

lections of the great campaigns in the southwest, "all of which he saw, and part of which he was."

HON. JOHN M. BRAINARD.

This Iowa pioneer editor and publisher writes in our pages most intelligently and clearly of the great snow storm—the veritable "blizzard"—of December, 1856, which was the cause of wide-spread suffering and the loss of many lives in the north half of our State. In addition to his own experiences he gives accounts of losses in other neighborhoods, all of which will be read with interest. Mr. Brainard is one of the oldest journalists in Northern Iowa, having commenced his work at Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, in 1859. He was connected with *The Story County Ægis* in 1860, and with *The Nonpareil*, at Council Bluffs, in 1868-9. Since the last date he has published *The Boone Standard*. His journalistic work has extended continuously through 35 years. He was chosen a member of the State Board of Education in 1859, but that body soon afterwards ceased to exist, at least, no session was held after his election. Mr. Brainard edits his paper in an old-fashioned sort of way, the matter for its columns having always been largely put in type at home. But it is one of the very best country journals in Iowa—brave and outspoken, the advocate of progress, education and good morals—and always reliable. His bound files for the past 30 years have found their way into the State Historical Department where they are highly prized.

A FAITHFUL RECORDER.

We have often had occasion to note the thoroughness with which Rt. Rev. William Stevens Perry, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Iowa, attends to the publication, not only of his sermon and addresses upon anniversary or other special occasions, but of all official papers and matters of current church history. In the art of editing, in the supervision of books,

pamphlets, circulars or broadsides, while going through the press, he is nothing less than an adept. In the selection of types, paper and bindings, he has opinions of his own and always manifests excellent taste. It is palpable to the most casual observation that in these lines of usefulness our State does not possess his superior. Then, in addition to the ability to clothe all this interesting and useful reading, each item in its appropriate and attractive garb, the Bishop is most generous in his distribution of copies to libraries, reading rooms and appreciative, thoughtful people. The consequence is, that there is abundant data for the Iowa History of the Protestant Episcopal Church. These documents can be found in many places throughout our State. And now, that a better feeling exists in regard to the preservation of the data for Iowa History, it is the greatest of pities that there is not just such a plodding, patient, scholarly worker in every one of the religious bodies. There are men enough who are fully competent in every one of the churches, but they do not seem to have found opportunity or acquired that aptitude which finds expression in useful works of this nature. The subject is one which ought to elicit a half-hour's attention in every conference, synod, presbytery, or other general assembly of religious bodies. Competent men should be selected and encouraged to work in this domain of high usefulness.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

HON. A. F. BROWN, who died at Waverly on the 25th of January, was one of the pioneer editors of Cedar county, one of the early lawyers of Scott county, and a Senator from Black Hawk county from 1860 to 1864. He was born near Zanesville, Ohio, Dec. 8th, 1828, graduated at Granville College, and was admitted to the bar in 1848. In 1850 he came to Scott county, Iowa, to practice his profession, and soon after became editor of the *Cedar County News*, a paper published at Rochester. Upon the removal of the county seat to Tipton, he transferred his office to Cedar Falls and named his paper the "*Cedar Falls Banner*." In 1855 Mr. Brown was elected prosecuting attorney and served with ability in that position for several years. In 1859 he was elected State Senator for the 36th District, composed of the counties of Grundy, Black Hawk, Butler and Franklin. He became a prominent member of the Senate, serving

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