

that split the air. No one in particular was chargeable with the blunders that were made. All were at fault and recriminations now are futile. Let us rejoice rather that the one great mistake was not committed. And here again we of Iowa may well look aloft, because among the clear-eyed men who saw the dangers to the nation in the storms that were raging about them and staunch in their high-minded patriotism stood steadfast against wrong courses was James W. Grimes, the illustrious Senator from Iowa. H.

TERRITORIAL JOURNALS MISSING.

We do not miss things till we want them. Then we suffer astonishment and aggravation to find that data or documents that we supposed easily accessible are not obtainable. This rather prosaic platitude is suggested by a footnote in Professor Herriott's article on "Legislation in Iowa Prior to 1858" in this number of *THE ANNALS*. At the bottom of his statistical table (No. I), showing the bills introduced in the legislature and the laws passed and vetoed during the days of the territory, he states that the Journals of the Proceedings of the Council and House of Representatives of the Legislature that convened in extra session in July, 1844, are not only unprinted, but what is worse the originals can not be found in the office of the Secretary of State. The fact that the Journals were not printed is not strange. Nor would it be more than an inconvenience to the public and to scholars if the originals were safe and sound among the State's archives. It will be recalled that the Historical Department in 1902 printed for the first time the Journals of the two houses in the special session in 1840. But if the Journals are lost beyond recovery it is a loss of very serious character. So great is it that we are prone to hope that further diligent search will result in the discovery

and restoration of the official journals to their proper place in the files.

It seems needless to emphasize the urgent necessity that always exists for carefully preserving the original papers and all accompanying documents pertaining to the official transactions of each and all departments of government no matter to what office or department or division of government they may relate, whether legislative, judicial or executive, whether State or local. Upon the sanctity and preservation of official records depend, constantly, human life, prosperity and happiness. The efficacy of laws, titles to property, the integrity of families, the assurance of character and reputation to men and women, rest secure only when our public archives contain, safe from fire, rust, mould and disturbance, the official records that show the actions relative thereto, that show the beginnings, development, conditions and guarantees of title to rights. How many laws have been set aside by the courts in recent years because the exhibits of legislative journals have shown that the requirements of the constitution have been ignored or infringed! They have been not a few. Now this means that millions of dollars in property rights, untold human happiness or misery and incalculable disorganization in business and industry, rest upon the due preservation of official records in our public archives.

A FORTHCOMING BOOK.

Sometime during the remainder of the year a book will be published in Cedar Rapids which will possess much interest to the students of early Iowa and western history. The work will be brought out by the "Ioway Club," an organization of four gentlemen of that city who intend to issue a series of historical publications of which this will be the first. In the main it is a reprint of "Notes on the Wis-

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