

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.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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 Dakotahs;" "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

only current interest, but permanent historical value. In no other work that has yet appeared is there such a complete survey of the origin and development of the higher educational facilities of our State. Prof. W. T. Harris, Chief of the Bureau of Education, in transmitting it to Gen. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior, commended it as a work "which is instructive to all students and observers of educational progress." It contains many fine illustrations of the leading institutions of our State. It is a work which will be highly valued by every intelligent person into whose hands it may come. As it is a public document, we presume copies may be had by writing any Member of Congress or the Chief of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

The State Historical Society a few months ago also published a pamphlet of 196 pages, under the following title: "Constitution and Records of the Claim Club of Johnson County, Iowa. With Introduction and Notes. By Benjamin F. Shambaugh, A. M." While it is for the most part a simple compilation, its contents were dug out of musty old documents, the only wonder concerning which is, that they were not long ago destroyed. Before the Government offered lands for sale in many regions, settlers had come in who needed some means by which to protect themselves in the possession of their rights to the soil. Organizations were formed for this purpose and records kept of every claim. The Claim Club was therefore a sort of government to protect the pioneers for the time being. This is fully shown in Mr. Shambaugh's pamphlet. He is also writing a monograph to be entitled, "Early Government in Iowa."

NOTABLE DEATHS.

HUGH W. MAXWELL died in Des Moines, on the 6th of December, at the age of 67. He was born in Illinois in 1827, and removed to Iowa in 1852, settling at Indianola. In 1856 he was elected county clerk, and being an able lawyer, was chosen in 1866 prosecuting attorney for the Seventh Judicial District. Upon the resignation of Judge Nourse, Mr. Maxwell was appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of district Judge. He served about nine years in that capacity, and won universal esteem. During the war Judge Maxwell did good service in the commissary department. Several years ago he moved to Carthage, Mo., and afterwards spent some time in Arizona on account of failing health. About two years ago he returned to Des Moines, where his last days were spent. Judge Maxwell had a wide circle of friends in central Iowa who honor his memory as an irreproachable citizen, an able lawyer and a just judge.

JOSEPH BURTON, who died at Waukon, on the first day of December, was one of the pioneer settlers in Allamakee County. He was a native of Rhode Island, coming west in 1854 and settling on a farm, lying on the Makee ridge in Allamakee County. In 1861 Mr. Burton was elected to the lower house of the Ninth General Assembly, serving through the regular and extra sessions of 1862. He was 77 years of age at the time of his death. He was an excellent and useful citizen, widely known and highly esteemed in north-eastern Iowa.

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