

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

tablet which Hamilton county erected as a memorial to the company sent from there to Spirit Lake in the expedition of 1857. This will doubtless be followed by others from time to time hereafter.

Several gentlemen in Benton county have recently started a subscription to provide a brass or bronze tablet to be placed, with the consent of the Board of Control, in the Asylum for the Blind at Vinton, to the memory of Captain Thomas Drummond. Previous to 1861 he was a well known editor and politician, and his claim upon the gratitude of his State and county rests upon the fact that, aside from his record as a soldier, he was the principal factor in the founding of the Iowa Asylum for the Blind. He was for many years editor of *The Vinton Eagle*, which he conducted with a good degree of ability. Drummond was one of the earliest Benton county men to offer his services to the government at the outbreak of the civil war. Through the efforts of United States Senators Grimes and Harlan, he was appointed second lieutenant in the famous Seventh cavalry. Governor Kirkwood later on appointed him lieutenant-colonel of the Third Iowa cavalry, with which, however, he remained but a short time. Returning to his old command in the regular army, he rose to the grade of captain, for some time ranking General Custer, who belonged to that regiment. He was mortally wounded in the battle of Five Forks, Va., when the fighting was practically over, and died a few hours later. At that time he was the senior officer of the regiment present and in command. He was a member of the Iowa house of representatives in 1858, and a state senator in 1860. It is most praiseworthy on the part of the people of Benton county thus to do honor to his memory. He was an able editor, a useful citizen in private life, an active and influential legislator, and a brave soldier whose brilliant young life was given to his country.

It has required much effort to get this work of honoring our own heroes started in this good State of Iowa, but with such examples it ought to be easier hereafter.

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