

divided as equally as possible between the Iowa State University, Iowa Agricultural College and State Normal School.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the custodian of the Capitol building to proceed, under the direction of the trustees of the state library, to prepare and furnish the rooms named in section one, for the purpose herein set forth, and then to remove to said rooms the cases and materials known as the "Aldrich Collection" which, together with such additions as may be made to it, shall thenceforth form a part of the collections herein contemplated.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of said curator to keep said rooms, with the collections herein specified, open to the free inspection of the people during such hours every day—excepting legal holidays and Sundays—as the trustees of the state library may order and direct, provided nothing in this act shall be so construed as to exclude visitors to said rooms on Sunday afternoons during the sessions of the Legislature.

SEC. 7. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there be and is hereby appropriated from any funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the present biennial period and thereafter annually the sum of six thousand dollars, out of which annual appropriations shall be paid all of the expenditures contemplated by section eight hereof. All accounts shall be audited by the executive council after being approved by the trustees of the state library.

SEC. 8. The curator shall be paid the annual salary of twelve hundred dollars and allowed such assistance, postage, stationery and incidental expenses as the trustees may authorize and approve, as provided in the preceding section.

Approved April 8, 1892.

CERTAIN HISTORICAL ACQUISITIONS.

More interesting probably than any other item yet acquired by the Historical Department of Iowa is the bound volume of *The Dubuque Visitor*, the first newspaper ever printed in the State. It is an old, dilapidated affair, but as *the first Iowa newspaper*, it will always possess a deep interest, justifying the long and earnest effort to obtain it. *The Visitor* was started on the 11th day of May, 1836, by John King. He was a very good editor and made a most readable paper for that day and generation. Every number contains articles and items which throw much light upon the history of our early settlements. This old book cost the "long price" of \$100, though when it passed into the ownership of the State it was "redeemed" from "a business place" where it had been left as "security"

for a debt. It has doubtless been pawned more than once. It is always shown to people who ask to see it, but otherwise it is kept under lock and key as a most precious souvenir of the past.

The most valuable gifts the Department has yet received are unquestionably the bound volumes of *The Dubuque Herald*, presented by the publishers, Messrs. Ham & Carver. These go back about 28 years. Previous to their time, the Department was fortunate enough to secure *The Express and Herald* during the time it was published by Mahony & Dorr, W. H. Merritt and J. B. Dorr, the gift of the widow of the gallant Colonel Dorr and her son. Back of these were bound volumes of the paper previously published by Colonel Dorr in Jackson county. Here we thus have an almost continuous file of one of the leading papers of Iowa for quite forty years. Every intelligent person will agree that the real value to the State of such gifts would far exceed any reasonable estimate. This value is further enhanced by the fact that even one other such continuous file of a really leading paper can scarcely be made up in our State. These volumes are very interesting, aside from their great historical value, and are often consulted by visitors. Messrs. Ham & Carver and the survivors of Colonel Dorr deserve the thanks of the State.

One of the first to give an encouraging word to the foundation of this work was Hon. John A. Kasson, of this city, who predicted in 1887 that the little Collection, which could then be carried in a small grip-sack, would grow into one of far greater proportions. Since that time he has made some most valuable donations to the work, aside from his own commissions signed by four of the Presidents. Among his contributions are letters by Lincoln, Jefferson, Hayes, Arthur, Harrison, Greeley, Poe, Longfellow, Bancroft, Lowell, Whittier, Seward, Chase, Conkling, Lord Lyons, Herbert Bismarck, and many other illustrious persons at home and abroad. His friendship for the work has not ended with his own precious gifts, but he has exerted himself to secure gifts in addition, and with the best results. He also, in response to urgent requests, presented his own

full-length portrait in oil, by one of the first of contemporary artists.

General G. M. Dodge, one of the few surviving great soldiers of the Civil War, in answer to requests and the wishes of his old comrades-in-arms, presented a nearly full-length oil portrait of himself. This was from the easel of George H. Yewell, an Iowa boy, who has attained one of the first places among American artists. General Dodge has also deposited in the Collections his commissions, and many other papers of great value. His commission as Brigadier General was deeply stained with his own blood, when he fell almost mortally wounded before Atlanta. As a military relic it heads the list.

Geo. P. A. Healy, one of the most illustrious of American artists, in response to a request for his photograph, painted his portrait in oil and made it a free gift to the Collection. It is a work of art which easily requires four figures to express its actual value, while as a gift to the State it is priceless.

The Protestant Episcopalians of this State lately presented a magnificent portrait of their first Bishop, Right Reverend Henry W. Lee, one of the great names in the ecclesiastical history of the West. This was painted by David J. Gue, an Iowa artist, who is represented in our Capitol by several valuable works of art.

Hon. William B. Allison, our distinguished senior Senator, has been instrumental in securing a large collection of aboriginal pottery, casts, map models, minerals, prehistoric stone implements, valuable public documents, etc., from the great scientific depositories at Washington. These are not only soon to be increased, but there is reason to believe that the Historical Department will ere long receive a magnificent gift from the Senator himself, of which we hope to speak hereafter.

U. S. Senator James F. Wilson procured for the Department an entire set—now most difficult to obtain—of the War Records, by far the most exhaustive compilation of American historical data in existence.

Hon. J. A. T. Hull and Mrs. Hull, of Des Moines, are not only represented in the collections by a most valuable set of photographs of distinguished Iowa people, but Mr. Hull has

placed the Department under many obligations for kindly efforts and favors at Washington.

Hon. S. G. Matson, of Viola, Linn county, has presented many scarce and valuable Iowa books and documents, and has been most earnest and energetic in securing gifts from other people, of which we shall have something to say hereafter.

There are scores of other contributions of which we would be delighted to make mention, did time and space permit. Our object at this time is merely to name a few of the most noteworthy, and to show that the tide is finally coming in. It has for quite two generations tended in other directions, carrying away from Iowa much of the data for her own history, as well as the memorials of the races which preceded ours. That sort of thing has ceased. However much our State has lost in the past, the outlook is very encouraging for securing whatever remains.

PRESERVE THE HISTORIC PLACES.

Every true American rejoices over the growing disposition of the present generation to preserve historic relics of great events. When the association was formed many years ago, by some patriotic ladies, for the purchase of Washington's old home at Mt. Vernon, and the preservation unchanged of the plantation and modest house where the great American General and President lived and died, they did a most commendable work, which has served as an example for others who have the public spirit to inaugurate similar movements.

The general efforts of late years, on part of the survivors of the great Battle of Gettysburg, to erect monuments, tablets and statues, at different points of interest where heroic struggles took place during the three days of terrific fighting on that historic field, meets with general approval. In this way there can be perpetuated for all future generations a most graphic tableau of the hundreds of thrilling episodes of that gigantic battle between American soldiers. As ages pass

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