

the Historical Society, the first having been delivered by the Hon. Hiram Price, of Davenport, and the second by the Rev. Dr. George F. Magoun, of Grinnell, and it is to be hoped and expected that a practice so happily re-inaugurated will be repeated at shorter intervals, and by speakers equally able and learned as those mentioned.

GRATITUDE AND CONSISTENCY.

The Editor of the "Historical Magazine," in a recent number of his periodical, makes a gratuitous attack on the State Historical Society of Iowa—saying in effect that it costs more than it comes to, recommending the State Government to withhold its encouragement and support from it, and finally adding oracularly that it does not belong to the State of Iowa to pay for editing and publishing a magazine on any subject.

We make bold to inform the ill-natured Oracle of Morrisania that the Annals of Iowa, which it would seem is in some manner or other in his way, and which he would have our Legislature discontinue at its next session so that his Magazine may take its place, is self-supporting, and that his other comments on our Historical Society are based on equally false premises as those which allege the Annals to be a burden to the Iowa tax payer, or in any way subject to the caprice of the Legislature or Executive; and also that neither the people of Iowa nor their Legislature are in the habit of going so far away from home for advice as to the suburban hamlet of Morrisania.

When we add that this gabbling Editor, whose lofty historical name is *Dawson*, (which might well be shortened to

Daw, since like that bird his weakness seems to be for *ruins* *), acknowledged in writing but a couple of months before his nonsense was published, his indebtedness to our Historical Society for data furnished him in volumes worth many dollars, which he had been ineffectually seeking through other sources for years, and that the only return he has made us is a few odd numbers of his Magazine, including the one containing his sinister attack, his consistency and sense of obligation will at once be manifest.

BIOGRAPHIES AND PORTRAITS.

We shall publish in the April number of the *Annals* a short sketch of the life of the late Rev. G. D. A. Hebard, whose death occurred at Oskaloosa last December. Mr. Hebard was a member, and at one time an efficient officer of the Historical Society, and took great interest in its prosperity.

We hope to be able to present to our readers during the current year memoirs and possibly portraits of the late John Chambers and James Clark, the second and third Territorial Governors of Iowa. If we succeed we shall be indebted to the Hon. Hawkins Taylor and the sons of Gov. Chambers for what pertains to the one, and to Gen. A. C. Dodge for what relates to the other, and shall feel that we have accomplished something worthy of commendation in being instrumental in placing in an enduring and accessible form the main facts in the lives of such important personages in the history of Iowa as her three Territorial Governors,—

* Old towers and *ruins* are favorite resorts of the Jackdaw.—See works on Ornithology.

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