

### A VALUABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENT.

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It will be remembered by our readers that we published in THE ANNALS for July, 1893, an article entitled "The Chain of Title to Iowa," which, aside from the editorial comment, was an original compilation of historical facts, by Mr. Frank E. Landers of Webster City. It presented in compact form a statement of the different jurisdictions which had asserted or exercised authority over the territory included within the boundaries of our State, from the days of Pope Alexander VI (1493), to the present time, including the dates of each. This paper, which cost the compiler months of laborious research, is included in the recently published census of this State, or it may be had separately by addressing the author. The information which it contains is in frequent request by teachers and writers, and it is for their benefit that we refer to it at this time.

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### THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL MATERIAL.

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Most men seem incapable of perceiving the real differences between present and future goods: the values of future goods are too frequently underestimated. The future is constantly being sacrificed to the present. And nowhere is this general truth more clearly seen than in the study of history. Daily important historical material is being neglected, thrown away, destroyed, through failure to appreciate its future value. And daily are students of history deploring the results.

The preservation of historical material is a matter of public concern: for history is not individualistic; it is social. The collection, preservation and publication of historical data is now generally recognized as a proper function of government. But of few of the American Commonwealths can it be said that they have adequately provided for the exercise of this function. Historical societies and departments have been established; but few of them are at present

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