

swimmingly for the new institution, otherwise called the Marshall County High School. But from some defect in the school law these high schools did not receive help from the State, so that no permanent endowment fund could be made, and after a year or two the school languished.

The Lutheran Synod then approached the Trustees with a proposition to buy the College building for their own particular sect, and their denomination being influential would make it the best school in the State. The Synod was to give sixteen thousand dollars for it, but for impecunious reasons the money was not all paid over, and finally after a term of years Thos. Swearingen, Esq., obtained a judgment against the institution, and it is now under his control, although the Synod claim the stock.

The College, under the supervision of Prof. Schaefer, was a great success, but some evil spirit ever since has troubled it with misfortune, so that it never has numbered over twenty students since. The war injured it somewhat, and the citizens of Albion have not given it the support it needed. The history of Western Colleges, like that of Western Cities, is a varying one.

(To be Continued.)

PIONEERS OF MARION COUNTY.

BY WM. M. DONNEL.

(Concluded from page 390.)

On the 28th of September, 1861, Henry Haspers, having purchased the office of the old Pella *Gazette*, commenced the publication of a newspaper in the Holland language, called the *Pella's Weekblad* (*Weekly*). This paper was, and is, in the interest of the Democratic party, and enjoyed a good patronage,

being in a community where that party was largely dominant. On the 18th of June last (1870) Mr. Haspers, having been appointed by the Legislature to the office of Emmigrant Agent, sold the paper to H. Neyenech, by whom it is now conducted.

The Marion County *Republican* was purchased by B. F. Williams in Oct. '61, and edited by him till he sold it to Wm. G. Cambridge, Aug. '66. In '63—4 Mr. Williams rented the office to a printer named Griffin, who reduced it to half its original size, and issued it principally as an advertising sheet. In March, '67, Mr. Cambridge sold it to Sperry and Barker, by which transaction the *Republican* was finally discontinued.

In the winter of '64—5, Mr. C. S. Wilson, since connected with the Winterset *Madisonian*, purchased the press and type belonging to the *Democratic Standard*, moved them to Pella, and on the 3d of Feb., '65, commenced the publication of the *Pella Blade*.

Mr. Wilson was a radical Republican, and a writer of rather more than ordinary genius. In the local department he made the paper especially attractive by his peculiar style. In his salutatory he says:

“Acting, up to the time of the beginning of the rebellion, with the Democratic party, I have, since that time, had a heritage in none; but, believing that upon the success of the Republican (or Union) party, and the triumph of their principles, depend the rescue of the country from the hand of treason, and its existance among the family of nations, I have acted politically with that party. The BLADE will continue the advocacy of these principles, at the same time its columns will not fail to condemn whatever it judges to be incompatible with the public interest or the national honor.

“In the local department particular attention will be given to the spread of such intelligence concerning our city and county as will be of benefit to them.

“It will be my aim to make this journal acceptable as a family newspaper, and, to this end, the latest news, poetry, tales, agricultural affairs, and items of all kinds will find a

place in its columns. Believing that nothing tends more to the development of a county than a wide-awake newspaper, I shall endeavor to avoid the Rip Van Winkle style as much as possible."

As a sample of Mr. Wilson's wide-awake style, we are over-tempted to copy the following from the local department of his first number of the *Blade*:

"OUR DRAFT CORRESPONDENT.—We have secured the services of one of the ablest writers of the age, at a salary of \$25,000 per annum, to go West and correspond for the *Blade* from the Draft Regions. He will report weekly everything of interest that occurs among the numerous class of pilgrims who have so nobly taken their lives in their hands and—run away. If a rattle snake should be so uncourteous as to take a nip at the heel of one of these devoted pilgrims; if a grizzley should chance to indulge in a breakfast of pilgrim ham, or a Pen Perce fancy a collation of draft steak, he will duly report. He has also another mission. We are somewhat related to the Digger Indians, and it will be the business of our correspondent to take steps to prevent any of the valient pilgrims from marrying into the nation of Diggers, as we are careful of our blood, and do not want to have it polluted by any such intermingling."

After publishing the *Blade* for about a year, Mr. Wilson sold the press and type to Melick, who took them to Waterloo, Black Hawk Co., and printed the *Waterloo Courier*.

Soon after this the *Blade* was renewed by R. Crosby who, shortly afterwards, associated with him Jas. H. Betzer. In Dec., '67, Crosby sold his interest in the concern to H. G. Curtis, and, in Dec., '69, Curtis sold to A. T. Betzer. At this date the paper became a semi-weekly, in the firm of Betzer Brothers, and continues so to the present.

The *Marion County Democrat* (Knoxville) was first issued Sept. 19th, 1865, by J. L. McCormack, from a press and type he obtained in Missouri. In his salutatory he said:

"It is the intention to make this sheet a welcome visitor to

the fireside of every household; to give instruction, to afford pleasure and enjoyment in the perusal of its columns, and, if possible, to bring about a little better understanding in the minds of the people as to their true duties of neighborly citizenship."

After promising a fair share of its space to agricultural and mercantile interests, and also to the entertainment of the lovers of literature, he adds:

"In politics this paper will support the principles, and stand by the organization of the Democratic party. It acknowledges allegiance to none other, and will pay fealty to the behests of its regular organization alone.

"Believing that the safety of our republican institutions requires a return to the principles of the party that established the Union, we shall labor for the overthrow of the party now in power, and insist upon a return to the condition of things that existed before traitors endeavored to destroy the Government."

The *Democrat* is a large, well-conducted journal, and commands a liberal share of the public patronage.

In March, 1867, another paper was started in Pella, called the *Pella Gazette*. It was printed in the Holland language, devoted to the interests of the Republican party, and edited by G. Van Ginkel. After running about eighteen months it was discontinued, and the press was purchased by Snow and Huler, a mercantile firm in Pella, who issued a monthly journal for the purpose of advertising their business.

In March, 1869, Messrs. Sperry and Barker, formerly of the Guthrie County *Vidette*, exchanged printing offices with W. G. Cambridge, of the Marion County *Republican*; and on the 20th of June issued the first number of the *Iowa Voter*, at Knoxville. In his salutatory the editor says:

"The *Iowa Voter* will be a radically Republican newspaper, working as best it may to further the cause of Republicanism and the welfare and progress of all advocating impartial suffrage for the whole nation, and striving always to be a

prompt and reliable medium of general and local news—in short, a live Republican newspaper.”

The *Voter* has a large circulation, enjoys a large share of public patronage, and has rendered itself worthy the reputation of a good local journal.

On the 8th of Jan., 1868, a newspaper called “*Copperhead*” made its appearance in Pella, under the proprietorship of Bennett, McCully and Gamble. Owing to the novelty of its title, and the peculiar notoriety of one of its editors (Bennett) as a radical Democratic politician, its advent caused some sensation in political circles. The name was evidently chosen to offset the stigma intended to be fixed upon the Democratic party by the Republicans, when they gave it the name of a most poisonous reptile.

In his address “To the Public” the editor says in his well-known radical style:

“Our chief aim will be to make it a first-class Democratic paper, devoted to the interests of the great Democratic party, and the masses of devoted, industrious, honest men who support the Government, uphold its laws, and stand by its written Constitution, as expounded by the supreme judiciary of the land.”

Only eleven numbers of the paper were published in Pella. In the last week in March it was moved to Ottumwa, Wappalo Co., where it is still published by McCully and Evans, McCully remaining at Pella to attend to the interests of the firm in this County.

During its publication in Pella it and the *Blade* waged a violent personal warfare, in which the moral character of the combatants was subjected to a rigid scrutiny. When the *Copperhead* took its departure for Ottumwa the *Blade* came out with a roughly executed but amusing caricature of the event, representing a huge serpent borne partly on a hearse and partly on men’s shoulders, followed by several mourners.

In the Spring of 1870 the proprietors of the *Blade*, *Democrat* and *Voter* entered into a written agreement pledging

themselves to the advance payment system on subscription, to begin on the first of June. At first this was thought to be a rather hazardous policy where the credit system had so long been the practice. But the new rule, though rigidly adhered to, has proved quite as successful as the publishers could have desired.

CHAPTER XV.

IOWA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY.—MARION COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

Among the public institutions that have been established in Marion County within the past few years, as evidence of her prosperity and enterprize, the three important ones mentioned above may be deemed worthy of special notice. And we regret our inability, owing to the lack of sufficient information, to give a more detailed history of them.

In the spring or summer of 1853, a society was organized by the Baptist Church, at Pella, looking to the establishment and endowment of a school there, to be called the Iowa Central University. The following are the names of the officers:

Faculty.

Rev. ELIHU GUNN, Rev. E. H. SCARFF, Prof. A. N. CURRIER,
MISS S. J. STODDARD, MISS MARSE.

Directors.

President, E. GUNN; *Vice-President*, E. M. SCARFF;
Treasurer, HENRY P. SCHOLTE.

Besides these there were about thirty trustees chosen. From their address, delivered at the fourth annual meeting, we quote the reasons set forth for the location of this institution at Pella:

“The denomination, wherever its will has been expressed upon the subject, has always demanded a central location.

Another location, provisionally made, was almost universally rejected in the State Convention, and mainly on the ground that it was sectional in its location. And with the best reason. When almost all the other denominational schools were located on or near the line of the Mississippi river, why should we not take possession of the magnificent field left open to us in the central part of the State?

“Pella is situated within thirty miles of the geographical centre of the State, in the immediate vicinity of the Des Moines river—the great channel of inland communication, and the centre of the commerce and manufactures of the State for all time; near, also, to the point where several of the great railroad lines which intersect the State are to converge, and in the very heart of the great coal field of the State, the richest, perhaps, in the world, and in one of the most beautiful and healthy portions of this or any other country.

‘Combining all these advantages, it is yet far enough removed from any great centre of trade and commerce to have all the advantages of a quiet country location. Of the advantages of a country over a city location for a college, one of the most respected of the living Fathers of our denomination, and one of the most experienced in such matters, in a recent production on the subject, wrote as follows:

“‘Instead of farmers and other persons from the villages or country sending their sons to a great commercial city, into the vortex of commercial speculations, political excitement, fashion, frivolity and dissipation in every form, those families who desire to preserve their sons from the contamination of city intercourse will send them to a college situated in a rural village.’

“Such a village is Pella; quiet and retired, it is yet populous enough to secure all the advantages of good society, and near enough to the great thoroughfares of travel to be at all times easy of access. It is also noted for the quiet and orderly habits of its people, as well as for their moral and religious character. To such a place parents can send their children

with every assurance that their habits and morals will be safe."

Large endowments were secured; and, in 1856, a beautiful and commodious brick building was erected in the south-west part of the city, on ground donated for the purpose by Rev. Henry P. Scholte. It was, however, not completed till some time in 1857, and was first opened for the reception of pupils on the 1st of Sept. of that year.

The building stands in the centre of a beautiful park. The dimensions are 50 by 70 feet, three stories high, with a basement besides; contains fourteen rooms, including a large chapel, a library and a museum, and is capable of comfortably accommodadting three hundred pupils. Its entire cost was between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

In 1857 the report of the trustees announced the reception of an endowment of \$50,000, in scholarships of \$100 each, and the prospect of another large endowment soon to follow. The school has been well patronized with attendance and donations, and is now in a flourishing condition.

In 1856 the agricultural interests of the County seemed to demand an organized plan for its encouragement, and to facilitate the dissemination of such intelligence as might be useful in the various departments of the business. The only one calculated to effect the end desired, was to organize a society, appoint a time and place for a general meeting of the farmers, and award premiums for the best samples of live stock, grain, fruits, &c.

So the Marion County Agricultural Society was organized during the year above mentioned, and the first fair was held on the public square in Knoxville, in October. Only a few animals were exhibited, and, consequently, but few premiums were awarded. For the want of any other room for the purpose, the old court room was used as a floral hall.

The next exhibition, in Sept. of the year following, was held on the common a little west of town, where tables were set in

the open air for the display of vegetables, small mechanical and artistic products.

These means of exhibition being totally inadequate to the increasing wants of the society, a joint stock company was formed in 1858, who purchased a beautiful plat of ground one mile north of town, and put it in sufficient repair for the use of the society that autumn.

Eight acres of the ground belonged to Drury Overton, and two to Thomas Clark, and were described as the north-east quarter of the north-east quarter of the north-east quarter of section (1) one, town (75) seventy-five, range (20) twenty.

The ground is a beautiful and gentle incline southward, in a natural grove well shaded, enclosed by a high board fence, provided with a commodious hall, pens and stalls for the use of stock, and a good well of water.

The first fair was held in it in 1858. In June, 1870, it was deeded to the Society. The fair in Sept. of this year was well attended, and the finance of the Society reported to be in a good condition.

During the last few years, previous to the robbery, the treasury was constantly subjected to heavy drafts upon the poor fund. From some cause or other the number of paupers seemed to have increased, and the expenses of their support began to be looked upon as burdensomely heavy, particularly in the case of those who were invalids under the care of physicians. Some retrenchment in this department was deemed advisable, even at a considerable cost to start with.

Though it was known that many of those who were cared for at public expense, were worthy subjects thereof, it was yet supposed that not a few would prefer to make some effort to earn their own support than submit to the humiliating condition of becoming inmates of a poor house.

So, in 1865, a movement was made by the Board of Supervisors, looking toward the purchase of a farm and the erection of a house to become the home of such helpless persons in the county as were otherwise homeless and friendless. A com-

mittee was appointed to select a location and contract for its purchase, and in due time reported in favor of the west half of the north-west quarter, and the north-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section 14; and the west half of the south-west quarter of the north-west quarter of section 10, 120 acres, all in town 75, range 20, belonging to Elisha^v Elliot, and situated about two and a half miles south-west of the city of Knoxville. Cost \$1,200.

The purchase of this land was made on the 15th of Dec., 1865; and, in the spring and summer following, the whole of it was fenced and forty acres broke, part of it planted in corn and wheat, all at a cost of about \$800.

The contract for building the house was let to the lowest bidder, and was awarded to Jacob^v Reichard, in July, 1866, at \$4,450. It is a large three story frame building, the basement story being fitted for a kitchen. The second and third are each traversed by a hall between two rows of rooms. Stables and other out buildings were added to the place some time after.

The contract for overseer and physician were awarded to^v John Robinson and Dr. Wetherell, under whose care the County poor were comfortably provided for in their new home.

The experiment proved quite a success. The number of paupers was greatly reduced, and the support of the remainder so systematized as to make it much less expensive.

FINIS.

"THE BIG BOTTOM," OR "NORTH BEND" OF THE IOWA RIVER.^v

BY N. ZELLER,^v PENN TOWNSHIP, JOHNSON COUNTY.

John^v Gaylor and Alonzo C.^v Denison were the first men who made claims with the intention of settling in what is now known as Penn and Madison Townships, Johnson County. Both were from Bureau County, Ills. Gaylor arrived late in

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