

set forth in the latest Iowa supreme court decision it would be necessary only for Ottumwa to hold a new election and make provisions for a new bond issue which would be legal. There are other guesses at the probable significance of the St. Louis decision, but it would not be profitable to go into them in view of the fact that the text of the decision should soon be available to speak for itself.

Whatever may be the merits of this particular controversy, it is regarded as a safe legal proposition that the Iowa courts must be left to themselves in interpreting State laws and State constitutional requirements. It may be believed that the details of the St. Louis ruling will disclose no serious interference with this general principle.—*Sioux City Journal*, Dec. 1, 1902.

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### AN OLD NEWSPAPER.

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Judge C. M. Waterman, of Davenport, until recently an honored trustee of the Historical Department, sends us a copy of *The Providence* (R. I.) *Gazette*, of Saturday, April 4, 1801. It is a quaint old journal of the times when a great many curious customs prevailed in the art of printing, among them the use of the archaic s, which resembled the letter f so closely that in a font of old type, considerably worn, they can hardly be distinguished the one from the other. The sheet is a small folio—four pages of four columns each. The paper was then in its 38th volume, so it must have been started in 1763, several years before the revolutionary war. The entire sheet is exceedingly quaint and old-fashioned, affording a striking contrast to journals of these times—102 years later.

We copy an address by the Massachusetts Legislature to President John Adams, then just retired from official life, together with his reply:

#### ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*To John Adams, Esquire:*

At the moment, Sir, that you are descending from the exalted station of the First Magistrate of the American nation, to mingle with the mass of your fellow-citizens, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, your native State, embrace the occasion, to pour forth the free will offering of their sincere thanks,

for the many important and arduous services you have rendered your country.

In the performance of this act, the Legislature have but one heart, and that vibrates with affection, respect and gratitude, for your virtues, talents and patriotism.

We conceive it unnecessary to detail the character of him, whose life, from earliest manhood, has been eminently devoted to the public good; this will be the delightful employment of the faithful and able historian.

Our posterity will critically compare the illustrious characters which have elevated the condition of man, and dignified civil society, through the various ages of the world, and will with grateful effusions and conscious pride point to that of their beloved countrymen.

The period of the Administration of our General Government under the auspices of Washington and Adams, will be considered as among the happiest eras of time.

The example of their integrity possesses a moral and political value, which no calculation can reach, and will be justly estimated as a standard for future Presidents of the United States.

We receive you, Sir, with open arms, esteem and veneration; confidently hoping that you will possess undisturbed those blessings of domestic retirement, which great minds always appreciate and enjoy with dignity.

We devoutly supplicate the Father of the Universe, that you may realize, while you continue on earth, all the happiness of which human nature is susceptible; and, when your course shall be finished here, that your spirit may receive the transcendent rewards of the Just.

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THE ANSWER.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts:*

The very respectful, affectionate and obliging address, which has been presented to me by the President of the Sen-

ate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, by your order, has awakened all my sensibility and demands my most grateful acknowledgments.

As the various testimonials of the approbation and affection of my fellow-citizens of Massachusetts, which have been indulged to me from my earliest youth, have ever been esteemed the choicest blessings of my life, so this final applause of the Legislature, so generously given, after the close of the last scene, of the last act, of my political drama, is more precious than any which preceded it. There is now no greater felicity remaining for me to hope or desire, than to pass the remainder of my days in repose, in an undisturbed participation of the common privileges of our fellow-citizens under your protection.

The satisfaction you have found in the administration of the general government, from its commencement, is highly agreeable to me, and I sincerely hope that the twelve years to come will not be less prosperous or happy for our country.

With the utmost sincerity I reciprocate your devout supplications for the happiness of yourselves, your families, constituents and posterity.

JOHN ADAMS.

QUINCY, MARCH 26, 1801.

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WESTERN ENTERPRISE.—From a letter received by Dr. M. H. Clark from Wm. Dewey, civil and topographical engineer, who was engaged to make a preliminary survey of a route for a railroad from Fort Desmoines to Council Bluffs, Iowa, we learn that he arrived at the Bluffs April 5th, and that the proposed route is even better than reported heretofore. He feels confident that no proposed road in this State can be constructed with less expense than this. He will now examine the country adjacent to the Bluffs, and explore the Boyer river and several other streams, and embody the whole of his surveys and explorations in his report, which will be made during the early part of summer at farthest.—*The Andrew Western Democrat, April 23, 1851.*

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