elected by the republican party to the House of Representatives in the Tenth General Assembly. Subsequently he changed his residence to Pocahontas county, where for some years he was engaged in farming. While living in that county, in 1870-1 he was justice of the peace, and in 1872-3 was township assessor. He was elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the House in the Eighteenth General Assembly, being chosen to all these official positions by the republican party. During the war he served as a private in Company "E," Second Iowa Infantry, and was in the battle of Shiloh. During his military service he was much of his time employed in the hospital department. Mr. Bromley has always kept himself well advised in regard to political and public affairs, and is a fluent and ready debater. Some years after he came to Iowa he wrote and published a work in his native language, descriptive of this country, and especially of Iowa. The book was largely distributed in Wales where it attracted much attention, and doubtless induced many of his countrymen to seek homes in America. For a number of years Mr. Bromley has made his home in Des Moines, where he is engaged as an engineer.

**VALENTINE BUECHEL**—Mr. Buechel is a native of Prussia, the date of his birth being June 11, 1826. He came to Iowa August 19, 1850, and settled in Lee county. Up to 1860 he devoted himself to the profession of teaching, being a proficient German scholar. He was senator from Lee county in 1860 and 1861. Among other responsible public positions which he has held, may be mentioned the following: City clerk of Fort Madison;

member of the school board; member of the city council of Fort Madison; deputy treasurer of Lee county six years, and deputy recorder two years. He is a democrat politically. He resides at Fort Madison, where he is at present engaged as a solicitor.

**PHINEAS McCRAY CASADY**—Was born at Connersville, Fayette county, Indiana, December 3, 1818. He acquired a liberal education, and studied law in Indiana, where he was admitted to the bar. He was appointed a notary public by Governor James Whitcomb, December 4, 1844, for the county of Rush, Indiana. In May, 1846, he crossed the Mississippi river into Iowa, arriving at what was then known as Fort Des Moines, June 11th of the same year. In January, 1847, he was appointed postmaster at Fort Des Moines, being the first postmaster of the town. He was elected to the following offices by the democratic party: April 5, 1847, school fund commissioner for Polk county; in August, 1848, was elected State senator for four years, and served in the Second and Third General Assemblies of the State; in April, 1854, was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial District, which office he resigned in June of the same year, being appointed by President Franklin Pierce to the office of receiver of public moneys for the land district of Fort Fort Des Moines. This office he resigned in the spring of 1857. In 1872 he was elected by the General Assembly as one of the regents of the State University, and served in that office four years. When Mr. Casady became a member of the State Senate in 1848, comparatively few of the Iowa counties had been organized. His own senatorial district embraced the counties of Polk, Marion, Jasper and Dallas, and all the territory west to the Missouri river, and north to the Minnesota line. Mr. Casady has for many years been engaged in the banking business in Des Moines, and is the president of the Des Moines Savings Bank.

**JEFFERSON PHELPS CASADY**—Born in Fayette county, Ind., September 1, 1828, and came to Iowa in October, 1851, first settling in the town of Fort Des Moines, now city of Des Moines. He remained there less than two years, but held there his first official position in Iowa, that of deputy treasurer and recorder of the county, the two offices then being united under the law as one. He then changed his residence to Council Bluffs, which has ever since been his home, and was there elected in 1858 as county judge, serving four years. He was elected to the State Senate, serving in the Twelfth and Thirteenth General Assemblies. In politics Mr. Casady has been with the Democratic party, and was elected by that party as judge and to the Senate. He has held other responsible official positions, although he has never been inclined to seek office, preferring a business life. He has been admitted to the bar, but has devoted his time and attention to real estate matters, a business in which he has been successful. His address is Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**SAMUEL HOWARD CASADY**—Born in Connersville, Fayette county, Indiana, and came to Iowa in 1854, settling for a short time in Des Moines, but afterward located at Sioux City, about the time the United States land office was established there. He engaged in the real estate business, and also in banking. He was elected and served as treasurer of Woodbury county, and then to the House of Representatives, at the general election in 1857, representing the counties of Pottawattamie, Harrison, Shelby, Monona, Crawford, Woonbury, Ida, Plymouth, Cherokee, O'Brien, Osceola, and Lyon—the last named county being then called Buncombe. By this.

election he served in the Seventh General Assembly, being the first session held in Des Moines. He was elected by the democratic party. Mr. Casady was lieutenant in a company of Col. Wilson's regiment in the northwest during the late war.

**GREEN T. CLARK**—A native of Tennessee, born March 25, 1823, and came to Iowa in 1833. He has held many public positions, some of which dated back in Territorial days, having held, among others, the office of assessor, in 1844 and 1845. In Marion county he served as a member of the board of supervisors, and was a member of the House of Representatives in the Fifth, Sixth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies, representing Marion county, and elected by the Democratic party. Mr. Clark is a pioneer of Iowa pioneers, and it is to be regretted that he has not given the data for a more detailed sketch of his Iowa life and experience. He is by occupation a farmer, his address being Pella, Marion county.

**COKER FIFIELD CLARKSON**—Born at Frankfort, Penobscot county, Maine, January 21, 1811. His father, Richard P. Clarkson, was a captain in the American army in 1812. In 1820 the family removed to Indiana, Coker, then not ten years of age, driving a team from the old home through the wilderness, the long journey occupying sixty-six days. They settled in the forests of Franklin county, Ind., and at seventeen, with fifty cents in his pocket, with the consent of his father he went to Lawrenceburg to learn the printer's trade. Before he was twenty he had the management of a newspaper, and in 1831 was the owner of *The Western Statesman* at Lawrenceburg, and was there the friend and associate of Henry Ward Beecher, who was then preaching on a salary of \$300. Mr. Clarkson afterward purchased the *Inquirer* at Brookville, Ind., and changed its name to *The Indiana American*. He was an ardent Whig in politics, and was a delegate in the Harrisburg Convention in 1839, which nominated Gen. William Henry Harrison for President. He assisted as a member of the National Committee to organize the famous campaign of 1840. He remained a Whig in politics until the Republican party was organized and then became identified with the new party, with which he remained the rest of his life. He retired from the *American* in 1854, and spent a year in assisting to build a railroad. In 1855 he removed with his family to Grundy county, Iowa, where he became a farmer on a large scale. There he lived until 1878, when he removed to Des Moines. In 1864 and 1866 he was a member of the State Senate from Grundy county. He was always prominent as an agricultural worker, and acted a conspicuous part in organizing the State Agricultural College, always taking great interest in its success. He was a forcible writer and an authority on matters pertaining to agriculture, and for many years edited a department on that subject in *The State Register* at Des Moines. He died at his home in Des Moines, May 7, 1890, after a long and useful life, leaving to the world an example of the highest and noblest type of manhood.

**S. K. CREMER**—A native of Pennsylvania, born in 1818, and came to Iowa in 1845, entitling him certainly to be classed among her pioneers. He represented Wapello county in the House of Representatives in 1858 and 1860. Being a farmer and stock raiser by occupation he has always taken a leading interest in the development of these great Iowa interests. He has taken a prominent part at State and county fairs, and has served as the presi-

dent of the Wapello County Agricultural Society. He resides near Agency, Wapello county, where he is engaged and prospering as a farmer.

**JOHN L. DANA**—Was born in Ohio, March 25, 1826, and came to Iowa in 1852. He represented Story county in the Iowa House of Representatives in 1858-1860, being elected by the Republican party. He has also served as a member of the local Board of Education and as Mayor of Nevada, as well as in other public positions of trust and importance. He was not in active military service, but during the Rebellion when Iowa was threatened with invasion by rebel bands from the south he raised a company of ninety men under the State law for State protection, and was elected captain, with John M. Brainard and Isaac Walker as lieutenants. Mr. Dana has been for over thirty-six years engaged in the practice of the law. His address is Nevada, Story county, Iowa.

**MARK A. DASHIEL**—He was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, October 7, 1826. The first sixteen years of his life were spent on a farm with his parents. He then for some time held a position in a drug store, after which he studied medicine, and graduated in 1851. The same year he married a daughter of Dr. B. S. Noble, and niece of Gov. Noble of Indiana. In 1853 he came to Iowa, and located at Hartford, Warren county, engaging there in the practice of his profession. In politics he was a whig prior to the organization of the Republican party but early identified himself with the latter party. By the suffrages of that party he has served his county in the House of Representatives of the Twelfth General Assembly, and in the Senate of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies. His present address is Indianola where he is still engaged in the practice of his profession.

**GEORGE M. DAVIS**—Was born in Ohio, October 1, 1820, but when fourteen years of age removed to Indiana. In 1844 and 1845 he was journal clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives, being elected to that position by the Whigs. In July, 1855, he came to Iowa, and located at Lyons, Clinton county. He was elected State Senator in 1857, and served in the regular sessions of 1858 and 1860, as well as in the extra session of 1861, being elected by the Republicans. In 1861 he was appointed postmaster of Lyons, and served in that position until in 1867. Mr. Davis has generally been engaged in farming and saw-milling, but of late years is inclined to retire from active business.

**JOHN F. DUNCOMBE**—Born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1831, and came to Iowa in April, 1855, locating at Fort Dodge, then a small frontier village. He has served in both houses of the General Assembly, commencing his legislative career as State Senator from 1860 to 1864, and representing a district embracing a number of counties in northwestern Iowa. He was a member of the House of Representatives from 1872 to 1874, and again from 1880 to 1882. He has also been for eighteen years one of the regents of the State University. He has always been an active Democrat in politics, and was elected to both the Senate and the House on the Democratic ticket, in the latter branch of the Legislature representing Webster county. In the Spirit Lake expedition, in March, 1857, he was commissioned by Governor Grimes as captain of Company B in the battalion commanded by Major William Williams. When the Pioneer Law-makers' Association was organized in February, 1886, Mr. Duncombe was elected the first presi-

dent of the Association, his term expiring with the election of his successor, the Hon. Edward Johnston, at the second re-union in February, 1890. He is an attorney by profession, actively engaged in practice. His address is Fort Dodge, Iowa.

**ARIOL KENDRICK EATON**—Was born December 1, 1813, in Sutton, Merrimack county, N. H. He received his early training and education in the select or high schools at South Sutton, Franklin, South New Market and Claremont, all in New Hampshire. He then became a teacher, and taught schools in his native State, and in Massachusetts and Ohio. In the last named State he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Indiana in 1842. In 1841, however, he had been elected county auditor of Randolph county, Indiana, and was re-elected to the same office, but resigned it in 1844, removing to Iowa in June of the same year. In 1847 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Delaware county, Iowa, and probate judge of that county the same year. He was the first mayor of the town of Delhi, and was elected to the legislature of Iowa in 1850, and again in 1852. March 5, 1855, he was appointed receiver of public moneys for the Turkey River Land District, and served in that position until January 15, 1858, when he resigned, the land office for that district being located at Decorah and Osage during his term of service. When he was elected representative in 1850 his district embraced the counties of Dubuque, Delaware, Buchanan and Black Hawk, and a territory very much larger than that which those counties now include, for his district extended west to the Des Moines, and north to the Minnesota line. During his long residence in Iowa, Mr. Eaton has practiced law, taught school, farmed, and engaged in land surveying. He is the author of a series of very interesting papers on early legislation in Iowa. He held his public positions as a democrat, but being a popular man he always captured many votes from the opposite party. His present residence is at Osage, Mitchell county.

**NORMAN EVERSON**—Born in Oneida county, N. Y., December 28, 1815, and came to Iowa in 1841. He was among the pioneer settlers of Washington county, where he early engaged in the practice of his profession, the law. In 1850-1-2-3 he served as State Senator, being elected as a Whig to represent the district then composed of Louisa and Washington counties. Having retired from the practice of his profession, he is comfortably spending his time at the home of his almost half a century of Iowa life, and like other pioneers, loves to look back and review the wonderful progress of the State with whose early history he has been identified. His address is Washington, Iowa.

**SEWALL S. FARWELL**—Was born in Ohio, April 26, 1834, and came to Iowa in 1852. When the civil war broke out he at once identified himself on the side of the Union, and August 14, 1862, was elected captain of Company "H," Thirty-first Iowa Infantry. He served until the close of the war and was commissioned major of an Iowa regiment. Among the engagements in which he participated were Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Siege of Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and the March to the Sea. Since the war he has been honored with many civil trusts being, elected State Senator from Jones county in 1865, serving in the sessions of 1866 and 1868. In 1869 he was appointed assessor of internal revenue for the Second Iowa District, and

served four years. February 1, 1875, he was appointed collector of internal revenue, and served six years. In 1880 he was elected to congress. All these civil offices he held by preferment of the republican party. At present he is farming and dealing in real estate, and resides at Monticello, Jones county.

**AMOS S. FAVILLE**—The subject of this sketch was born in the State of New York, February 21, 1823, and became a citizen of Iowa in June, 1854. He became a Republican in politics when the party was first organized, and has been honored by it with various positions of trust and responsibility. In 1854 he was elected a justice of the peace, and the next year county surveyor of Mitchell county. In 1862 he was elected county supervisor, and held the office of county judge in 1866-8. In 1869 he was elected county auditor of Mitchell county, and the next year represented his county as a member of the House in the Thirteenth General Assembly. Mr. Faville's occupation is farming, and resides at Osage, Mitchell county.

**ORAN FAVILLE**—Was born in Herkimer county, N. Y., October 13, 1817. His early life was spent upon a farm, where he received the rudiments of his education in the district schools, and engaged in teaching. Subsequently he attended the higher institutions, and graduated from Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn. After this he held professorships in various colleges, and was president of the Wesleyan Female College at Delaware, Ohio, but on account of poor health resigned in 1855, and removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. In 1857 he was elected the second county judge of that county, and the same year was elected Iowa's first Lieutenant-Governor, and became *ex-officio* President of the State Board of Education, then newly organized. In April, 1863, he became acting secretary of the board, and in the following January was appointed secretary by Gov. Kirkwood to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Thomas H. Benton, Jr. In 1863 he was appointed one of the Board of Visitors to the Military Academy at West Point. In 1864 he was elected by the General Assembly Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Board of Education having been abolished. He was re-elected to the same office by the people in 1865, but resigned in 1867 on account of ill health. In 1867 he removed from Des Moines, where he had resided since 1863, to Waverly, Bremer county. He remained there in retirement until his death, which occurred October 31, 1872. In addition to his public official positions, he was the President of the State Teachers' Association in 1864-5, and was editor of *The Iowa School Journal* from 1863 to 1867. July 24, 1845, he was married to Miss Maria M. Peck, of DeWitt, N. Y.

**AMBROSE C. FULTON**—Is a native of Pennsylvania, born July 7, 1811, and passed his early years in that State and in the city of New Orleans, La. When he was a young man, residing in New Orleans, he raised troops and aided Texas in 1835, in her resistance against Mexico. He came to Davenport, Iowa, in July, 1842. He served as alderman of that city, and in 1849 was a member of the Board of Commissioners of Scott county. In 1854 and 1855 he was a member of the State Senate, and in 1861, was commissioned by Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, as military engineer. Mr. Fulton has long been known and recognized as one of the most public spirited and enterprising business men of Davenport. He is now living in retirement in

that city. He has been an ardent Republican since the organization of the party, and was previously a Whig.

**ALEXANDER R. FULTON**—Born in Ross county, Ohio, October 11, 1825, and came to Fairfield, Iowa, in February, 1851. Has been engaged in newspaper work, but also served ten years as county surveyor of Jefferson county, and four years as county judge of the same county. He was a clerk in the Iowa House of Representatives during the last three sessions held at Iowa City, including the extra session of 1856. He was elected by the Republicans, from Jefferson county, as Representative in the Twelfth General Assembly, and soon after located in Des Moines, when he was for some time employed on the *Iowa State Register*. When the State Board of Immigration was organized in 1870, he was made its secretary, and served in that position four years, and also held the position of secretary of the first Board of Commissioners having in charge the construction of the present new State Capitol. He is the author of a valuable and interesting volume entitled, "Red Men of Iowa," in which years ago he carefully gathered up all attainable information relative to the manners, customs and history of the Indian tribes who occupied this territory seventy or eighty years ago. This book is illustrated with portraits of a great number of representative Indians who lived at that time, or prior to the first white settlements. It is a most valuable repository of facts on the subject of which it treats. He is now, and has been for many years the editor of the *Western Newspaper Union*, at Des Moines. At the second re-union of the Pioneer Law-makers Association of Iowa, he was made the secretary for the ensuing term. Address, Des Moines, Iowa.

**WASHINGTON GALLAND**—Was born in Illinois, July 20, 1827, but came with his parents the same year to what is now Iowa, locating at what is known as Galland's Point in Lee county, in 1829. His father was Dr. Isaac Galland, who published a newspaper at an early day in Lee county, and was the author of many valuable articles concerning the various Indian tribes of the west. The subject of this notice, Washington Garland, was elected by the Republicans a representative from Lee county in the Tenth General Assembly, 1863. As a Republican he held by appointment the office of District Attorney in Missouri, in 1865-6. He was also mayor of Bolivar, Mo., in 1867-8, being elected on the citizen's ticket. In Lee county, Iowa, he has been justice of the peace, and held various minor offices. In 1870 he was a candidate for judge of the circuit court in the Seventh judicial district of Missouri, and carried his own county of Polk by a large majority, but was defeated on account of doubts raised by attorneys, as to residence qualifications, and Mr. Galland has since expressed his opinion that they were right. After residing in Missouri for several years, he returned to Iowa, and again settled in Lee county. The Republicans, in 1887, nominated him for representative in the Twenty-Second General Assembly, but he was defeated by his popular Democratic opponent, J. E. Craig. Mr. Galland has served his country in two wars. In 1846-8, he served as private, adjutant's clerk, and sergeant-major, in Capt. W. L. F. McNair's Co. A, Third regiment of Missouri mounted volunteers in the war with Mexico. At that time he crossed the Great Desert Plains; penetrated into New and Old Mexico; participated in the battle of Santa Cruz de Rosalles, and other minor engagements. At the close of that war he returned to Iowa and cast his

first presidential vote for Gen. Zachary Taylor. During the war of the rebellion he served as captain Co. H, Sixth regiment Iowa Infantry. He is an attorney at law by profession, and resides at Fort Madison, Lee county.

**STEPHEN Y. GOSE**—Born in Virginia, October 11, 1826, and came to Iowa in 1849. Has held various public offices in Warren county, including several terms as justice of the peace, and three as a member of the county board of supervisors, two terms of which he was the chairman of the board. In 1868 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives from Marion county, and served in the Tenth General Assembly. He was elected as a Republican to all of the above named positions. By occupation Mr. Gose is a farmer, his address being Pleasantville, Iowa.

**ISAAC W. GRIFFITH**—He was born in Turnbull county, Ohio, April 2, 1820. In early life he worked at the carpenter's trade. He came to Iowa October 10, 1838, settling in Lee county, where he spent a year on a farm. He then engaged in his trade as a carpenter, which he continued until the Mexican war. He has both a civil and military record. In 1842-3-4-5 he served as justice of the peace and coroner in Lee county. In May, 1847, he enlisted in Company K, 15th U. S. Infantry, for the Mexican war, and was engaged in the battles of Contreras, Cherubusco and Chapultepec, under Gen. Winfield Scott. On the organization of his company he was appointed corporal, and in July, 1847, was promoted to sergeant. He was wounded in the battle of Cherubusco, August 20, 1847, and lost his right arm as the result. On the 15th of September he entered the City of Mexico, and on the 1st of November received his discharge, when he returned home to Iowa. In August, 1848, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Second General Assembly on the Democratic ticket, and participated in the election of Iowa's first United States Senator, Hon. Geo. W. Jones. Since that date he has held many other positions of honor and responsibility. Among them were deputy sheriff of Lee county, assistant door-keeper of the United States Senate, five years on the Capitol police force in Washington, register of the U. S. Land office at Des Moines, sheriff of Polk county, in the quartermaster's department during the civil war, deputy U. S. marshal in the western district of Tennessee. Since 1858 his home has been in Des Moines. Since the war he has been identified with the Republican party, and is still an active participant in political matters. In September, 1840, he married Miss Eoles Brand, of West Point, Lee county, and in September, 1890, the Captain and his wife celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, receiving the congratulations of hundreds of their friends, some of whom were friends of half a century. Capt. Griffith still resides at Des Moines.

**BENJAMIN F. GUE**—Born in the State of New York, December 25, 1828, and came to Iowa in 1852, settling in Scott county. He has held many responsible public offices, and among them the following: Representative in the State Legislature of Iowa, 1858 to 1862; State senator, 1862 to 1866, being elected both as representative and senator from Scott county. From 1866 to 1868 he was lieutenant-governor of Iowa. Having changed his residence, in 1864, to Fort Dodge, where he established a newspaper called the *Northwest*, he in 1865, became postmaster of that city. From 1866 to 1870 he was president of the board of trustees of the State Agricultural College, having been one of the founders of that institution. After this he removed to Des

Moines, and from 1878 to 1881 was United States pension agent for Iowa and Nebraska. Gov. Gue was reared on a farm, but received a good education at the Canandaigua Academy and at East Bloomfield. Being himself a practical farmer he has always taken great interest in the promotion of this vital and leading industry of Iowa, and as editor of the *Homestead* was known as an agricultural writer of force and ability. He is zealous in his efforts to rescue from loss and oblivion the long neglected data pertaining to the pioneers and the early history of Iowa, and is now engaged in writing a history of the State.

**NEWTON GUTHRIE**—Was born in Virginia in 1822, and came to Iowa in 1847. He has held various public offices by the suffrages of both the democratic and republican parties, in Warren county, where he resides. Among the minor positions which he has held may be mentioned the offices of surveyor, justice of the peace, township trustee and clerk, assessor, and member of the board of supervisors. In 1861 he was elected by the republicans as representative from Warren county in the Ninth General Assembly. He is one of the pioneers of Warren county, and a farmer by occupation. His present address is at Hartford, Warren county.

**ALFRED HEBARD**—This pioneer legislator of Iowa is a native of Connecticut, born May 10, 1811. He came to Iowa in 1838, and was for many years a resident of Des Moines county. He served in the last two territorial legislatures, and in the House of Representatives of the first and several subsequent State legislatures, being elected from Des Moines county. Later, having changed his residence to Red Oak, Montgomery county, he was elected State senator in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth General Assemblies from the counties of Montgomery, Adams and Page. He was also elected senator in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies from the counties of Montgomery and Mills. During the war he was engaged in railroad service in Missouri and Tennessee. His present residence is at Red Oak, Montgomery county, where he is occupied in the management and care of a competency, and takes great pleasure in recalling the scenes and incidents of Iowa's progress, in which he has himself been a prominent actor.

**PARIS P. HENDERSON**—Was born at Liberty, Union county, Ind., January 3, 1825. He was educated in the common schools, but at the age of eighteen learned the tanner's trade in Illinois. In 1849 he settled in Warren county, Iowa, and later was appointed the organizing sheriff of that county, and held that office until elected State senator in 1859. He served as senator in the regular session of 1860, and the special session of 1861, but resigned and entered the volunteer service as captain of Company "G," Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to be colonel of the same regiment in February, 1863. He was in actual fighting service at Charleston, Missouri; Island No. 10; Corinth, Iuka, Vicksburg, Jackson, Champion Hills, Mission Ridge, and in the Atlanta and Savannah campaign. After the war he served as treasurer of Warren county, and more recently as mayor of Indianola. Col. Henderson has held his various civil offices at the hands of the republican party. His residence is at Indianola, where he is engaged in the real estate business.

**JOHN F. HOPKINS**—Was born in Ohio, October 4, 1821, and came to Iowa in 1854. He represented Boone county in the House of Representa-

tives of the Thirteenth General Assembly, and has held many minor, but responsible, positions in his county. He is engaged in agricultural pursuits. He resides at Madrid, Boone county.

**EDWARD JOHNSTONE**—He was born in Westmoreland county, Pa., July 4, 1815, and came to Iowa in July, 1837, settling in Lee county, where he engaged in the practice of his profession, the law. He has ever since been prominent in the history of Iowa, having held many official positions, generally by the suffrages of the Democratic party, of which he has been and is still an active member. In 1837-8 he served on a commission appointed to adjust the claims of parties regarding disputed rights on what was known as the "half-breed tract" of land in Lee county. He was elected on a non-partisan ticket as a member of the Territorial House of Representatives in 1839, and by the Democratic party to the Territorial Council in 1840. Afterward he served as United States Attorney by appointment of President Polk. He also served as county judge of Lee county by election on the Democratic ticket, and as mayor of the city of Fort Madison, on the Democratic ticket, without opposition. In 1857 he was elected to the convention that framed Iowa's present State constitution. Judge Johnstone, while engaged in the practice of his profession was prominent among the early members of the bar of Iowa. Of late years he has been engaged in business as a banker in Keokuk. At the meeting of the second reunion of Pioneer Law-Makers of Iowa, February 27, 1890, he was unanimously elected President of the association, assuming the duties of that position upon the retirement of Hon. John F. Duncombe. His present residence is at Keokuk, Iowa, where he devotes himself to his business as a banker.

**GEORGE WALLACE JONES**—Born at Vincennes, Ind., April 12, 1804, and was educated under the guardianship of Henry Clay, at Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., where he graduated in 1825. He then studied law in the office of John Scott, member of Congress from Missouri. In 1826 he was appointed Clerk of the United States Court at St. Genevieve. In 1827 he removed to Sinsinawa Mound, Wis., but then a part of Michigan Territory. In 1833 he was appointed Judge of the Territorial Court at Mineral Point, and remained on the bench until October, 1835, when he was elected delegate to Congress from Michigan Territory, which then embraced that vast region which now constitutes the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and all the country west to the Rocky Mountains. He was re-elected to Congress in 1837, and secured the passage of the bill making Iowa a separate Territory. In 1842 he was appointed by Chief Justice Dunn, of Wisconsin, Clerk of the Court; and in 1845, by appointment of President Pierce, we find him in the Surveyor-General's office at Dubuque. On the 7th of December, 1848, he was elected to the Senate of the United States from the new State of Iowa, and by a subsequent election continued in the Senate until March 4, 1859. President Buchanan then appointed him Minister to Bogota, New Grenada, now United States of Colombia. Gen. Jones has been so intimately connected with all that pertains to the early history of Iowa and the west that a brief sketch like this is but a mere glance at a busy and eventful life. He was a man whose influence as a delegate in Congress and as member of the Senate was always potent for the success of any measure he advocated, and as a result he did much in the way of shaping the early history of Iowa as a Territory and as a State.

Gen. Jones still resides at Dubuque, active in body and mind, and reverts with pride to the work of a long and busy life.

**GEORGE W. JONES**—Was born in Barren county, Ky., November 18, 1820, and removed with his parents to Burlington, Iowa, October 23, 1834. His father, however, had previously resided for some years in Morgan county, Ill., being among the earliest settlers in that part of the State. In Illinois Geo. W. attended such country schools as were then maintained in that new country. He, however, graduated at a log school house located in what is now the city of Burlington. From 1839 to 1843 he was in the grocery business in Mt. Pleasant. He then located on a farm in Mahaska county, and also brought there a stock of goods. That was before the county was organized, or the boundaries defined. Before the county seat was located at Oskaloosa he opened a store there in a log cabin, with his brother John W. Jones, afterward State treasurer, as his partner. They were the pioneer merchants of Mahaska county, and remained at Oskaloosa until 1855. Mr. Jones then removed to Indianola, where he was in the dry goods and banking business. In 1864 he removed to Des Moines, and established the Second National Bank, of which he was cashier. He was also for a time engaged in mercantile business in Des Moines, and afterward in real estate. In 1869 he was elected by the Republicans a member of the Thirteenth General Assembly, and served in the house as a Representative of Polk county. There are but few now living in Iowa whose residence dates back as early as 1834. Mr. Jones' present address is Des Moines where he is still in business as a real estate broker.

**HADLEY DOUGLASS JOHNSON**—Born in Indiana, September 1, 1812, and came to Iowa in the autumn of 1850. He held his first official position, that of coroner, in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1834. In 1852-3 he was State Senator from a district embracing a large portion of western and northwestern Iowa, his residence then being at Council Bluffs. He was elected Senator on the Democratic ticket. Many years ago he removed from Iowa, and now resides at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. During the session of the Territorial Legislature of Utah, January, 1890, he was sergeant-at-arms of the House there, being elected to that position by members of the "People's Party." Mr. Johnson is a lawyer by profession, but is now retired from active practice.

**JAMES C. JORDAN**—Born in Harrison county, Va., March 4, 1813. He passed his early life in farm work and in attending the district schools. When about twenty years of age he removed with his father to the then Territory of Michigan, settling near Niles, where he employed himself in farming and trading. In 1837 he married, and afterward removed to Platt county, Mo. His next removal was in September, 1846, when he came to Iowa and pitched his tent with his family on the spot in Walnut township, Polk county, which has ever since been his home. In the fall of 1853 he was elected to the State Senate by 84 votes, but was counted out on account of some irregularity in the returns from two townships in Jasper county, which was then a part of his senatorial district. He contested the seat held by his competitor, and late in the session of 1854 won and was admitted. During his term he took an active interest in the then pending question of the removal of the capital from Iowa City to Des Moines. In the fall of 1878 he was again elected to the Legislature, this time as a member of the House in

the Eighteenth General Assembly. He was a member of the Polk county board of supervisors three times under the old law, and served as president of that body. Up to the organization of the Republican party he was a Whig, and cast his first vote for Henry Clay for President. When the Whig party ceased to exist he became a Republican, and has always been earnest and unwavering in that faith. In his business of farming and stock-raising he has been successful, and with a competency still resides on his fine farm near Des Moines.

**R. D. KELLOGG**—Born at Fayetteville, Onondago county, N. Y., March 9, 1828, and came to Iowa in 1854. He was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in the fall of 1859, from Decatur county, and was re-elected in 1861, by the democratic party. During the war for the Union he was major of the Thirty-fourth Regiment of Iowa Infantry, and participated in several engagements, including the first attack on Vicksburg, and the surrender of Arkansas Post. At the second re-union of the Pioneer Law-Makers of Iowa, Major Kellogg was placed on the regular programme for an address, and ably treated his subject, "The Eighth General Assembly," of which he was himself a leading and influential member. His occupation is that of a farmer, his address being Garden Grove, Decatur county, Iowa.

**FREDERICK M. KNOLL**—Few men have had larger legislative experience in Iowa than the subject of this notice. Mr. Knoll was born March 8, 1833, in the province of Alsace, at that time under the jurisdiction of France. In 1853, when twenty years of age, he came to Iowa and settled in Dubuque county, engaging in farming. He was elected on the democratic ticket, in 1862, as a representative from that county in the Ninth General Assembly, and was senator in the Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth General Assemblies. He was again elected representative in the Seventeenth General Assembly, and is now a member of the Twenty-Third General Assembly. In addition to his service in the legislature he was, in 1858, a member of the board of education, has been justice of the peace, and ten years a member of the board of supervisors of Dubuque county. All of these positions he has held by the suffrages of the democratic party, with which he has always been identified. He resides at Sageville, Dubuque county, where he is engaged in farming.

**SYLVESTER G. MATSON**—Born in Vermont in 1808, and came to Iowa in 1845. The next year he was chosen to represent Jones county in the second constitutional convention, and helped to form the constitution which was sanctioned by the people, August 3, 1846, under which Iowa became a sovereign State. He was the same year elected to the House of Representatives of the First General Assembly, which convened at Iowa City November 30, 1846, serving in the regular session, and also the extra session in January, 1848. Dr. Matson was the chairman of the committee on schools, and has the honor of having contributed to Iowa's glory in devising her splendid educational system. The venerable pioneer physician and legislator resides at Viola, Linn county, and reverts with just pride to his work in the pioneer days of Iowa's history.

**JOHN S. MAXWELL**—Mr. Maxwell is a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and was born August 22, 1825. He received his education in the common schools of that State, and a college course at Athens. He was admitted to the bar, but engaged in other kinds of business, so that he has not been

engaged regularly in legal practice. He came to Iowa August 20, 1856, settling in Clinton county, where he was engaged in farming. There he held various official positions, including the office of school district secretary, county supervisor, and was elected representative from that county in the Ninth General Assembly. For some time he was engaged in Clinton county in real estate business in connection with some legal business. He also held the office of notary public from 1862 to 1885. In 1882 he sold his Clinton county farm for \$16,000 and bought a thousand acres of land in Calhoun county, improving 640 acres of it. This he sold for \$19,900 in 1889, and then removed to Des Moines, where he engaged in the boot and shoe business. He is still so engaged.

**JOHN MEYER**—Born in Clinton county, Pa., February 26, 1824, and came to Iowa in 1857. He was educated in the common schools of his native State, after which he attended Mifflinburg Academy, and was a student at Oberlin College, Ohio, receiving in August, 1853, the degree of A. B. He represented Jasper county in the House of the Ninth General Assembly, including the extra session, and was State senator from the same county in the Eleventh, Twelfth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth General Assemblies. Col. Meyer has also an honorable military record. During the war of the rebellion he assisted in raising four companies, and then for himself he raised Company "K," Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and went as its captain until May, 1863. After the battle of Champion Hills he was promoted to the rank of major, and afterward received brevet commissions, both as lieutenant-colonel and colonel. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Sabine Cross Roads, Winchester, Cedar Creek, and numerous skirmishes. Col. Meyer in politics is a republican, and was elected by that party to the various civil offices which he has held. He is active and zealous in temperance and educational matters, and is a member of the Congregational church. His business is that of a merchant in Newton, Jasper county.

**ISAAC MILLBURN**.—Is a native of New Brunswick, Dominion of Canada, and was born August 12, 1818. He came to Iowa in June, 1850, and at an early day engaged in farming in Linn county. He has held various offices in his county by the suffrages of the Republican party, and was elected by that party a representative in the Ninth General Assembly, serving in the regular and extra sessions of 1862. He is engaged in farming, his address being at Cedar Rapids.

**JOHN MITCHELL**—Born in Claremont, New Hampshire, February 28, 1830, and came to Iowa in 1856, settling at Des Moines. Among the public positions with which he has been honored by the people are, member of the Board of Supervisors of Polk county in 1861, representative in the Ninth General Assembly in 1862, and judge of the Circuit Court for twelve years, ending December 31, 1880. To all these positions he was elected by the Republicans. Since that time he has held the position of register in bankruptcy. In 1861 he was made captain of a company organized for service against the Indians in the northwestern part of Iowa and in the region of Spirit Lake. Capt. Mitchell and his company contributed much to restrain and prevent threatened outbreaks of the Indians in that part of Iowa at that time. He is an attorney in active practice in Des Moines.

**THOMAS MITCHELL**—Born in Claremont, New Hampshire, March 3, 1816, spending his early life there on a farm, and receiving his education in the district schools. In November, 1839 he came west and spent the winter in St. Charles county, Mo. In March, 1840, he removed to Fairfield, Iowa, where he resided about four years, serving there as one of the commissioners of Jefferson county. He then removed to Polk county, and in 1846 helped to organize it, being elected its first sheriff the same year. From 1861 to 1864 he served as supervisor of Polk county. In 1858 he represented Polk and Jasper counties in the House of Representatives, and in 1874-6 was a member of the State Senate. He has held other important positions, and among them served as president of the Board of Trustees of the State Industrial Schools. He has always been engaged in farming, but has taken an active part in many enterprises to advance the interests of his county and State. His address is Mitchellville, Iowa.

**SAMUEL A. MOORE**—Was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, December 16, 1821, and first came to Iowa in 1852, and removed to the State permanently in March, 1853. He served his native state of Indiana as representative in her legislature in 1850-1, and was also postmaster of Columbus, Ind., during the administrations of Presidents Taylor and Fillmore, holding these offices by election and appointment as a Whig. As a Republican he was elected State Senator from Davis county, Iowa, serving in the sessions of 1864 and 1866. During the administrations of Presidents Hayes and Arthur he was postmaster of Bloomfield, and served one term, 1888, as mayor of that city. During the civil war he was second lieutenant and captain of Company G, Second Iowa Infantry, and lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He was in the battles of Donelson and Shiloh, as well as several minor engagements. Col. Moore's residence is at Bloomfield, Davis county.

**ANDREW McPHERRIN**—Was born in Butler county, Pa., October 5, 1810. He came to Iowa in 1841 and is one of the pioneer settlers of Van Buren county. He was elected a representative from his county in the First General Assembly, which convened in Iowa City, Nov. 30, 1846, and was also a representative of the Fourth General Assembly from the same county. He has held other responsible positions, including the office of justice of the peace, deputy sheriff, and county superintendent of schools. Mr. McPherin's present address is Mt. Zion, Van Buren county, where having retired from business, he is enjoying in honorable old age the blessings of a State which he helped to develop.

**A. H. McCRARY**—Is a native of Van Buren county, Ind., born in 1814. He came to Iowa in 1837, and settled in Van Buren county, where he has held many positions of honor and trust, commencing away back in pioneer days. For eight years, from 1840 to 1848, he served as justice of the peace. During the latter year he was elected to represent his county in the Legislature, and was re-elected in 1851. In 1854 he was elected to the State Senate, and again in 1862. Before the organization of the Republican party he was a Whig, and afterward a Republican, and held his public positions by the suffrages of these parties. Coming to Iowa in her Territorial days Mr. McCrary has passed through all the realities of pioneer life, and is proud of the commonwealth in whose growth and development he has been an actor for over a century. Now, as a retired farmer, his address is Keosauqua, Van Buren county.

**SAMUEL McNUTT**—Was born in Ireland, November 21, 1825, and came to Iowa in 1854. He has held many public offices in Muscatine county, where he resides, from township clerk up to State Senator. His legislative experience extends over a period of ten years, having served six years as a member of the House of Representatives and four years as State Senator. When first elected a member of the House he was engaged as a recruiting officer. He has always been an earnest Republican, and a delegate in many Republican State conventions from Muscatine county. He was formerly engaged in farming, but is now retired, and lives in Muscatine.

**REUBEN NOBLE**—Born in Adams county, Miss., near Natchez, April 14, 1831. With his parents he removed to Jersey county, Ill., in 1833, where he received his education in the common schools. He read law in Quincy, Ill., with Edward H. Buckley. In 1842 he removed to Grant county, Wis., where he commenced the practice of the law, having been admitted to the bar at Mineral Point. In the fall of 1843 he removed to Iowa, and settled at Garnavillo, then called Jacksonville. The county seat of Clayton county had then just been removed from Prairie La Porte (now Guttenburg), to Jacksonville. Since that time Mr. Noble has been honored with many important positions. He was elected by the Whigs to the General Assembly in 1854, and was chosen Speaker of the House at its organization in December of that year. He was elected district judge for the Tenth judicial district in 1874, and again in 1878, as an Independent. He was also, for one term, prosecuting attorney for his county, and declined a re-nomination. Judge Noble acted a prominent part among the early political leaders of Iowa, but of late years has lived a more retired life, but still devoted to his profession of the law. His present address is McGregor, Iowa.

**CHARLES CLINTON NOURSE**—Born in Washington County, Maryland, April 1, 1829, and came to Iowa in June, 1851. He received a good education and graduated in the law department of the Transylvania University, at Lexington, Ky., in 1850. The next year he commenced the practice of his profession at Keosauqua, Iowa, and while residing there held the office of Prosecuting Attorney of Van Buren county. He was chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives in 1854-5, and secretary of the State Senate in 1856-7. In 1858 he removed to Des Moines, where he has ever since resided. In 1860 he was elected Attorney-General of Iowa and re-elected in 1862. In 1865 he was appointed judge of the Fifth judicial district, but after a few months on the bench he resigned to continue his practice of the law. Judge Nourse has been identified with the Republican party from the date of its organization, and held his public offices at the hands of that party. He is still engaged in legal practice at Des Moines.

**THEODORE SUTTON PARVIN**—One of the pioneers of the Territory of Iowa, and so long identified with its history as Territory and State that he should have a more extended notice than the compiler has data at hand for giving. He was born in New Jersey, Jan. 15, 1817, and came to Iowa in 1838. He has held many public positions, both by appointment and the popular vote. He was appointed the first Territorial Librarian in Iowa, by Governor Lucas, April 10, 1839. The same year Governor Lucas appointed him district attorney for the Second district of Iowa. In 1847 he was appointed by Judge Dyer, of the United States District Court, as clerk of his court. In 1857 he became register of the State land office, being elected on

the Democratic ticket. While residing in Muscatine county, in 1841, and later, he also served as justice of the peace and judge of the probate court. In 1840 he served as secretary of the Territorial Council. He has for many years served as the Grand Secretary of the Masons of Iowa, and is the librarian of the Iowa Masonic library at Cedar Rapids, where he now resides in charge of the finest and most extensive Masonic library in this country. Prof. Parvin has been zealous in his efforts to save from loss the rapidly vanishing material for the future historian of Iowa. His contributions to various publications have inspired an interest in this direction, which is resulting in a more general desire that Iowa's early days shall not pass into oblivion with the achievements of the hardy and heroic pioneers unrecorded. His active efforts in this line at the Reunions of the Pioneer Law-Makers attest his zeal and earnestness in this matter.

**LEROY G. PALMER**—Was born in Kentucky, November 8, 1821, and came to Iowa November 1, 1849. Mr. Palmer was elected State Senator from Henry county to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Alvin Saunders appointed as Governor of Nebraska, and served from April, 1861, until the end of the term. He was an active member of the Senate in the extra session held in that year. He was county judge of Henry county one term—1862-4. He had been a democrat, but was elected to both of these offices as a republican. Mr. Palmer is a veteran of the Mexican war, having served one year under Col. E. D. Baker in Company "B," Fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteers. He is an attorney by profession, and resides at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

**J. H. POWERS**—Is a native of Vermont, born May 22, 1830, and came to Iowa in 1855. He has held a number of minor offices, and in 1859 was elected State Senator in the district composed of the counties of Howard, Chickasaw, Mitchell, Floyd, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Wright and Hancock. Early in the civil war he enlisted as a private in Company "B," Seventh Iowa Infantry, and subsequently became captain of Company "I," Ninth Iowa Infantry. Among the battles in which he was engaged were Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post. He also served as judge advocate, and as the commissioner of drafts for the northeast district of Iowa. Mr. Powers is an attorney by profession, and resides at New Hampton, Iowa.

**BENJAMIN B. RICHARDS**—Mr. Richards is a native of the State of New York, and was born in 1823. He came to Iowa in 1853, making his home in the city of Dubuque. His legislative service has been in both branches of the Iowa General Assembly. In 1863 he was elected a Representative from Dubuque county, and Senator in 1865. He was re-elected Senator in 1871. He has always acted with the democratic party, and elected by that party each time as Representative and Senator. Mr. Richards's residence is at Dubuque, where he has been engaged in the banking business, but has also devoted attention to farming.

**LEWIS W. ROSS**—Born in Butler county, Ohio, October 15, 1827, and came to Iowa in 1856. He served as a member of the State Senate in 1864-8, or in the Tenth and Eleventh General Assemblies, being elected as a republican. Since that time he has held the position of Chancellor in the Iowa State University for a number of years, but is now actively engaged in the practice of his profession as a lawyer at Council Bluffs, where he has resided for many years.

**JAMES H. ROTHROCK**—Is a native of Pennsylvania, but before coming to Iowa he resided in Highland county, Ohio, where he at one time held the office of prosecuting attorney. In 1860 he came to Iowa, and in the fall of 1861 was elected from Cedar county a Representative in the Ninth General Assembly, serving with distinction at the regular and extra sessions of 1862. Later he was elected Judge in the Eighth Judicial District of Iowa. After this he was nominated by the republican party, and elected one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the State, which position he now holds. Judge Rothrock has also a military record. He was lieutenant-colonel of the Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry Regiment, and took part in several engagements, including the battles at Jackson and Vicksburg, Miss. His present residence is at Cedar Rapids, Linn county.

**NEAL W. ROWELL**—Was born in Ohio, June 19, 1836, and came to Iowa in 1847. He has held the offices of county judge and county superintendent of schools in Union county. He was twice elected as Representative from the district composed of the counties of Union and Adams, serving with distinction in the Twelfth and Thirteenth General Assemblies. He has always been, politically, an unwavering Republican, and held official position by the suffrages of that party. He has also been prominent as a delegate in several of his party's State conventions. He is by profession a lawyer, and as a member of the Twelfth General Assembly he took a leading part in the enactment of the law establishing the circuit court. His residence is at Afton, Union county.

**JOHN RUSSELL**—Was born in the county of Fife, Scotland, October 8, 1821, the second son in a family of four boys. At fifteen he was apprenticed to learn the trade of stone-cutting, and served his full term of four years. At nineteen he went to Glasgow, where he worked at his trade several months. While there he became interested in some political questions then being agitated, and became somewhat informed in reference to American affairs by reading books which came in his way. The result was, that he determined to come to America, and arrived in New York May 29, 1842. In Pittsburgh he worked at his trade for some time. After this he invested a small amount which he had saved up, in a small stock of goods, and became a merchant in Columbiana county, Ohio. Having accumulated about two thousand dollars he resolved to come further west, and finally, in 1852, purchased a quarter section of land in Jones county, Iowa. In December of the same year he brought his family and spent the winter in Keokuk. In the spring of 1853 he went to Jones county and entered upon his new life as a Hawkeye farmer. In 1860 he was chairman of the board of supervisors of his county, and in 1862, 1864, 1866, 1868 and 1870 a member of the House of Representatives from Jones county—in 1868 being the Speaker of the House. From 1871 to 1875 he was Auditor of State, and a member of the State Senate in 1880 and 1882. He was elected to all these positions by the Republican party. His service in the Senate was for the district embracing Jones and Cedar counties. In 1864 he enlisted as a private in the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, but his company was detailed for service at Davenport, where he remained until mustered out, May 18, 1865. His present address is Onslow, Jones county, where he is engaged in farming.

**WILLIAM SANDERSON**—Was born in the city of New York, February 12, 1828, and came to Iowa in 1856. In 1863, he was elected as one of the

Representatives in the Tenth General Assembly, his colleagues being Hugh M. Thompson and Hugh M. G. Skiles. Mr. Sanderson now resides in Des Moines, and is by profession a teacher. He was elected to the General Assembly by the Republicans.

**GEORGE SCHRAMM**—A native of Germany, born February 12, 1816, and came to Iowa in 1845, settling in Van Buren county. From 1852 to 1856 he represented that county in the State Senate, being elected by the Whig party. In 1862 he was elected from the same county by the Republicans to the House of Representatives. Later he changed his residence, and for many years he has been a citizen of Des Moines, where he has been, and is still engaged in business as a grocer.

**JOHN SCOTT**—Is a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born April 14, 1824. He first came to Iowa in 1843, but remained only temporarily. In 1856, he became a permanent citizen of the State, and in 1860 was a member of the Senate of the Eighth General Assembly, being elected from a district embracing the counties of Story, Hardin, Boone and Hamilton. When the war of the rebellion came on he tendered his services to assist in preserving the Union, and in 1861-2, was lieutenant colonel of the Third Iowa Infantry, and was engaged in the battles of Blue Mills and Shiloh. Later in the war, in 1862-4, he was made colonel of the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, and with his regiment was engaged at Pleasant Hill, La. After the war he returned to his farm at Nevada, Story county, but was elected lieutenant-governor of Iowa in 1868, and in 1870 was made revenue assessor for the Sixth Iowa district. In 1886 we find him again a member of the State Senate in the Twenty-first General Assembly, from the counties of Boone and Story. Col. Scott has always taken an active interest in matters pertaining to agriculture and stock raising, and is now largely engaged in the business of improving live stock. He has been an active member of the State Agricultural Society, in which he has held various official positions. Col. Scott, politically, has always been an active Republican.

**RODERICK A. SMITH**—Was born in the State of New York, October 13, 1831, and came to Iowa in 1856. In 1857 he was a member of Company A of Major Williams' command in the expedition to Spirit Lake against the Indians, after the massacre at that place, and was also in 1862, a volunteer among the settlers who followed up the Indians after the Minnesota massacre. Soon after the Spirit Lake massacre he settled in Dickinson county, and was elected to the House of Representatives of the Twelfth General Assembly, from the district composed of the counties of Emmet, Dickinson, Clay and Palo Alto. He has been for two terms clerk of the district court in his county, county surveyor six terms at different intervals, member of the board of supervisors, 1871 to 1874, superintendent of schools, 1880 to 1886, and has held other positions of honor and trust. He resides at Okoboji, Dickinson county, where he is engaged in farming and surveying.

**L. W. STUART**—Is a native of the State of New York, born March 21, 1830, and came to Iowa in 1852. In 1854-5 he held the office of county surveyor in Jones county. After this he served from Jackson county in both houses of the General Assembly. He was a member of the House in the Twelfth General Assembly, and in 1872 was in the Senate, serving at the regular session of that year, the adjourned session of 1873, and at the regular session of 1874. In 1876 he was again a member of the House of Repre-

sentatives. Politically, Mr. Stuart is a Democrat, and has held his official positions through suffrage of that party. Residence, Monmouth, Jackson county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming and manufacturing.

I. P. TETER—Was born in Virginia in 1829, and came to Iowa in 1853. He was elected State senator from Keokuk county, and served in the regular and extra sessions of the General Assembly in 1862. During the civil war he was chaplain of the 7th Iowa Infantry, and, also was chaplain of the United States hospital at Keokuk. As a minister of the gospel in the Methodist Episcopal church he is well known throughout the State, and may now be classed as almost one of the pioneers of the Methodism in Iowa. He is an earnest republican, politically, and was elected by that party to the State Senate. His residence is now at Oskaloosa.

LEWIS TODHUNTER—A native of Fayette county, Ohio, where he was born, April 6, 1817. He came to Iowa in March, 1850. He has both a civil and military record, having been twice county attorney of Warren county, and also county treasurer. He was, also, twice elected mayor of Indianola. In 1856 he was elected a member of the convention which framed the present constitution of Iowa, representing the district composed of the counties of Warren, Madison, Adair and Cass. Up to the organization of the republican party he was a whig, but identified himself with the republican party as soon as it was organized, and held his official positions by the suffrages of these parties. In the war for the Union he held the offices of lieutenant and quartermaster in the 48th Iowa Infantry, and was with General Grant's forces at Appomattox court house. Mr. Todhunter is an attorney at law by profession, and is still engaged in the practice. He has always been a zealous advocate of temperance and of prohibition of the liquor traffic. He resides at Indianola, where he is still engaged in the legal profession.

BEN VAN STEENBURG—Born in Herkimer county, New York, August 1, 1839, and came to Iowa in 1858, locating in Jackson county. Among the public offices which he has held are, County recorder of Jackson county, first clerk in the Iowa House of Representatives of the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th General Assemblies, and deputy marshal of United States Census, 1870, and 1880. To all these positions he was elected by the Republican party. He served as a private in company A, 24th Iowa volunteer infantry, during the rebellion, and participated in several battles, among which were Port Gibson, Raymond and Champion Hills, Mississippi. In the last named battle he lost his right arm, and also suffered the loss of the use of his left fore-arm. Mr. Van Steenburg is known as one of the most efficient clerks who has ever presided at a desk in either branch of the Iowa legislature. He has been one of the Secretaries of the Pioneer Law-Makers' Association since its organization.

CHARLES WEARE—Born in Orleans county, Vermont, 1828, and came to Iowa in 1848. He has held several important civil offices, the first of which was that of sergeant-at-arms of the Senate in the Fifth General Assembly. He represented Linn county in the House of Representatives of the Fifth General Assembly, and for eight years held the office of postmaster of Cedar Rapids.

THOMAS S. WILSON—Was born at Steubenville, Ohio, October 13, 1813, and graduated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1832. He was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Ohio in 1834. Soon after this he came

west to Prairie du Chien, where his brother, Capt. George Wilson, was then serving in the 1st United States Infantry, under command of Colonel Zachary Taylor. Mr. Wilson brought his young wife with him from Ohio, and removed from Prairie du Chien to Dubuque in October, 1836. The next year he was elected president of the board of trustees of the town of Dubuque, this being his first official position. In June, 1838, he was nominated for delegate to Congress. Taking a steamer to canvass the southern portion of the Territory, the captain of the boat produced a late St. Louis paper, containing an announcement of Mr. Wilson's appointment by President Van Buren, as one of the judges of the supreme court of Iowa. He had made no application for the office, and the appointment was a surprise to him. Presidents Tyler and Polk renewed the appointment, and he continued a judge of the supreme court for a year after Iowa was admitted as a state in 1846. When the First General Assembly went into joint convention for the election of United States senator, he came within one vote of being elected. The first court ever held in Iowa Territory was held by Judge Wilson at Prairie La Porte, now Guttenburg, on the second Monday in September, 1838. In 1847 he resigned his office as judge of the supreme court, and devoted himself to the practice of his profession. In 1852 he was elected district judge, and by successive elections held that office until 1863. He has also held the offices of prosecuting and United States attorney, and elected a member of the General Assembly in 1866 and 1868. He was a member of the Cincinnati national convention, which nominated James Buchanan for president. For over fifty years judge Wilson has been prominent in Iowa's history, and is still engaged in the practice of his profession at Dubuque, remarkably active and well preserved for a man of his age and long and laborious public service. While he has always been in politics an ardent democrat, his talents and ability have been recognized and acknowledged by all parties.

**JAMES WILSON**—Is a native of Scotland, born August 16, 1835. He came to Iowa in 1855, and was among the early settlers in Tama county, where he engaged in farming. He was elected by the republicans to the House of Representatives of the 12th, 13th and 14th General Assemblies of Iowa, and was chosen speaker in the Fourteenth General Assembly. The same party elected him from the 5th Iowa district to the 43d, 44th and 45th Congresses. In 1881 Gov. Sherman appointed him a member of the board of railroad commissioners. In all these positions he served the State with ability and faithfulness. While always taking an active part in political matters, he is at the same time heartily devoted to agricultural pursuits, and is known throughout the State as an able writer on subjects connected with the greatest and most important of Iowa's industries, farming and stock raising. Present address, Traer, Tama county.

**WILLIAM P. WOLF**—Is a native of Ohio, born December 1, 1833, and came to Iowa in 1856. He has been elected on the Republican ticket to various important offices, the first of which was his election as county superintendent of Cedar county, in 1861. In 1864 he was elected to the House of the Tenth General Assembly, and to the State Senate in 1868-70. In 1871 he was elected to represent the Second district for the short term in Congress. He was again a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, in 1882 and 1884, and at the latter session was elected Speaker of the House. In 1863 he was enrolled in the military service, as Captain of Company I, 46 Iowa volunteer infantry. Is by profession a lawyer, and his address is Tipton, Iowa.

**ED. WRIGHT**—Was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, June 27, 1827. He landed at Muscatine, Iowa, July 5, 1852. He identified himself with the Republican party. He represented Cedar county in the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh General Assemblies, and was Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Eleventh. He served also three consecutive terms as Secretary of State, being first elected in 1866. After the expiration of his terms as Secretary of State, he became the Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners, and Assistant Superintendent of construction. When the commission was dissolved he was appointed custodian of public buildings and property, and was subsequently placed in charge of the improvement of the grounds of the new Capitol. Gen. Wright has a military, as well as a civil record. Soon after the breaking out of the civil war he entered the service as major of the 24th Regiment of Iowa volunteer infantry, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, and then Brevet Brigadier General. He was in the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Siege of Vicksburg, Sabine Cross Roads, Winchester, and Cedar Creek, Va., and several other engagements.

**GEORGE G. WRIGHT**—A native of Monroe county, Indiana, born March 24, 1820, and came to Iowa in September, 1840. He was educated at the State University of Indiana, and graduated in the class of 1839. After this he read law at Rockville, in the office of his brother, Joseph A. Wright, afterward Governor of Indiana. In 1840 he was admitted to practice in the courts of that State, but in November of the same year opened an office in the then promising young town of Keosauqua, Territory of Iowa. Soon afterward the Whigs elected him prosecuting attorney for Van Buren county, which office he held one year. In 1848 and 1850 we find him in the State Senate from the same county. In 1855 he was honored with a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the State, and held that office for fifteen years, or until 1870, when he was elected to the United States Senate, declining re-election at the close of his Senatorial term of six years. He removed from Keosauqua to Des Moines about ten years after being elected Judge of the Supreme Court, and at the Capital city devoted much of his time and attention to the organization and building up of the Iowa Law School. A number of gentlemen who have become prominent members of the Iowa bar were students in his office. Judge Wright has held many honorable positions not of a political character. For five years he was the president of the Iowa State Agricultural Society, and has also been honored with the presidency of the American Bar Association. In politics he was a Whig up to the organization of the Republican party, since which time he has always been an unwavering Republican. Of late years he has been engaged in banking in Des Moines.

**CLARENCE S. WILSON**—Is a native of Louisiana, born February 7, 1839, and came to Iowa in 1860. He was a clerk in the Iowa House of Representatives in 1864-6, and a member of the House for Polk county in 1876-8. He has also a military record, having been a sergeant in the first Iowa Cavalry regiment, and participated in most of the actions in which that regiment was engaged. He has been one of the secretaries of the Pioneer Law-makers' Association since its organization. He is a journalist by profession, and has been for many years connected with leading papers of the State, being at present associate editor of the Daily Iowa Capital at Des Moines.

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