

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

HON. M. M. HAM.

The frontispiece of this number of THE ANNALS is a very good portrait of Ex-Senator M. M. Ham, long the editor of *The Dubuque Herald*. Our leading article—which presents clearly and succinctly about all that is known in regard to Julien Dubuque—"the first white man in Iowa"—is a valuable contribution from Mr. Ham's pen. Whether additional information may ever be obtained in regard to that famous, if but little known pioneer, may well be doubted, though we believe that long-hidden business or official papers are likely some day to be discovered, which may throw further light upon his busy and romantic career. Mr. Ham has presented our readers with a most readable article covering the entire case in the present condition of information. We are sure that this communication will be widely read, while it possesses permanent historical value. This mention affords the opportunity to add that, since the organization of the Iowa Historical Department in 1892, Mr. Ham and his co-partner, Mr. D. D. W. Carver, have been among its most liberal supporters and contributors. They early presented 107 bound volumes of the leading journal known at various times as *The Express and Herald* and *Dubuque Herald*, running back almost continuously for forty years, including also files of *The Western Democrat and Common School Journal*, published at Andrew, Jackson County, from 1849 to 1852, by Col. J. B. Dorr. These volumes are among the most valuable historical treasures owned by the State of Iowa, covering as

they do several years concerning which but little other data is in existence. Mr. Ham has made many studies in genealogy and local history, of which the results may some day be published, should he regain his health which for some time has been very precarious.

THE PASSING OF OLD IOWA.

The deaths during the past twelve months of Ex-Senator James F. Wilson, Ex-Judge Geo. G. Wright, Gen. Ed Wright and John G. Foote, have drawn renewed attention to the fact that the pioneers of our State are not only rapidly going hence, but that they are nearly all gone. The thought comes home to the writer with added emphasis for the reason that from two of them—long-time valued personal friends—we had received promises of articles for THE ANNALS which will never be written. Senator Wilson was a prominent actor—though at the time a young man, at the threshold of his illustrious career—in the Convention which framed the present Constitution of our State. He expected to write his recollections of the leading men of that body, and had health and life been spared would no doubt have presented the people of this State with many interesting reminiscences of that far-off time. That he did not live to do this precious work our readers will as deeply regret as do we. Judge Wright had given some time during the last three years of his useful and honored life to recording his recollections of distinguished Iowans whom he had known intimately and well, with many of whom he had been closely associated. A

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