



C. C. Morse

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## BEGINNING FIFTY YEARS OF PRACTICE AT THE IOWA BAR.

BY C. C. NOURSE.<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1850 I had determined to seek a location for the practice of law in some western state. I first thought of migrating to Oregon on the Pacific coast, but I feared if I travelled that far from my intended wife I might never have the means to return to Kentucky to claim her, so I fixed upon the idea of removing to Iowa. Before deciding this important question, however, I wrote to her explaining the situation and again calling her attention to the uncertainties of the future. I felt that it was hardly justice to her to insist upon our engagement if she felt that my future was too uncertain. I received in answer to this letter a kind assurance that her faith had not failed, and she cited that beautiful passage of scripture containing the answer of Ruth to Naomi: "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I

<sup>1</sup> A man whose career will be noticeable in Iowa annals from 1851 until his late retirement from active life is Charles Clinton Nourse. He was born at Sharpsburg, Maryland, April 1, 1829. His father, Charles Nourse, was of English descent, born at Frankfort, Kentucky. His mother, Susan Cameron, was a Virginian of Scotch descent. She died October 10, 1835. The father took his orphan children to Kentucky in 1841, and between that state and Ohio, Charles C. Nourse passed his youth. He was taught the rudiments of learning by his father whose occupation was that of a school teacher. Young Charles served some time as assistant to his father in schools in Ohio and Kentucky; the last position of this kind being four years in the Lexington public school. He advanced himself in learning until in the fall of 1849 he could avail himself of a scholarship tendered by the city of Lexington in the law course of Transylvania University. He graduated in 1850. His preceptors were Judges Robinson and Marshall of the Kentucky Supreme Court. He had decided on a career at the bar whilst residing in Lancaster, Ohio, where he was influenced by acquaintance with Henry Stanbery, afterward U. S. Attorney-General, and Thomas Ewing, afterward U. S. Secretary of the Treasury. During his residence in Lexington while specially applying himself to the study of law, he received the tremendous benefit of contact with Thomas F. Marshall, Henry Clay and other great lights of the old Kentucky bar. After graduation he soon decided to go west, and, locating in Iowa, he spent his life there.

Besides the honors he won before removing to Des Moines in 1858 he has fitly discharged the offices of District Judge and Attorney General and maintained his position in the forefront of the Iowa bar.

will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me."

In the spring of 1851 I returned to Kentucky for a short visit, my brother Joseph having loaned me fifty dollars in money and trusted me for a new suit of clothes. In the meantime my father had removed to Millersburg, Ky., and commenced teaching there a branch of what was known as Johnson's Military Academy, the principal school being at Blue Licks, Ky., in charge of James G. Blaine, afterwards a Republican candidate for President of the United States, and the lady he afterwards married also assisted my father in his school, and received visits from Mr. Blaine on Saturdays and Sundays.

It was the latter part of May, 1851, when I started west to grow up with the country. We had then no railroads reaching the Mississippi river from the east, and I took the steamer at Louisville, Ky., for St. Louis, Mo. At St. Louis I took the steamer for Iowa, not yet determined as to my landing. The waters of the river were at flood-tide. On our passage up the river we saw frame houses floating past us. I landed in Burlington the last day of May and stopped at the Barrett House. I was not acquainted with a single person in the State of Iowa, had no relative, kindred or friend to whom I could apply for advice or assistance. After a hearty dinner I retired to my room, took a chair, put my feet upon my trunk and held a consultation with myself. The question before the house was—what to do next. I had with me a general letter of recommendation from Professor Dodd, then President of the Transylvania University and a particular friend of my father, and another from Dr. T. O. Edwards of Lancaster, Ohio, an ex-member of Congress from that state, and also my letter as a member of the Methodist church, and my diploma signed by the law faculty and trustees of the Transylvania University. After proper consideration I inquired of the landlord of the hotel where I could find a Methodist preacher, as I was satisfied there must be such a person in

the city. He directed me to the parsonage; I called upon the minister and made his acquaintance, the Reverend Dennis, who afterwards obtained some notoriety as a pastor in Kansas at the time of the Kansas troubles. He was a tall, white-headed man of pleasant countenance and affable manners. I showed him my papers and told him my object in calling was to, through him, make the acquaintance of some of the leading lawyers of the city from whom I could obtain information and determine in what part of the state I should attempt to locate.

At that time the Supreme Court of the State of Iowa was in session in Burlington, consisting of Joseph Williams, Chief Justice, and George Green and John F. Kinney, Justices. Mr. Dennis informed me that the judges were boarding at the Barrett House, and he made an appointment to go with me to their consultation room that afternoon and introduce me. We made the visit and I found the judges of the court very cordial. At their request I produced my diploma from the law school, told them who I was and where I was from and that I desired some information in regard to the best possible location for a young attorney. They requested me to call at the court-room the next morning at the opening of court, and they would have me admitted to the practice of law throughout the State. The next morning, at the request of Judge Kinney, Mr. Dixon of Keokuk who was then in attendance at the court made a motion for my admission to the bar, and suggested the appointment of a committee to examine me. The Chief Justice announced that that was unnecessary, that the court had already examined the applicant and was entirely satisfied with his qualifications, and requested me to come forward and take the oath of office, which I did. I made the acquaintance of the Clerk of the Court, "Old Timber," as we afterwards called him, his real name being James Woods.

That evening Judge Kinney asked me to take a walk with him. He told me he had a brother-in-law, Augustus Hall, living at Keosauqua, Iowa, who was desirous of having a young lawyer associated with him and if I would go there

he would give me cheerfully a letter of introduction. I ascertained that the stage fare to Keosauqua would be six dollars. Upon taking an inventory of my pocket-book I found I had only about eight dollars. I had with me two trunks, one filled with law books, the other with clothing. I told the landlord my situation financially and proposed to him that I would leave my books in his custody and leave my bill unpaid, if agreeable to him, until such time as I could send for my books, as I was still uncertain where I should settle. He readily agreed but proposed that I should take my books as he would risk my sending the amount of my bill, this offer, however, I declined. The next morning Judge Kinney called me to one side, kindly suggesting that it was not unusual for young men who were short of funds to visit Iowa for the purpose of locating, and he would be glad to loan me a small amount if I would accept of it. This kindness I also declined. I had no doubt that he had been advised by the landlord of my situation, and he was kind enough to attempt to help me.

The next morning I took the stage-coach for Keosauqua, but owing to the condition of the roads and particularly of Skunk river, I was taken to Keokuk where I had to stay all night. After paying my bill there the next morning I found I had only twenty cents left. The next day the stage-coach took me up The Divide, as we called it, as far as Utica post-office in Van Buren county, and there left me, the hack that should have taken me from there to Keosauqua having already gone. I could not stay there all night because I had no money to pay any bill, so I left my remaining trunk in charge of the postmaster to be sent to Keosauqua the next day on the hack, and I started to walk to Keosauqua, about ten miles distant. I had not walked far before I found that I had sprained my ankle slightly in jumping from the coach that morning. The walking became very painful, but I managed to reach Keosauqua about sundown that evening. The first building that looked like a hotel or public house was a frame building that stood southeast of the court-house. The high waters of the Des Moines river had flooded the lower part of

the town. I found this place was a boarding house and took my seat on a bench on the porch near the front door. Presently the lady of the house appeared, and looking at me very inquiringly wanted to know who I was, where I was from, what was my business, and where I was going. I was a sorry looking subject, having waded through the mud for ten miles and I presume I looked as I felt—very tired. I gave her my real name, told her I had no business, that I did not know where I was going, and that I came from Keokuk that day. She told me her house was full and she did not believe she could accommodate me with a night's lodging. I then asked her very politely for permission to remain upon the porch until I was sufficiently rested so that I could go further down town and obtain lodging. I asked her about the town, its population, and about the high waters. She turned out to be Mrs. Obid Stannard, the mother of Ed Stannard, afterwards Lieutenant Governor of Missouri and a very successful business man of St. Louis. She was a good talker and after conversing with her about twenty minutes, I got up to take my leave, thanking her very cordially. She relented and told me she thought if I would stay that she could find accommodation for me, but I told her no, that I could not put a lady to any inconvenience when it was unnecessary and I must go; so I left and went down to the front street in the town to the Keosauqua House kept then by "Father Shepherd," as we always called him, with whom I boarded until after I was married in 1853.

Keosauqua at that time, as indeed it has been ever since, was a small town of about 1,500 inhabitants, located on the Des Moines river, the county seat of Van Buren county. It possessed one of the best bars of the State, and among its inhabitants then were men who became distinguished in the history of the State. The men more actively engaged in practice were George G. Wright, for many years afterwards a judge of the supreme court of the State, and United States Senator Joseph C. Knapp, judge of the district court of that district, and afterwards United States District Attorney, and Augustus Hall, afterwards a member of Congress from

that district, and appointed by Mr. Buchanan United States District Judge of Nebraska. The court of this county was also visited by J. C. Hall, afterwards one of the judges of the supreme court. The pastor of the Methodist church at that time was Henry Clay Dean, who afterwards became a notorious political orator and chaplain of the United States Senate. One of his converts was Delazon Smith, who had been an infidel lecturer and prominent politician in the State, and was afterwards elected for a short term to the United States Senate from the State of Oregon.

The year after I settled in Keosauqua Henry Clay Caldwell, then a student in the law office of Judge Wright, was admitted to the bar. After the Civil War he was appointed United States District Judge and afterwards United States Circuit Judge, being located during his official career as judge at Little Rock, Ark., now retired by reason of age and continued service and residing at Los Angeles, Cal.

The State of Iowa at that time was Democratic in its politics, and the Democratic party numbered a majority of about two hundred in Van Buren county. Delazon Smith, however, had failed of a nomination by his party for the office of Governor and had organized what was called "The Young Democracy of Van Buren County" numbering about two hundred voters. This left the party badly demoralized in the county, and in August, 1852, I had so far succeeded in making the acquaintance of the people of the county that I was elected on an independent ticket to the office of County Attorney, which then paid a salary of about three hundred dollars a year.

After I had boarded with Father Shepherd for a few weeks I sent for my books that I had left at Burlington, and, taking Father Shepherd, the landlord, into my confidence, I told him my situation financially, and paid my bill up to that date. Father Shepherd at that time was a Justice of the Peace, and his hotel was the stopping place of most of the people who acted as guardians and administrators, and attended once a month sessions of the county court which then had jurisdiction in probate matters. I told Father Shepherd of my desire to

make the acquaintance of these officials as they visited his hotel from time to time, and that his pay for my board depended largely upon my success in business. I asked him to be my friend, and at least let people know why I was there and what my proposed business was. He became my fast friend and helped me to make very many valuable acquaintances, though he was a Democrat and father-in-law of Delazon Smith, one of the leading young Democrats in the county.

Early in the spring of 1853 I received a letter from my intended wife, suggesting that my success in business she thought gave sufficient promise for the future, and that it was not necessary for us to wait longer. Accordingly I got together one hundred dollars in money, made a trip around the river to Louisville, Ky., and thence via rail to Lexington for the purpose of realizing something of the deferred hope. We were married on the 15th of April of that year. Before going to Kentucky and claiming my bride I purchased from the Reverend Daniel Lane a house and two lots in Keosauqua, at the price of three hundred and fifty dollars, and borrowed fifty dollars from Thomas Devon to make the first payment. I had also attended several auction sales and bought some chairs and tables, a cook stove and a few dishes. My wife's mother had packed a feather bed, some pillows and bed clothes and quilts of the old style in a store box, and we returned to Iowa the latter part of April, 1853. The expense of my trip and marriage left me only two dollars of the one hundred I had when I started for my bride. We arrived in Keosauqua on Sunday in a slight April shower. On Monday we proceeded to the house I had purchased, which was in need of repair. We whitewashed the walls and my wife washed the windows. The next day we made a bill of about forty dollars at the store for additional house-keeping facilities—I bought a sack of flour and a ham of meat and on Tuesday evening we took tea at home. It was the first home I had had, in the proper sense of the term, since we left Maryland, and when we sat down at our own table to drink our cup of tea and eat the biscuit made by my own wife, I could not repress the



tears that came to my eyes, and I thanked God for the mercy that he had bestowed upon us.

In the fall of 1853 I made a trip west through the southern tier of counties, attending the courts in Davis, Appanoose, Wayne and Decatur counties. I made the trip on horseback with a pair of saddle-bags that contained my necessary baggage.

From Bloomfield I was accompanied by H. H. Trimble and Mr. Palmer, members of the bar, and at Centerville Mr. Tanehill and Ames Harris joined our party. The country west of Centerville was very sparsely settled and the road consisted merely of two paths worn by the horses and wagon wheels on the prairie grass. In Wayne county we applied at a settler's house for accommodations for the night, but the housewife informed us that her husband had gone to mill, and that she had nothing in the house to eat save a little bacon. She said if we would remain she would entertain us with such accommodations as the place afforded. The corn was hardly yet ripe enough to feed our horses, but if we would select the ripest and use some salt in feeding we were welcome to do so. We also, at her request, plucked some of the softer ears of the corn and these she grated upon a large tin grater, and frying some of the bacon in her skillet she made cakes of the grated corn and fried them in the fat. She also gave us a cup of good coffee and with the appetites we had acquired in our travel we made a very hasty and palatable meal.

When bedtime came she made us beds upon the floor. The next morning we had a breakfast of the same corn, bacon and coffee. The lady made a very reasonable charge for our entertainment, and she had no reason to doubt the sincerity of our compliments upon the fare. The next morning we rode into Corydon, the county seat of Wayne county. The only hotel in the place was a small one and one-half story frame house, with a shed addition for kitchen and dining hall. Our bed-room was the upstairs and our beds were in two rows with our heads under the eaves, and our feet touching each other in the center of the room. We had

no separate apartment and our wearing apparel furnished the pillows.

The court was held in a frame schoolhouse on the public square. The boundaries of the public square were ascertained by a lot of wooden stakes or pegs. There was no general store in the place. An enterprising peddler with two large peddling wagons came through with us from Centerville and erected a tent in the center of the square for the display and sale of his goods, and whenever the court was not in actual session his store was opened for business. Judge Townsend, of Monroe county, was the judge of the court.

From Wayne county we went to Decatur county, the peddler also keeping us company with his itinerant dry goods establishment. During this trip I made the acquaintance of very many young men that afterwards became distinguished as lawyers, legislators and judges. The only lawsuit in which I was consulted was a slander case tried in Wayne county. The suit was brought in behalf of a young woman for damages because of words spoken against her reputation. Amos Harris, from Centerville, was engaged as attorney by the defendant. When the case was about to be called for trial Harris asked my advice as to the course to be pursued. I retired with him to the shady side of the schoolhouse for consultation. He told me that his client was a man of some property and that the plaintiff had some witnesses who would testify clearly and positively to the slanderous words spoken by his client of and concerning the young lady. He said his client really had not injured the reputation of the young woman at all because nobody believed him nor believed anything that he said, as he had a very bad reputation for veracity. He said they could make no defense whatever for the girl's character was good and he was afraid of a large verdict for damages against his client. He asked me if I could think of any way that he could help his client out of the difficulty. I asked him if he could prove that nobody believed what his client said. He said, yes, there were plenty of persons that would testify to that, but he could not see how that was any defense. I told him it was no defense against the slander, but

it might be proved with advantage in mitigation of damages, provided his client would be willing to save his money at the expense of his reputation. Harris called his client out and suggested the course I recommended. The fellow winced, but finally consented that Harris might make the proof. I suggested that as the lady's witnesses were all friendly to her, that Harris might, on cross examination, prove by them that they did not at the time or ever believe the slander that his client had uttered against the lady and that they had never repeated it to anyone except accompanied by the statement of their belief that it was false. This Harris did and introduced several other witnesses to prove the bad reputation of his client for truth and veracity. The plaintiff's attorneys objected and the Court first hesitated to allow the witnesses to so testify, but upon the suggestion that it was the best thing for the lady's reputation, and that as nearly the whole population of the county was there attending court, it was better to clear up her reputation by this testimony than to give her money to heal her wounded feelings, the Court finally took this view of the case and permitted the evidence to go to the jury in mitigation of damages. The jury found a verdict in favor of the lady for the sum of only twenty dollars. She went home with her character thoroughly vindicated and her reputation restored. The only one unhappy over the result appeared to be the attorney for the lady. He was undoubtedly expecting a handsome recovery as the only means of compensating him for his professional work. From Decatur county I returned home, having learned much of the country and its people, and having made many interesting acquaintances among the members of the bar.

I may now tell something of my political career, which properly begins at about this date. I had been made chairman of the County Committee of the then fast dissolving organization known as the Whig party. In the fall of 1854 I was a candidate for re-election as County Attorney. We had nominated a county ticket of two candidates for the State Senate and four candidates for Representative. James W. Grimes was the candidate for Governor. The Democratic

party had passed what was called the "Kansas-Nebraska Bill" containing a clause repealing the Missouri Compromise measure, adopted in 1820, that prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude in the territories of the United States that had been acquired by the Louisiana purchase, north of 36 degrees and 30 minutes of north latitude. This had resulted in the partial disorganization of the Democratic party throughout many of the northern states. I had left Kentucky because of my opposition to slavery, and especially what I regarded as the baleful influence of that institution upon the white population. I had settled in Iowa because it was a free state and because I felt that the opportunities for success in life would be greater than in a slave state. I had observed whilst in Kentucky that the fixed conditions of political, social and business life made the success of the young man, depending only on his own energies and abilities, always doubtful and difficult.

Upon my defeat as prosecuting attorney in 1854, at the suggestion of several members elected to the legislature from Van Buren county, I went to Iowa City in their company at the beginning of the session, and through their influence I was elected clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa. I found this position of great advantage and help, not only pecuniarily, but I made the acquaintance of public men of all parties during the session. Afterwards in 1856-7 I was elected Secretary of the State Senate. In 1854, at the dissolution of the old Whig party there existed a political organization in many of the states of the Union called the "Know Nothings." It was a secret political organization, having for its principal doctrines opposition to the Roman Catholics and to the foreign born citizens of the United States. I refused to affiliate with this Know Nothing organization for the reason that I did not believe in secret political societies or organizations in this country, and I did not believe in making the religious faith or affiliations of any man a test for office, neither did I believe that anyone should be excluded from the confidence and respect of his fellow men because of the place of his birth. Hence, as county chairman of the expiring Whig party, I issued to the people of Van Buren county a circular

stating my position and declining to call any convention to co-operate with the Know Nothing organization. I did this for the further reason that the opposition to the extension of slavery into the territories was becoming every day more and more pronounced in the northern states of the Union, and the nucleus of what was afterwards the Republican party had already been formed in many of the northern states.

It may be interesting to have the history of how Henry Clay Dean became a Democrat, and to note how a slight thing may change the destiny and fortune of a man in this life. In the fall of 1854 the Methodist Annual Conference for Iowa met at the city of Dubuque. It was the custom at that early day for the members of the conference to become guests of the citizens of the locality where it had its meeting. Dean was then a member of the Conference and had been receiving and filling regular appointments as a pastor. At Dubuque resided Hon. George W. Jones, then a Democratic United States Senator from Iowa. Jones maintained a good table and was a good liver, and his wife an excellent, hospitable lady. In assigning the members of the Conference to the different citizens, Dean was assigned as the guest of Senator Jones and his wife. After the Conference had been in session a few days, the Know Nothings, having been secretly organized in Dubuque, became very active in obtaining the names of the Methodist ministers, and in initiating them into their order. Among other names presented and favorably acted upon was that of Henry Clay Dean, my former pastor and friend. After he had been elected and the time appointed for his initiation was a few nights hence, one of the over-zealous ministers represented to Brother Dean that as he had now been elected a member of the Know Nothing organization it was not proper for him to continue to be the guest of and accept the hospitality of the wife of George W. Jones, who was a Roman Catholic. Dean was an enormous eater and the suggestion that he should give up his nice boarding place greatly offended him, and he denounced the suggestion as bigotry and presumption inexcusable. He at once went to Senator Jones and told him of the proposition that had been made to him and the

cause of it, and denounced the Know Nothing organization in most uncompromising terms. The Senator was pleased with Brother Dean's zeal in the matter, and induced him on the succeeding Sabbath to preach a sermon on "Know Nothingism" and to denounce it from the pulpit. Dean was a man of more than ordinary ability with a wonderful command of language.

Upon the adjournment of the Conference Senator Jones wrote to Judge Knapp at Keosauqua stating the situation and suggesting that Dean be employed in the political canvass against the Know Nothings that fall, and be encouraged in his opposition to that Order. Dean returned to Keosauqua and I had a long conference with him upon this matter. I knew that he had been engaged several years before in collecting the most learned and effective arguments in favor of protective tariff delivered in Congress from time to time, especially from Whig members from the State of Pennsylvania. I also knew that he had preached some of the bitterest sermons against human slavery that I had ever heard from the pulpit or from any source, and I urged upon him that he could not consistently co-operate with the Democratic party because of his views in regard to the tariff and because of his opposition to slavery. I pointed out to him that the organization of the Republican party was then proceeding in most of the states and that his feelings, sentiments and views would be better expressed by the position of that organization; that the Know Nothing party was a mere temporary passion and would effervesce and disappear in a short time, and that his efforts in opposition to it would be wholly unnecessary and gratuitous. But he was too wroth and anxious for his revenge against those who suggested that he decline the hospitality and good dinners of Senator Jones. He accordingly entered the canvass, and that fall, there being the election in Virginia in which Henry A. Wise was the Democratic candidate for Governor opposed by the Know Nothings, Dean with letters of recommendation from Jones, Senator Dodge and other leading Democrats of Iowa, went to Virginia and entered the political canvass in favor of Wise, who was elected. Dean then

went to Washington City. With the influence of Dodge, Jones and the Virginia delegation he was elected Chaplain of the United States Senate, and thereafter, and especially during the Civil War, he made himself notorious as a Democratic orator.

The General Assembly of 1854-5 elected George G. Wright, then of Van Buren county, Norman W. Isbell and William G. Woodward, Judges of the Supreme Court of the State to fill the vacancy caused by the expirations of the terms of Judges Williams, Kinney and Greene. At this session also occurred the first election of James Harlan, United States Senator. Mr. Harlan was not permitted to take his seat under this election, for the reason that at the adjourned joint session at which he was elected, the Senate as an organized body with their president, Maturin L. Fisher, had not participated in the election, but had previously adjourned the session of the State Senate. Mr. Harlan was again elected in the session of 1856-7 and his right was recognized by the Senate.

In the summer of the year 1856 a Republican Convention was called for the State to be held at Iowa City, for the organization of that party in sympathy with other State organizations of like name and principles. As the sole surviving official of the old Whig party in Van Buren county, I called a County Convention to meet at Keosauqua for the purpose of appointing delegates to the State Convention to be held at Iowa City. I wrote a letter to my friend, H. C. Caldwell, asking him to write a letter to Judge Wright and urge upon him the propriety, as he could not be present at this County Convention, of writing a letter endorsing and encouraging the movement. Judge Wright declined to write any such letter and simply wrote to Mr. Caldwell that he hoped we were doing right in calling the County Convention.

I was present at the County Convention and we started the movement with such enthusiasm as we were able to awaken. Delegates were duly appointed, but the attendance at Iowa City required of them an overland trip of some seventy-five miles. I then owned a small gray mare and a mustang pony

and what was called a Democrat wagon, having two seats. With this team and wagon I furnished the transportation for the delegation, and Van Buren county was represented in the State Convention by Abner H. McCrary, our State Senator from Van Buren county, Dr. William Craig, George C. Duffield and myself; I am the last one living. I had the honor also to be appointed one of the secretaries of this, the first Republican State Convention held in Iowa. It was the beginning of the political organization that has ever since, with the exception of a period of four years, controlled the legislation and policy of the State.

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#### REPORT UPON THE PROPRIETY OF ABANDONING FORTS ARMSTRONG AND DES MOINES.<sup>1</sup>

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th inst. reached me at St. Louis, and in due course of mail. The report which you direct me to make upon the propriety of abandoning Forts Armstrong and Des Moines, I will now present in the order pointed out by you.

1st. As to the expediency of breaking up the present establishment at Rock Island. The establishment of the fort in the first instance was with a view to the protection of our frontier citizens, in other words to aid in securing such control over the Indians thereabout as might at all times be exercised in a way to insure the general quiet. Whether the object contemplated has been obtained throughout need not now be enquired into, it is enough to know that the inquietude which dictated the order for the establishment of the fort is now dispelled by the removal of the Indians to a distant point and

<sup>1</sup> The Historical Department recently received this document which, though not signed, has on it a memorandum, recently made, the substance of which is verified in a letter from the Adjutant General of the United States as follows: "From a comparison of the enclosed manuscript with records on file, it is believed the handwriting of the manuscript is that of Colonel George Croghan, formerly Inspector General, United States Army. No report of Colonel Croghan containing information such as that contained in the manuscript has been found on file in this office."



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