

where, unassisted, or without the confidence of the curator, his course must have been at random or at the least uncertain. The writer has entrusted matter in confidence to investigators under assurance of honor against untoward use of facts and has had the pleasure of seeing rocky channels thereby safely navigated and accurately charted without inviting wreck. The curator as a trustee is entitled to personal safety and to obtain it is entitled to establish rules and exact guarantees so long as he exercise good faith, diligence, and the maximum of his intelligence in dealing with applicants. But after all it is for him to determine in every instance of applicant and purpose; of item and its bearing. There is probably no field of scholarly endeavor where as highly trained men on as important missions meet (and by the way, present) so great a lack of uniformity, not to say low order, of ethics as that where the inquiring mind presents itself to the keeper of historical material. There is no institution where the contending considerations of this complex trust is better illustrated than in the Historical Department of Iowa. There is nothing better supported than our rule that everything possessed is for the public use, yet whether a proposed use is of public or private character is for the decision of the curator.

PROPOSED GRAND ARMY CORRIDOR.

Officials and leaders of the Iowa Department, Grand Army of the Republic, plan for an eventual testimonial to the valor of loyal soldiers of Iowa in the War of the Rebellion. The idea is best outlined in resolutions adopted at the 41st annual encampment of the Iowa Department, Grand Army of the Republic, Sioux City, June 8-10, 1915:

Whereas, Many of our Grand Army Posts and individual comrades and their families possess valuable records, correspondence, pictures, trophies and books which illustrate our service for the Union, and which are likely to be lost, Be it

Resolved, That all comrades of this department are urged to send or provide for the sending of all such material to the office of the Assistant Adjutant General at Des Moines for safe keeping, particularly all unused Post records, correspondence, pictures, flags and wall pieces, and all letters, commissions, weapons and uniforms that relate to the Federal service of the soldier or sailor, that are still in existence.

Resolved, That we urge the next General Assembly to erect a suitable addition to the State Historical, Memorial and Art Building, to be known as the Grand Army Corridor, or some suitable designation, where all Civil War material the State possesses or may acquire may be assembled. The same to be the sole repository of the Civil War history of Iowa, to be owned by the State of Iowa forever.

From this it is inferred that by a sort of gravity there may come into the keeping of the principal officials of the Grand Army in our State all that exists outside the State's collections, of writings, relics, trophies, records and literature betokening the contribution in blood and treasure of Iowa people to the Union cause; that when the Grand Army so desires, its official headquarters shall be by them established in an apartment designed by and for them, and for the convenient, permanent and public exhibition of all material relating to soldier service of Iowa citizens.

Nothing so inspires our youth as the bullet-shredded standard of our country. Nothing stirs the emotion of new citizens from foreign countries or sister states as the service-stained uniform or accoutrement of the Iowa volunteer soldier soiled in his struggle for human rights. Probably no portion of the Iowa field of scholarly study will in future be covered with greater diligence or more devotion than that wherein were planted, grown and garnered the seeds of civil strife.

Iowa soldiers and their families at home or removed elsewhere could not now so honor their names as to respond to this resolution. Our Department has no higher office than the co-operation with the Iowa Department Grand Army of the Republic, in its great purpose. Iowa has no better tribute remaining, since it has marked with bronze and granite the battle grounds and burial places of her troops in southern lands, than to raise a fitting structure central to all Iowa historical, memorial and art collections, as her Grand Army Corridor. We have had no "Little Corporal." We recall no St. Helena. We need no Invalides. But without a temple or imperial tomb, in response to this resolution, Iowa should in justice and may in modesty provide a monument less imposing and yet as eloquent.

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