

of Gen. Dodge and Mr. Henderson are viewed daily by scores of Iowans by whom they are as cordially approved. For the present they are the private property of Ex-Gov. William Larrabee through whose munificence the State will doubtless ere long become indebted for their ownership. The statue of Gen. Dodge we believe to be one of more than ordinary excellence while that of Col. Henderson is, to say the least, as correct a piece of portraiture as we have ever seen in bronze or marble. These magnificent statues will come back to Iowa in December, but we believe that Gov. Larrabee has not yet indicated the localities where they will find permanent abiding places.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Administration of Iowa. A Study in Centralization, by Harold Martin Bowman. Columbia University Press, N. Y., pp. 224.

A scholarly treatise upon Iowa legislation and administration with reference to Public Education, Charities and Corrections, Health and Safety, and Public Finance. In a study of the laws upon these subjects, and of the reports upon them made to the legislature, the author traces a steady trend towards the centralization of their management, in the interest of efficiency and economy. For want of such management under the Territorial government, and in the early years of the State, the sixteenth section of every township that was given by Congress for the support of schools, and the seventy-two sections given for the State University, were largely frittered away, so that the fund from the former amounts to hardly five million dollars, and the fund from the latter to only a quarter million dollars. At the same time, it is not to be forgotten that a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who had charge of the permanent school fund (1856-7), abused the trust, and was a defaulter to that fund. *Quis custodit custodes?* is a constantly recurring question under every system of government, civil, ecclesiastical, monarchical, imperial, democratic, or republican. Eternal vigilance is the price of honesty, as of liberty. Whether the distribution or the centralization of power is best, depends upon the virtue and intelligence of those who hold the power. A mob or a despot are equally detestable. Both individualism and populism, the primaries of parties no less than the general elections, require guards and restraints, search-lights and the X-ray. Thomas Jefferson said that only two questions are to be asked as to a candidate for office: First, Is he capable? Second, Is he honest? When other matters override these questions, mal-administration, intrigue and corruption are sure to follow; such is human nature; so weak is man.

The author gives to Iowa the credit of limiting the indebtedness of

municipal corporations to five per cent on the value of their taxable property, twenty years in advance of other states. A favorable view is taken of the State Board of Education (1858-1863), and of its plan and spirit and personnel; and that it was not given a longer test is regretted.

The work of the Board of Control of Charities and Corrections is reviewed with high commendation; and an application of similar intelligent and wise regulations on the part of the State to our educational and other public interests is looked forward to as required in order to promote the advancement of the Commonwealth.

w. s.

History of the Louisiana Purchase, by James Q. Howard. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, 1902, pp. 170.

This volume gives a brief and condensed account of Louisiana from the times of De Soto and Marquette. Written in a clear and animated style, it traces the earlier influence of Washington, John Adams and Hamilton in the course of events that led to the acquisition of Louisiana, as well as the work of Jefferson and Livingston in the Purchase. Speaking of Iowa among the States that have come out of the Purchase, Mr. Howard characterizes in this way three of the public men of the State: "The third State Governor, James W. Grimes, was uniquely and sternly fixed in his anti-slavery and temperance principles. Under the patriotic Governor Kirkwood, Iowa furnished 78,059 men to the Union armies. The brainiest and greatest of this State's historic men was Justice Samuel F. Miller."

w. s.

A CORRECTION.

EDITOR ANNALS:—By your permission I desire to correct an error which has been pointed out in my article published in the ANNALS of April last. On page 376, occurs the following statement: "The next town we reached was West Point, once the county seat of Lee county. It was there that Steven and William Hodges were tried, convicted, and hung in 1845, for the murder of Miller and Liecy, on May the 10th of that year."

After looking up this case more fully, I find that the Hodges were indicted and arraigned for trial at West Point, but their attorneys took a change of venue and the case was sent to Des Moines county for trial; that their trial and execution took place at Burlington instead of West Point, as stated in my article. I make this correction that the history of this interesting case may be kept straight.

A prominent citizen of Henry county takes exception to a statement in reference to the town of Salem, found on page 377, as follows: "Salem was at that time a station on the underground railroad, and this fact made it a historic place. It had been settled by the abolitionists during the fifties." The language used here is not very explicit, but the word "settled" was not intended to apply to the time of the settlement of Salem, but to the time the underground railroad went into operation.

C. L. LUCAS.

MADRID, IOWA, May 25, 1904.

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