

MUSICAL CONVENTIONS.

BY PROF. H. S. PERKINS.

The statistics of Musical Conventions in Iowa which we have thus far been able to collect, may not be very complete, but the following is the most accurate data at our command. Should it be found incomplete, any and all interesting facts which may be forwarded to the writer, at Iowa City, will be thankfully received and embodied in another article under the above head.

Further, by way of introduction: Musical Conventions, or assemblages of musical people, usually continue four or five successive days. Occasionally they are protracted two weeks, and, in a few instances, from three to four weeks. Yet the protraction of a series of daily exercises for instruction in music, beyond one week, does not, strictly speaking, or in accordance with the general custom and understanding, come under the head of "Convention."

However, we shall not be thus strict in drawing the line of demarkation, as the design of this article is to give as full and complete a summary of "musical doings" as we may with our present information, and which may be consistently included in a history of Conventions or musical gatherings. We may also add, by way of preface, that Musical Conventions in this country date back to 1829—the first being held at Concord, N. H., in that year. These organizations have been effected in nearly all the States of the Union, and Conventions have been held with varied success, — principally in the northern States, however. The climax of these efforts was reached at the National Musical Festival and Peace Jubilee held in Boston, in June, 1869; on which occasion 10,600 singers, 1,078 instrumentalists, and a large organ, constructed for the occasion, discoursed in the most perfect and successful manner, some of the grandest Oratorio, Chor-

uses and Chorals ever composed by the old masters, and to an audience ranging from 25,000 to 40,000.

It is a very natural sequence that these public educational efforts should find the proper elements in which to propagate and thrive in these Western States, which are made up of the active, thriving, go-ahead people of the Nation.

Of this class, who are alive to the best educational interests of the people, Iowa is not a whit behind. Her public and private institutions; the immense outlays in the erection of suitable buildings, commodious and attractive in architecture, not excelled by any other State, in which to educate the youth, and the broad, expansive views adopted in providing for the free education of both sexes, prove this to a demonstration. With such a people and such resources as Iowa possesses, a branch of education so important in its details, so potent in its influence for good, and so universal in its application will not long be neglected.

Of the one hundred counties in the State the following are known to have organizations for the express object of holding Annual Conventions. There may be others: Boone, C. C. Hotchkiss, Pres't.; R. J. Crary, Sec'y. Dallas, J. H. Strong Pres't.; E. M. Cotton, Sec'y. Davis, Rev. R. Dodd, Pres't. Cedar, A. N. Kirk, Pres't. Iowa, Wm. A. Patrick, Pres't.; J. N. W. Rumble, Sec'y. Keokuk, J. A. Donnell, Pres't.; J. M. Adams, Sec'y. Louisa, B. F. Coe, Pres't. Marion, J. B. Cotton, Pres't.; C. C. Cory, Sec'y. Marshall, Wm. East, Pres't.; Jas. H. Roe, Sec'y. Story, John R. Hays, Sec'y. Woodbury, L. W. Stewart, Pres't.; Rev. Geo. B. Pratt, Sec'y. Clinton, Rev. J. G. Cowden, Pres't.; J. K. Kinney, Sec'y. In addition to the above is the "Iowa Central Musical Association," with Rev. S. N. Fellows, Pres't.; A. B. Cree, Vice-Pres't.; Sam'l. Welch, Sec'y.; C. F. Clark, Treas'r. Also the "Iowa State Musical Association," with J. B. Cotton, Pres't.; H. S. Perkins, Sec'y; and S. L. Waide, Treas'r.

The following chronological order of Conventions date from 1851 up to 1870: In the winter of 1851 a successful

Convention was held at Muscatine, conducted by Wm. B. Bradbury, of New York; One was held at Burlington, in Oct. 1856, conducted by Wm. B. Bradbury; at Lyons, Nov., 1856, conducted by C. M. Cady, of New-York, about one hundred singers in attendance; at Lyons, 1858, conducted by L. W. Wheeler, of Boston; Iowa City, in the fall of same year, the first Convention, conducted by J. Wm. Suffern; Iowa City, in 1860, conducted by Geo. F. Root; Muscatine, in the winter of 1862, conducted by Wm. B. Bradbury; Iowa City, in Nov., 1863, conducted by Geo. B. Loomis; Iowa City, in the fall of 1864, conducted by J. F. Fargo; Clarence, in January, 1865, conducted by Mark M. Jones, with a chorus of fifty singers; Des Moines, in March, 1865, conducted by V. C. Taylor, of Brooklyn, N.-Y.; Winterset, first Convention in Madison county, April, 1865, conducted by Mr. Taylor; Davenport, in the fall of same year, conducted by J. F. Fargo; Clinton, in October, same year, conducted by S. L. Coe; Cedar Rapids, in the fall of same year, conducted by J. F. Fargo; Muscatine, in Dec., 1865, conducted by J. F. Fargo; Iowa City, in the winter of same year, conducted by Mr. Fargo; Keokuk, same season, conducted by E. C. Kilburne, of Ashland, Ohio; New Oregon, fourth week in June, 1866, conducted by James Whitney, of Boston, sixty singers in attendance; Muscatine, in Nov., 1866, conducted by J. F. Fargo; Columbus City, in the fall of same year, conducted by E. A. VanMeter; Iowa City, in Nov., 1866, conducted by H. S. Perkins, of Boston; Muscatine, in Oct., 1867, conducted by H. S. Perkins; McGregor, week of Nov. 18th, conducted by L. O. Emerson, of Boston, with a fine chorus of one hundred and fifty singers; Marshalltown, week of Nov. 24th, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Grinnell, week of Dec. 2d, by Mr. Perkins, with a fine chorus of eighty-five voices; Newton, week of Dec. 9th, conducted by Mr. Perkins; West Union, week of Dec. 29th, conducted by Mark M. Jones, a chorus of fifty-five members; Knoxville, same year, first Convention of Marion county, conducted by J. B. Cotton, of Pella; Iowa City, week

of Jan. 6th, 1868, the first Iowa Central Convention, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Elkader, Clayton county, week of Jan. 6th, with forty members, conducted by Mark M. Jones; Belle Plaine, in Jan. under the leadership of H. R. Palmer, of Chicago; Clinton, week of Feb. 17th, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Waterloo, in same month, conducted by Geo. F. Root, of Chicago, a large chorus in attendance; Adel, week of April 19th, a fine chorus of ninety members, under the direction of H. S. Perkins; Vinton, same season, conducted by H. R. Palmer; Muscatine, in Sept., conducted by J. F. Fargo; Adel, week of Nov. 4th, by H. S. Perkins, a fine chorus of one hundred; Western (College), week of Nov. 23d, conducted by H. S. Perkins, with seventy-four members; Cedar Falls, fourth week in Nov., conducted by Geo. F. Root; Wapello, week of Dec. 7th, by the same; Tipton, week of Dec. 14th, by Mr. Perkins; Pella, week of Dec. 28th, with a membership of eighty, conducted by Mr. Perkins; Sioux City, first Convention of Woodbury county, the week of Jan. 18th, 1869, under the direction of H. S. Perkins; Belle Plaine, week of Jan. 25th, conducted by H. R. Palmer; Wilton, the week of Feb. 8th, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Mt. Pleasant, in Feb., conducted by V. C. Taylor, of Des Moines; Anamosa, same month, conducted by Geo. F. Root,—there was a large attendance; Bloomfield, first Convention of Davis county, week of Feb. 22d, conducted by H. S. Perkins, with a membership of ninety; Cedar Rapids, week of March 26th, conducted by Mr. Perkins; Indianola, first Convention of Marion county by the same; Montana, first Annual Convention of Boone county, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Marengo, week of May 23d, first Convention of Iowa county, conducted by Mr. Perkins; Nevada, same month, first Convention of Story county, under the direction of the same; Iowa City, week of July 25th, first Convention of the "Iowa State Musical Association," conducted by H. S. Perkins; Belle Plaine, in Sept., 1869, conducted by H. R. Palmer; Columbus City, fall of 1869, conducted by E. A. VanMeter, of Burlington; Ft. Dodge,

week of Oct. 4th, conducted by I. H. Bunn, of Cedar Falls; Sigourney, first Convention of Keokuk county, week of Dec. 21st, conducted by H. S. Perkins; Knoxville, third Annual Convention of Marion conducted by the same.

Considering that this is, comparatively, a new section of the country these Conventions have all been attended with an encouraging degree of success.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF IOWA.

BY HAWKINS TAYLOR, WASHINGTON CITY.

When the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, in 1836, almost one-half of the population of the Territory was in the counties of Des Moines and Dubuque, west of the Mississippi. In Governor Dodge's proclamation ordering an election for a delegate to Congress and members of the Legislature, he gave Des Moines county three members of the Council and Dubuque three, and Des Moine six members of the House and Dubuque five, being six of the thirteen members of the Council, and eleven of the twenty-five members of the House west of the Mississippi. At that election party politics had little influence on the voters, the election turning on the local and personal popularity of the individual candidate. Almost every settlement had a town of its own, and a new county mapped out that made their town the center, and that *must* be the county seat. Nothing as they felt was needed but to elect the right sort of men to the Legislature. Burlington elected Kinnie then, as "Flint Hills" was the first point settled west of the river, and was the principal town in the southern part of the Territory. At that time more than half of the population of Des Moines county of that day was inside of the boundaries of the present Des Moines county. That fact,