

FIRST REUNION FESTIVAL OF "THE EARLY SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION OF DUBUQUE COUNTY.

The following account of the Festival of "The Early Settlers' Association of Dubuque County, Iowa," held at Dubuque Oct. 26, 1865, is extracted from the reports of the *Times* and *Herald*. Want of space compels us to omit the responses to the toasts, and other interesting matters connected with the Festival:

Yesterday brought the anticipated time when the early pioneers of this Northwestern mining region were to meet each other under the auspices of the Early Settlers' Association of Dubuque, to live over again the days when they were young, and when they laid the foundation of a new empire.

The day opened inauspiciously. A drizzling Novemberish rain fell upon muddy streets, and the air was raw and chill. It was a counterpart of the three days that preceded it, and it was much feared the inclemency of the weather would throw a damper on the festivities and joys of the occasion, by keeping away very many of the members and expected guests. It did keep a large number away—for who could expect those who for the most part, were middle aged men and women thirty and forty years ago, would buffet such a stormy season, more especially when travel was almost an impossibility. Many however did venture, and as the hour approached for their assembling at Globe Hall, the venerable figures of the honorable band could be seen here and there on the streets, wending their way thither.

THE GATHERING.

It was a pleasant sight to see these "Old Boys and Girls," as Dr. Holmes would familiarly call them, drop in one by one and in little groups at the place of rendezvous, and to witness their meeting and greeting, and also to listen to the running

conversation consequent upon their meeting. "This is forty years come back again," remarks one of the Old Girls to one of the Old Boys. "Ha-ha-ha! Yes," says he, shaking her by the hand most heartily. "The last time I heard of you," says another, "you was blown away in a hurricane." "Yes, P—," came from another quarter, "was here in '35, but he's dead, and I helped to bury him." Another, approaching one as venerable as himself, and taking him by the hand, and at the same time lifting his hat from his locks, says, "I am white and hoary-headed as you are, you see." "I don't know," was the response, as he passed his hand over his own head; "I suppose we are nearly all white alike now." "I helped to build the first house in Dubuque," exultingly is spoken by an early builder. "Don't you know me?" queries one. Looking closely in his face, as though he would recall the features, he who was questioned, shakes his head and reluctantly answers, "No—I—I don't remember." "Why, I took you to Prairie du Chin in a keel-boat in '37." "Yes, yes, I remember now; I am glad, very glad to see you," and shaking hands they sit together and converse about the trip.

We might relate a hundred sayings that made the hour and more passed at Globe Hall, deeply interesting, did space permit. Such scenes are not looked upon in every man's lifetime. It is not in every gathering that the conventional mask of society is laid aside, and the outgushings of the heart permitted, unrestrained, to tell their nature in the face. No formal courtesies were allowed a place in the greetings of yesterday. Not only did the Girls greet each other lovingly—and kiss each other with sisterly affection, but they familiarly and warmly welcomed the Boys. Once we heard the slight explosion of a kiss near our elbow, and turning, saw the silvered curls of one of the Girls mingling with the snowy locks of one of the Boys. She had kissed him for Auld Lang Syne.

At eleven o'clock the members, with their families and their guests, proceeded in a body to the Atheneum, to listen to a recital of the times they were about commemorating.

THE LECTURE.

When all were seated, the President, Dr. T. Mason, called the meeting to order, and the Rev. J. R. Goodrich addressed the Throne of Grace with a beautiful prayer that must have met with an amen in every heart.

The President then in a very happy welcoming address, bade all welcome, thrice welcome, and touched upon the incidents which made up the history of their pioneer life. His beautiful peroration, in which he alluded to the dwindling away of the membership at each successive meeting, and the picture he drew of the last pioneer who should respond to the roll-call of the secretary, was deeply affecting, and brought tears into many manly eyes.

At the conclusion of his address, he introduced to the assembly Gen. H. A. Wiltse, the lecturer of the occasion.

The General being quite unwell, was obliged to call upon Mr. C. Childs, the secretary of the Association, whom he said largely assisted him in collecting the historical data, and had copied the lecture, to read it for him.

Only a portion, less than half of what had been prepared was read. As a whole it traced the history of Iowa as a part of the Great Valley from the first claim of Spain, by the discovery of Florida in 1512, to the purchase of Louisiana of France in 1803; and next stated the substance and result of all the legislation affecting what is now Iowa, from the latter date to the attachment of Iowa to Michigan Territory in 1834; gave all the facts of Indian treaties affecting the possessory title of Iowa; made separate sketches of Iowa as a part of Michigan, of Wisconsin, and as a Territory up to 1840, and contained a full history of Julien Dubuque and his celebrated claim.

The explorations of 1829 and 1830 were treated separately and fully, as were the settlements of 1832-3, and business, incidents, &c., of each year to 1840. It had also a sketch of the Blackhawk war.

Among the subjects treated separately were Sabbath and

week schools, religion, the press, manufacturing, river navigation, first things, south boundary of Iowa and Missouri war, administrations of justice, and state of society. The reading of the whole address would have required over three hours of rapid enunciation. The parts delivered were not altogether the most interesting, but were such as would appear the most like a connected historical lecture.

The address by Gen. Wiltse had been prepared after long research of all the records and authorities on Iowa history, and with much more research among the recollections of living men. It had been written with great care and correctness, both in its historical data and narration of events. It was crowded with facts well and briefly stated; with nearly a thousand names of the early settlers in connection with the date when they were active pioneers in new enterprises; it bristled with dates for the hundreds of events named; it described in well selected words, fitly arranged, the social condition, the business, the hardships, the difficulties, the dangers and everything else incident to the history of the first ten years of Dubuque.

No one who heard the thirty, or more, three-line paragraphs of "first things in Dubuque," but was convinced that there had been collected from every attainable source all the fact on the several subjects that made up the parts of the address.

THE DINNER.

On the conclusion of the lecture, in accordance with the programme, the Association and their guests, preceded by the Germania Band, marched up Main street and Eighth, to the Lorimer House, where the dinner was provided.

At the Lorimer, in the interval waiting for dinner, the scenes and events of thirty years ago were still further canvassed, and the Germania threw in now and then, to grace the time an occasional appropriate air.

As the clock struck three, the pioneers and their guests, some two hundred and more in number, sat down to a bountifully supplied board, and after an invocation by the Rev. A.

Kent, of Galena, proceeded to test its merits. For a period,
 "Dire was the clang of plate, and knife and fork,"
 until each appetite was satiated, when the sentiments, upon
 call of the President, were presented in their order:

No. 1—*The French upon the Lakes and in the Valley of the Mississippi*: Their success resulted not more from their energy than religious zeal. In the lower valley the Cross was left to follow the Spanish while the French carried the Cross with them.

It was intended that Father J. P. Donelan should respond to this sentiment, but his health and pressing duties prevented his being present. The Secretary read a note from him, which contained an acknowledgment of the honor conferred, and which was concluded by tendering the following sentiment:

OUR NOBLE IOWA: Rich in her soil—rich in her minerals—and still richer in her devotion to the Union. May the first increase—the second never be exhausted, and the last never be doubted.

This sentiment was received with much applause.

No. 2—*The Navigation of the Mississippi*: It preceded the settlements and was the most powerful agency in sustaining them.

Capt. James May, of Davenport, was expected to respond, but circumstances prevented his attendance.

No. 3—*The country North-west of the Ohio*: Out of which seven States have arisen and taken a place in the Union of 1776.

Hon. Wm. B. Allison responded to the sentiment.

No. 4—*Galena*: The first and most enterprising settlement in the mines.

No response.

No. 5.—*Lead ore and its manufacture*: The early miners and settlers converted the resources of the earth into wealth that attracted population and posterity.

No response.

No. 6—*Early Protestant Missions and Churches*: They came with the first settlers and have remained to bless them and their prosperity.

Responded to by Rev. A. Kent, of Galena, briefly, and by Rev. A. Bronson, of Prairie du Chien, more at length.

No. 7—*Wisconsin*: A State that has both a history and a historian.

Major Wm. R. Smith, the venerable President of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Historian of the State, read a highly entertaining response to this sentiment.

No. 8—*The Public Schools*: The early Sabbath and week-day schools—the germs of true civilization.

Prof. J. L. Pickard, of Chicago, not being able to attend, sent his response, which was read by the Secretary.

Gen. T. H. Benton, Jr., also responded to this sentiment, giving his experience as one of the earliest teachers of Dubuque, and following up briefly the growth of our school system until the present day. He closed by offering the following sentiment:

THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE MINING REGION OF WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS & IOWA :
Friends in prosperity, friends in adversity, friends in life, and may they be friends
in death.

This was received with hearty applause.

No. 9—*The Press* : A welcome "Visitor" to Dubuque in 1836.

Judge King responded to the sentiment.

No. 10—*The Lawyers, Doctors and Clergy* : To whom the early settlers applied for justice, and sought aid in sickness and consolation in affliction.

Judge T. S. Wilson responded to the first portion of this sentiment, and in a felicitous manner gave an interesting outline of the early judicial history of the State.

No. 11—*Kindred Associations* : Links in the chain of local history that bind the past to the present and the future.

A beautiful response was presented from Hon. J. F. Dillon, of Davenport, alluding to the object of the settlers' association.

T. S. Parvin, Esq. Cor. Sec. of Iowa Historical Society and editor of Iowa Annals, made some very interesting remarks on the history of similar associations in other counties in Iowa. He set forth ably the claims of the Annals to public favor and alluded to the historical collections he had made on Iowa history.

No. 12—*The Mothers of Dubuque* : "Without them what use would the fathers have been?"

In the absence of Col. J. H. Emerson who was expected to respond to this sentiment, the President, Dr. Mason, made some very appropriate remarks.

The ceremonies of the day were closed by singing to the grand old tune, "Old Hundred,"

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow,"

and the pronouncing of a benediction by the Rev. A. Bronson.

The assemblage then departed, the Germania playing Auld Lang Syne.

The following are among the names of the members of the Association and Early Settler guests, not mentioned elsewhere, who participated in this first reunion of the early pioneers. The entire number was about one hundred and fifty.

P. A. Lorimer and family, J. D. Graffert and wife, Geo. W. Jones, Richard Plumb and wife, Jesse M. Harrison, J. L. Dickinson and wife, John McClay and wife, T. C. Roberts, A. McDaniel, wife and daughter, E. Langworthy and family, Mrs. L. H. Langworthy and family, Mr. Brady and wife, A. Christman, Sarah Christman, Mrs. Dr. Linton, A. Cline, Mrs. Crawford Smith, Mrs. Vanhagan, John R. Noite, L. McNamee, Mrs. C. Graves, Geo. W. Ames and wife, L. Wiltse, J. S. Loraine and family, Wm. Myers and wife, Mrs. E. M. Dixon, O. S. Johnson and family, A. Keesecker, Wm. Williams and wife, S. W. Durham, M. Schaffner, Z. Reinfried, H. H. Gear, O. McCartney, Wm. McDaniel, D. K. Burt, Samuel Ashley, A. Levi and wife, C. J. Cummings and wife, Mrs. S. A. Lawrence and daughter, Wm. Johnson, G. A. Shannon, J. W. Gillet, Solon Langworthy and family.

EDITORIAL CHANGE.

The chief articles in the present number were procured and selected by the late Editor, Prof. T. S. PARVIN. Himself a part of the early history of Iowa, one of the most accomplished antiquarians and interesting writers in the State, devoted to Natural History, and in short, overflowing with all kinds of useful information,—tempting one to change the phrase "*Multum in parvo*" to *Multum in Parvin*—he is especially adapted to the editorial management of such a periodical as this.

It would have been fortunate for the present Editor if it had fallen to his lot to follow some gentleman less able and experienced, and thus have avoided the direct contrast which must

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