

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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MRS. ANN E. HARLAN.

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The first article in this number of THE ANNALS is a just but long-delayed tribute to a patriotic Iowa woman who rendered services of inestimable value to our sick and wounded soldiers during the war of the rebellion. True, it is to a considerable extent made up from her own writings at that time, but much of this was written with no thought of publication, while a portion was a public address. Mrs. Harlan, however, appears quite as well in what she wrote, whether to the public or to those in her own home, as in any tribute which could be paid to her memory by the most attached, appreciative friend. Too little has been published and placed on record in regard to the work of the Iowa women who went to the front and ministered to our brave men who were wounded in battle or stricken by disease. There are indications that this matter will be made the subject of study and investigation with a view to doing them the amplest justice. As pointing in this direction we are glad to present in our pages this faithful account of the successful work of Mrs. Harlan. Her portrait is a copy from a copied portrait, but it is nevertheless regarded by the Senator and his daughter, Mrs. Robert T. Lincoln, as an excellent likeness. The fine steel portrait of the distinguished Senator was printed from a plate, engraved for "The Ladies Repository," a Magazine published before the war in Cincinnati. It is a striking likeness of Mr. Harlan about the time of his first election as United States Senator—1856-57. In

this he appears as surviving pioneers remember him. As a historic portrait it is very valuable, and worthy of careful preservation in every Iowa library. The recent portrait of Mr. Harlan is copied by the kind permission of Colonel D. M. Fox, from his "History of Political Parties."

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### THE FIRST FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE IN IOWA.

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It is a curious historical fact that the first reported decision of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Iowa, in July, 1839, was made upon the question of the rendition of an alleged fugitive slave, the court at that time consisting of Charles Mason, Chief Justice, and Joseph Williams and Thomas S. Wilson, Associate Justices. Ralph, the alleged fugitive slave, had been owned by one Montgomery of the State of Missouri. The latter consented that the slave might come into the Territory of Iowa, but afterwards sought to assert his rights as owner and recover his "property." Montgomery secured Ralph's arrest by the sheriff of Dubuque county, and had started with him down the river in a steamboat. Mr. A. Butterworth obtained a writ of *habeas corpus*, upon which Ralph was brought before the District Court, whence, by consent of the parties, the case was at once taken to the Territorial Supreme Court. This case is given in full in a thin octavo volume now very scarce, containing "Reports of the Decisions in the Supreme Court of Iowa, from the Organization of the Territory in July, 1838, to December, 1839, inclusive, by Wm. J. A. Bradford, Reporter of the Supreme Court." (It was also included in the later reports by Morris.) Owing to the scarcity of this volume, and the historical importance of the case itself, we copy the report in full. It is the first one that appears in the book. The colored

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