

Kasson. The original letters of Longfellow and Whittier are now the property of the State, to which it is hoped that Mr. Kasson's letter to each of the poets may soon be added.

As a fitting conclusion to this article we copy Mr. Longfellow's familiar and very beautiful poem :

THE CUMBERLAND.

At anchor in Hampton Roads we lay,
On board of the Cumberland, sloop-of-war ;
And at times from the fortress across the bay
The alarm of drums swept past,
Or a bugle blast
From the camp on the shore.

Then far away to the south arose,
A little feather of snow-white smoke,
And we knew that the iron ship of our foes
Was steadily steering its course
To try the force
Of our ribs of oak.

Down upon us heavily runs,
Silent and sullen, the floating fort ;
Then comes a puff of smoke from her guns,
And leaps the terrible death,
With fiery breath,
From each open port.

We are not idle, but send her straight
Defiance back in full broadside !
As hail rebounds from a roof of slate,
Rebounds our heavier hail
From each iron scale
Of the monster's hide.

"Strike your flag !" the rebel cries,
In his arrogant old plantation strain.
"Never !" our gallant Morris replies ;
"It is better to sink than to yield !"
And the whole air pealed
With the cheers of our men.

Then, like a kraken huge and black,
She crushed our ribs in her iron grasp !
Down went the Cumberland all a wrack,
With a sudden shudder of death,
And a cannon's breath
For her dying gasp.

Next morn, as the sun rose over the bay,
Still floated our flag at the main mast head ;
Lord, how beautiful was thy day !
Every waft of the air
Was a whisper of prayer,
Or a dirge for the dead.

Ho! brave hearts that went down in the seas!
Ye are at peace in the troubled stream;
Ho! brave land with hearts like these,
Thy flag, that is rent in twain,
Shall be one again,
And without a seam.

OUR PORTRAITS.

The first which appears in this number of the ANNALS, while very good as a portrait, was from an old and inferior photograph, but we were unable to procure a better one. William Penn. Clarke is a name which will always be well known to the legal profession of this State, for the reason that he was Reporter of the Supreme Court from 1855 to 1860. His Reports have always maintained a high rank. He was a journalist of State reputation, one of the foremost western writers in the great anti-slavery agitation which preceded the War for the Union, a member of the Convention of 1857, which framed the present Constitution of our State, and Major and Paymaster in the Union Army. He removed to Washington, D. C., many years ago, where he still resides. Mr. Clarke, some months ago, deposited his most valuable correspondence with public men of this and other States, from 1844 to 1866, in the Historical Department of Iowa. He is also well-known as a collector of books and paintings, and it is not improbable that he will ere long make valuable bequests to one or more of our State institutions.

Two portraits of John Chambers add interest to Mr. Clarke's very valuable article on our second Territorial Governor. The first is a steel engraving, evidently made about the time that Major Chambers was serving as Governor. Until impressions were secured for this number of THE ANNALS, from the steel plate, which is owned in New York City, this portrait was a very rare one in Iowa. In fact, we believe that very few copies had ever been seen in our State. It will no doubt be greatly prized by our readers. The other portrait represents Governor Chambers in his last years, when his appearance had greatly

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.