

been useful, honorable and distinguished in the highest degree. Stepping down and out of public life has made little difference in the career of this useful and eminently Christian gentleman, for he is called upon daily to put his hand to some good work, either in the furtherance of measures of public improvement, charity or education. Without going further into biography this time, these facts present the highest attestations of his worth as a man, and the statesman-like character of his public services.

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### THE AMANA SOCIETY.

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From occasional notices in the newspapers it has been known for the life-time of a generation that there existed in Iowa county a religious community under the above name; but it was not until 1891 that any definite knowledge of these peculiar but most industrious and conscientious people became accessible to readers. In that year a pamphlet was published by our State University in which the history of this organization was most completely and admirably set forth. The title-page showed that it was written by William Rufus Perkins, A. M., Professor of History, and Barthinius L. Weeks, '91, of that institution.

This seemed to us by far the best piece of historical writing that had appeared in our State, and it was a matter of surprise that it did not attract more general attention, though it was fairly reviewed by *The New York Critic*; and sundry other papers. Within the limits of 100 pages, and printed in quite large type, the history of "The Amana Society" was so clearly presented as to leave nothing to be desired. This work was one that demanded much research, for the religious movement out of which the organization has grown, originated long ago, and the process of evolution through which it has passed has been not only slow, but the materials for its history have been obscure and difficult to find. It was, in fact, to a great extent, a gathering up and piecing together of "the short and simple annals of the poor." But the authors per-

formed their difficult task most successfully. Their work in our opinion is one of the highest merit. In this number of *THE ANNALS* we have the pleasure of presenting from the pen of Dr. J. L. Pickard, long the President of the State University, an analytical review of this monograph which gives a good idea of its scope and literary quality, as well as a very fair summary of its contents. We bespeak for it a careful reading, and commend the little book itself as worthy a place in every public and private library in Iowa.

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### FORMS OF PUBLICATION.

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Throughout our State there is a rising tide in the matter of pamphlet publications relating to churches, educational institutions, the growth of towns and cities, etc. This is most praiseworthy, but the forms in which these publications appear are at once very distressing to the collector who essays to gather them together and put them into some accessible shape. Their pages vary from, perhaps, 3x4 inches in size, up to great folios. It is a puzzle how to preserve them. Manifestly they should be classified and bound into volumes. But as they are now running, this is simply an impossibility. By far the best form to adopt, looking to permanent preservation, would be that of the ordinary octavo. Then, all such publications can be easily classified and bound into volumes. Properly lettered, their contents are readily accessible. This is a most important matter. We are just now as a State at "the parting of the ways." All that is old is rapidly passing away, and new men, new methods, and new institutions, are coming to the front. In the matter of church pamphlets, which are now reaching the Historical Department, efforts are very properly being made to present the past history of these organizations. Such publications become at once highly valuable as historical data, and should be grouped together. But when one is small enough to be carried in the vest pocket, and the next, perhaps, a large folio, the task of caring for and arranging them in an easily accessible shape becomes very

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