

part of the State and another geologic period goes by before the upward movement of the land, by which Iowa is at length permanently disenthralled from the dominion of the sea. Forests take possession of the surface. Animals related to the dog, wolf and panther, as well as to the deer, the camel, the ox and the horse, unite with lizards, birds, bats and monkeys to impart a modern aspect to the assemblage of animals that occupied this latitude. *The climate was that of southern Louisiana.* The conditions were not inconsistent with the possibility of man's existence, and yet the records show that man, at the beginning of this new period, was not only absent from Iowa, but was absent still in every quarter of the globe."

LEWIS AND CLARK.

It is well known that in the early part of this century, within a year after the acquisition of "Louisiana" by the United States, Captains Lewis and Clark conducted an expedition for purposes of exploration of this vast territory which extended from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean. Their route lay across an unbroken wilderness, through what is now Missouri, Iowa, Kansas; Nebraska; South and North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. No white man up to that time had crossed the Rocky Mountains north of the Spanish and south of the British possessions. The Missouri River had not been visited much above Bismarck, nor was the Columbia River known above tide-water. This vast field of exploration was fresh and new. The Indian tribes which have since so sadly melted away, were in their best days, in happy ignorance of the white man and the contaminating influences of that "civilization" which has nearly swept them from the face of the earth. The plants and animals over that vast area were almost entirely unknown to science. As a matter of fact; no explorers were ever so favored with "fresh fields and pastures new," and they were equally favored in results, for they made the long journey of over 7,000 miles "with scarcely a casualty."

After the return of the expedition Mr. Nicholas Biddle, of Philadelphia—the "Nick Biddle" who figured so largely in the

financial history of our country in later days—wrote its history. This appeared in 1814, in two octavo volumes. It was afterward published in England; in fact, three of the best editions we have ever seen were printed abroad. The work seemed from the start to have made a profound impression upon the world. There was an irresistible charm about it, reminding the reader, possibly, of White's "Natural History of Selbourne." We believe that no less than thirty-five editions (counting mere reissues) have been published, many of which have been garbled and imperfect or greatly abridged and in some cases spurious and fraudulent. For many years the work has been out of print and perfect copies very scarce and expensive. There has never been a perfect reprint in the United States. But a new edition is to appear this spring, and under the most favorable auspices. Mr. Francis P. Harper, an enterprising young publisher, has lately engaged in business at 17 East Sixteenth street, New York city. He has signaled his advent into the guild of bookmakers by announcing a new edition of "The History of the Expedition of Lewis and Clark." Most fortunately, indeed, he secured the services of Dr. Elliott Coues, as editor. This gentleman, in many directions, is one of the profoundest of American scholars, distinguished as the author of various works, each of which, as it leaves his facile pen, becomes an authority, if not a classic. As a general ornithologist he easily takes his place "on the front seat." In some departments of natural history his studies are recognized as the highest authority of our day. He is the author of a dozen books, either of which would have made him famous in science. His crowning achievement, no doubt, is his work in the preparation of the great "Century Dictionary." Upon this immense undertaking he was employed seven years, having charge of the departments of General Biology and Natural History, which include all the terms in the many branches of zoology, comparative anatomy and related subjects. The wholly successful manner in which Dr. Coues performed these extended researches will give him permanently one of the most distinguished places in the literary and scientific history of the United States. In addition to his wide

range of scholarship. Dr. Coues is himself an explorer, and had visited most of the regions traversed by the Expedition, as an Army officer and Secretary of the U. S. Geological Survey. He thus entered upon his work with elements of special fitness which it is but simple justice to say could not be equaled by any other American.

When Dr. Coues came to consider the subject, he learned that the original manuscript journals, field note-books and other records of the expedition, in the handwritings of Captains Lewis and Clark, were still in existence. (It affords us some pride to know that they were discovered through a clue which came from the Historical Department of Iowa, though such an indefatigable searcher as Dr. Coues would no doubt have found them in any event.) The only surviving son of Captain Clark, who still lives, at an advanced age, in St Louis, desired that Dr. Coues should have the use of these precious treasures—some three thousand pages of manuscript—which were in the possession of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia. Dr. Coues speedily obtained this concession, by vote of the Society, thus acquiring an inexhaustible wealth of fresh and extensive materials from which to prepare this new edition. In this work he scrupulously retains the original text of Mr. Biddle, but also copies largely from these original manuscripts with copious commentaries. In fact, there will scarcely be a page which is not enriched either with hitherto-unpublished extracts from the writings of the explorers or with notes by Dr. Coues, at least doubling the amount of matter in the first edition. The present editor is so familiar with the general subject, with the geology, natural history, ethnology, archeology and botany, of the regions traversed that his critical determinations and identifications will be simply invaluable. One result of his investigation tends to the almost certain conclusion that Captain Meriwether Lewis was murdered for his money, though it has been supposed that he committed suicide. But in numberless ways, Dr. Coues has been able to throw light upon points of history and biography hitherto but little understood. As the work comes from his pen it would seem that he has left nothing to be done by any

future editor. Having been privileged to see these precious manuscripts of Captains Lewis and Clark, and to examine some of the proof-sheets of the forthcoming work, we believe it will contain "the final word" in regard to those illustrious American explorers. It is to be issued in four octavo volumes, with numerous illustrations, portraits, maps, etc. There will be two editions from the same plates, one of which will be sold for \$12.50 and the other for \$25.00. The whole number to be issued is limited to one thousand copies. This publication is certain to be one of the foremost literary events of 1893, if not of this decade. It will revive and greatly increase the interest with which that famous Expedition has been regarded both at home and abroad.

LOAN COLLECTIONS.

During the past winter, Mr. A. J. Johnson, of this city, loaned to the Historical Department a fine case of mammals, one of eggs, and five of birds. All of these had been very carefully preserved and finely mounted. They are at this date (April 1) on exhibition, and attract many visitors to the new rooms. Speaking of loans for the purpose of exhibition, the writer was quite surprised to see what a large feature they present in the National Museum at Washington, D. C. Hundreds of the most interesting objects in that vast and well filled edifice have been placed there, simply as loans, by their owners. The public are thus given the benefit of seeing a great variety of most precious objects, a fact which we know to be very gratifying to most collectors. There are very few men who make collections with the idea of hiding them away from sight. Nothing suits an old collector more than to have good listeners and opportunities to exhibit and expatiate upon his treasures. This brings us to what we wish to state in this place, viz.: That the Historical Department is the best place in Iowa to exhibit collections of such objects as books, maps, documents, coins, specimens in natural history, paintings, engravings, and other objects having literary or historical value. So far as museums are concerned, this becomes one of the most fruitful sources of

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