

of which we cannot but regard as the most important event that has ever occurred in the literary history of our State. When Mr. Brigham announced his purpose, something more than a year ago, in the midst of the hard times, and when the business outlook was most forbidding, of starting a literary magazine in Des Moines, the wisest journalists shook their heads. The enterprise certainly seemed to be "extra hazardous." But the result has more than justified his wise forecast of the situation. He saw literary resources in Iowa and the Middle West, and a promise of liberal patronage, which were certainly hidden from the vision of everybody else. His announcement made, he addressed himself to the great task he had undertaken with a degree of ability, energy, courage and perseverance, which entitle him to a high place among the praiseworthy innovators of his time. His surpassing ability as an editor is visible to any one who even casually turns the pages of a copy of his magazine—but he has accomplished the more perplexing and difficult end of making it a business success. As an editor he has been able to secure the services and the hearty good will of many writers of more than national reputation, as well as to discover and call out a wide diversity of home talent, latent and undeveloped before. While strong in its general features, he has given it a high character as an *Iowa* magazine—typical and representative of this great Midland country. Such a success in one brief year is rarely won, even through the hardest work and the most lavish expenditure of money. We are glad to know that the publication enters upon its second year under auspices so very encouraging. Congratulating its brave and accomplished editor upon his good work already done, we commend *The Midland Monthly* to the especial favor of the people of Iowa.

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#### OUR ARTICLES AND ENGRAVINGS.

The frontispiece of this number of *THE ANNALS*—a fine steel portrait of Hon. Hiram Price—was engraved expressly

Hon. Horace Greeley  
New-York

Executive Mansion

Washington, July 15. 1864

I suppose you received my letter  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> I have just received yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> -  
and am disappointed by it. I was not expecting you  
to pen me a letter, but to bring me a man, or  
man. Mr. Hoag goes to you with my answer to yours  
of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

A. Lincoln

for our pages. It is an excellent likeness of that distinguished gentleman during the second period of his Congressional service, and from a photograph taken in 1878. It appropriately accompanies Mr. Gue's valuable historical sketch of the public services of Mr. Price.

"Old Fort Armstrong" is frequently mentioned in the early history of Iowa and Illinois, and especially in connection with the Black Hawk war; but engravings of that famous frontier post are scarce and very seldom met with. To Mrs. Maria Peck, of Davenport, we are indebted for a very interesting account of its construction and its mission, with which she sent a photograph of an old engraving, which we have reproduced.

Dr. Elliott Coues, of Washington, D. C., contributes four original letters from the files of the War Department, by Governor William Clark (of the Lewis and Clark Expedition) and Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor. They possess much historical value and are published here for the first time.

Captain H. I. Smith, of Mason City, narrates bitter experiences showing the rough side of war and how hard-hearted men "dressed in a little brief authority" sometimes become. His portrait is from a war-time photograph.

Colonel C. H. Gatch concludes his history of the Des Moines River land troubles, a subject which he has treated with his well known ability, fairly and impartially. With the article we include his portrait from a recent photograph.

Mr. Frank E. Landers presents a synopsis of the official history of our southern boundary difficulty; and Hon. Alfred Hebard his recollections of the preparations for the "border war" between Iowa and Missouri, which wiser counsels nipped in the bud, apparently at the last moment to prevent bloodshed. We are glad to be able to print portraits of the authors.

Mr. W. S. Moore writes of the stirring times in our State at the outbreak of the war for the Union, recalling scenes still vivid in the memories of those who participated in them. A good portrait of the old printer soldier accompanies his article.

We print from a plate engraved for *The Midland Monthly* a

*fac simile* of probably the most valuable single piece of manuscript in Iowa—one of the historical telegrams of Abraham Lincoln. The original may be seen at the State Historical Rooms.

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### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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During the past autumn a beautiful little book was issued under the auspices of the Historical Department of Iowa, Des Moines, with the following title: "John Brown among the Quakers, and Other Sketches. By Irving B. Richman, Consul General of the United States to Switzerland." In addition to the sketch which gives title to the work, it contains others as follows: "Mascoutin: A Reminiscence of the Nation of Fire;" "Black Hawk, Keokuk, and Their Village;" "Nauvoo and the Prophet;" "The First Meeting with the Dahkotahs;" "The Tragedy at Minnewaukon."

This book has not only been most cordially welcomed by the press of our own State, but has received highly complimentary notices in several of the leading papers and periodicals of the East. Some of the sketches had been published before, but three of them are here printed for the first time. Together, they make a readable and highly valuable work upon important episodes in Iowa history. The edition is but a limited one, however, and it will soon be exhausted. Mr. L. B. Abdill, bookseller, Des Moines, is Mr. Richman's agent for the sale and distribution of this book.

The State Historical Society at Iowa City has just issued a neat pamphlet of 136 pages, under the following title: "Historical Lectures upon Early Leaders in the Professions, in the Territory of Iowa, Delivered at Iowa City, 1894." The contents are as follows: "Early Medical Practitioners, by Dr. William Watson, Dubuque;" "Early Teachers, by Prof. Leonard F. Parker, Grinnell;" "Early Members of the Bar, by Hon. Theodore S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids;" "Early Clergy—Compilation by J. L. Pickard, Iowa City."

This pamphlet comes out under the able and judicious editorship of Dr. J. L. Pickard, a guarantee that everything about it is well done. In addition to his task as promoter and editor, he has compiled and for the most part re-written the data relating to "The Early Clergy of Iowa." We regard this work as one of great value. It is certain to become an authority in Iowa history; and to be largely referred to in the future. Our only regret in regard to it is, that the limits of our space will not admit of quoting liberally from pages so replete with precious historical information. No doubt the edition is a limited one, and hence every public library should secure and carefully preserve it.

"Higher Education in Iowa," is the title of a work of 190 pages, by Leonard F. Parker, Professor of History in Iowa College, Grinnell. It was published by the National Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., and comes to us in the simple paper covers of a public document. It is, however, one of those carefully prepared and exhaustive monographs which possess not

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