

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE HISTORICAL BUILDING ASSURED.

On Tuesday, March 29, 1904, the Senate passed the House bill appropriating \$200,000 for the completion of the Historical Building, the corner-stone of which was laid May 17, 1899. The measure was introduced in the House by Hon. Emory H. English, of Polk county, and in the Senate by Hon. C. J. A. Ericson, of Boone county. These gentlemen and many other stout friends of the Historical Department had earnestly promoted the measure and to them the State owes its congratulations for the favorable conclusion reached by the 30th General Assembly.

It is needless perhaps for us who have sought this consummation for many years past to say that we feel no small degree of satisfaction over the action of the legislature. As we cannot begin to express it we shall not try to do so. The scores of letters that have come to us from all sections of the State from well-wishers and old-time friends and the universal approbation given the act by the press of the State assure us that the realization of our hopes and aspirations is likewise the fulfillment of hopes long entertained by the best people of Iowa.

But while it is only natural that we who have been so long working for the promotion of the Historical Library, Art Gallery and Museum should experience much personal pleasure over the passage of the appropriation bill, we feel no less strongly that those most to be congratulated are the people of Iowa and the children who are to come after them. To this Department with its library, its large and ever increasing treasures of historic lore, its archives and

precious mementoes, our students and scholars, our press and our law makers will come more and more as the years roll on, and we indulge in no idle dream when we assert that to them it will prove endlessly useful and inspiring in infinitely various ways to the better upbuilding of our great commonwealth.

THE FOUNDER OF SALUBRIA.

Time works wonderful changes in our estimates of men and their work. Fifty years ago the name of Abner Kneeland was one to conjure with in Iowa. The pious and devout never spoke it except in tense terms. Throughout the land from New England to the Missouri it was anathema. Almost universally Kneeland was regarded as the arch advocate of atheism and the blasphemous promoter of infidelity to the commandments and institutions of the Most High and he and all his works were in the *Index Expurgatorious*. Even yet some whose memories go back to the decades preceding the civil war may think as much.

But increasing years have softened the shadows that once made Kneeland's name loom large and awful in the imagination of the Christian churchman. Commerce, science, sociology, and higher criticism in the past fifty years have produced vast and momentous changes in man's notions of theology and of the authority of doctrine and creed. The heresies of the last centuries have become the commonplace and the matter of fact of to-day. The terrific controversies of our forefathers astonish us and we wonder what could have made men and women get so exercised over views that now strike us as tame, immaterial or vain or mayhap as simply sensible.

The days of our pioneers are so rapidly passing that only the very elect who yet remain with us will have vivid memories stirred by Miss Whitcomb's interesting article in

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