

tenances to be selected by the owner thereof, and not included in any town plat, or city, or village, or instead thereof at the option of the owner, a quantity of land not exceeding in amount one-fourth of an acre, being within a recorded town plat, or city, or village, and the dwelling-house thereon, and its appurtenances, owned and occupied by any resident of the State, shall not be subject to forced sale on execution or any other final process from a court, for any debt or liability, contracted after the fourth day of July in the year 1849: Provided, That the value of such exempted homestead, or town lot and dwelling thereon shall in no case exceed the sum of five hundred dollars.

2. Such exemption shall not affect any laborer's or mechanic's lien, or extend to any mortgage thereon lawfully obtained; but such mortgage or other alienation of such land by the owner thereof, if a married man, shall not be valid without the signature of the wife to the same.

The other sections of the law simply defined its application and provided for its enforcement.

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### THE OLD FORTS IN IOWA.

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The editor of *THE ANNALS* is making an effort to secure an accurate history of the forts or posts which were established by the general government in early times, to protect our pioneer citizens from the depredations of the Indians under British influence, and later on to keep the tribes at peace with each other and restrain them from interference with the advancing tide of settlement. With each article we hope to be able to present an engraving from an authentic drawing of the fort or post described. We have already published articles on Fort Armstrong, at Rock Island, and on the old block-house and stockade at Council Bluffs. Through the kindness of Brig. Gen. D. W. Flagler, Chief of Ordnance of the U. S. Army, we present in this number a circumstantial account of the establishment of Fort Madison, on the site of the flourishing little city now bearing that name, and of the vicissitudes attending its occupation and final abandonment. The engraving shows a ground plan of the fort—the outer dotted line indicating the form and bounds of the stockade. This was about twelve feet high and doubtless loopholed for defense by small arms. The

gentleman who prepared the article sets forth some of the statements which have appeared in well-known works in regard to this frontier post, all of which were singularly incorrect and misleading. The present publication will undoubtedly command the reader's confidence, for it was carefully made up from official documents in the War Department. The engraving from which our cut was made was drawn from the original on file in the office of the Adjutant General. We hope to include in the files of *THE ANNALS*—though it will take some time to accomplish this result—a history of each of these ancient posts accompanied with a good illustration.

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### EARLY REFERENCES TO IOWA.

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Just before setting out to visit San Remo, Italy, in 1895, our friend, William Michael Rossetti, of London, England, purchased some books to read while absent on his journey. Among them was one entitled "Vieux Souvenirs, 1818-1848," by the Prince de Joinville, third son of Louis Philippe, who reigned as King of the French from 1830 to 1848. This book had then reached its twenty-first edition. The Prince was born in 1818. He entered the naval service in 1841-2, and while so employed made a voyage to America. While on this side of the Atlantic he determined to see something of the United States and Canada, and especially of those regions which had been settled or explored by his own countrymen. It was in the course of his journeyings that he got a glimpse of Iowa. Mr. Rossetti has kindly translated for *THE ANNALS* the passage regarding that part of our present State which was seen by the French Prince:

Having reached the Mississippi, I had not time for descending the river down to New Orleans. We were compelled to descend the Mississippi down to its junction with the Ohio; to remount by this river to Cincinnati; and to reach from there, in mail-coach, the railways of the old states of the Atlantic coast. This return voyage was effected not without some casualties. In the descent of the Upper Mississippi our vessel got into several scrapes. One of these retained us a longish while beside the

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