

istrators of the business affairs of the counties, still retained the probate business until the establishment of the circuit and general term courts. Their duties were assigned to the first named court. (See Ch. 86, Laws 12th G. A.) By a law (Ch. 160) of that session, creating the office of county auditor, it was further enacted that—"The county judge in each county shall be, *ex-officio*, auditor after the first day of January, 1869, and shall discharge the duties of county auditor until the auditor shall be elected and qualified; and after the said auditor shall be elected and qualified, the office of county judge shall cease."

MESSAGES AND PROCLAMATIONS OF THE GOVERNORS.

We have at this writing received Vols. I and II of this important work, which has been issued by the State Historical Society, at Iowa City, under the editorship of Prof. B. F. Shambaugh. This publication is modeled upon the Messages and Documents of the Presidents of the United States, which was issued from the government printing office a few years ago. At the present time we shall attempt no review of the work, for that is to be done for our pages by another hand later on, when the remaining volumes are published. Few works of Iowa history have ever been projected which can equal this in its value for reference or careful study. Within its pages the student may read at first hand the views and opinions of our governors from the times of old General Robert Lucas to those of Albert B. Cummins. It is really an epitome of the official and general history of the Territory and State of Iowa. And then, again, the memories of our governors have been rapidly "fading into the azure of the past." Once a governor retires from his honored place he is apt to be speedily forgotten. (The State has never troubled itself to the extent of even securing their oil portraits. Until quite recently there were not even name-

plates upon the seven or eight which had found their way into the state house several years ago. Few, indeed, were the persons who could identify these old portraits.) Aside from its great importance as a historical work, this publication will rehabilitate, in the public memory, our line of excellent governors, some of whom were men of national reputations, who will always be classed as among the ablest and most illustrious men of the middle west. Several of our executives will be promoted to higher ranks in the general esteem as their writings, long begrimed with dust, come forth from the dim "cubby-holes" in the capitol, to be read and studied by the students of Iowa history whose numbers are now constantly increasing. It will also revive the memories of many other good men. Reading their utterances upon the issues of their administrations, the student will be able to form his own estimate of their ability and statesmanship. This work will become the proud and imperishable monument of the governors of Iowa. Prof. Shambaugh has performed his task as editor most admirably, and his work will be sure to find its way into every considerable library in Iowa.

TWO MURAL TABLETS.

The Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, during the present summer, will place in the State Historical Building, a beautiful bronze tablet, the purpose of which is to keep green the memories of the five Revolutionary soldiers who died and were buried in this State. We gave the records of these soldiers, so far as the same could be obtained, in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. V, pp. 150-153. This tablet is now (June 7) in progress of manufacture by the Tiffanys of New York City. It is to be 35x29 inches in size, and will cost \$300. It will be presented by a member of this honorable society, and accepted by Governor Albert B. Cummins. It is an important work and one of the few of its kind in Iowa. One of the earliest was a beautiful brass

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