

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.

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*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.

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## 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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