

The other statute which is aptly illustrative of the adoption of the Common Law in the West, and herein of its introduction into Iowa, was enacted by the Governor and Judges of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio in the year 1795. This statute adopted from the statutes of Virginia reads :

"The common law of England, all statutes or acts of "the British parliament made in aid of the common law, "prior to the fourth year of the reign of King James the "first (and which are of a general nature, not local to that "kingdom) and also the several laws in force in this terri- "tory, shall be the rule of decision, and shall be considered, "as of full force, until repealed by legislative authority "or disapproved of by congress."

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DES MOINES FIFTY YEARS AGO.—A correspondent of the *Miners Express* of Dubuque, September 15, 1847, in an article descriptive of the "New Purchase", (Iowa), thus describes the future capital of Iowa: "A short distance above the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers is the old Fort, or Fort Des Moines, as it is called. This Fort was evacuated by the United States Dragoons on the 10th of March, 1846. Since that time a town has sprung up numbering within its limits some one hundred and fifty inhabitants. There are few countries that present more inducements to emigrants than this. Excellent claims may be had in Polk county for the trouble of staking them out and putting up a cabin. The population of the county is estimated at 1,500."

¹ Shambaugh's "Documentary Material relating to the History of Iowa," No. 3, p. 48. For a statute of the Territory of Michigan repealing the statutes of Parliament, see "Documentary Material, etc," No. 3, p. 74.

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