

## THE REUNION OF 1882.

On the 19th day of January, 1857, the third Iowa Constitutional Convention met at Iowa City. The following is a list of its members: Edward Johnstone, William Patterson, Squire Ayers, Timothy Day, M. W. Robinson, J. C. Hall, D. P. Palmer, James F. Wilson, Rufus L. B. Clarke, George Gillaspay, John Edwards, Amos Harris, Daniel H. Solomon, Daniel W. Price, David Bunker, Jeremiah Hollingsworth, James A. Young, H. D. Gibson, Lewis Todhunter, J. A. Parvin, W. Penn Clarke, George W. Ells, Robert Gower, Aylett R. Cotton, Hosea W. Gray, J. C. Traer, Harvey J. Skiff, Thomas Seely, William A. Warren, A. H. Marvin, J. H. Emerson, John H. Peters, Alpheus Scott, Sheldon G. Winchester, John T. Clark.

The officers were as follows: FRANCIS SPRINGER, President; W. Blair Lord, Reporter; Dr. Thomas J. Saunders, Secretary; Ellsworth N. Bates, Assistant Secretary; S. C. Trowbridge, Sergeant-at-Arms; Francis Thompson, Door Keeper; James O. Hawkins, Messenger.

This convention gave the people of Iowa the Constitution which, with sundry amendments, is still the fundamental law of our State.

Twenty-five years afterward, January 19, 1882, the surviving members of the convention held their only reunion in the city of Des Moines—meeting first in the United States District Court Room and afterward in Moore's Opera House. Eight of the members were dead, and eight of the survivors were unable to be present and sent letters of regret. Hon. Francis Springer, as was most appropriate, presided, and Dr. T. J. Saunders acted as Secretary. Hon. T. S. Parvin was chosen Assistant Secretary. Probably the most important portions of the proceedings were the address of Judge George G. Wright and the response by the President, Hon. Francis Springer. These addresses we present in full in this number of *THE ANNALS*. Judge Wright's is from the report in the *Daily Register*, of the next morning, where it was no

doubt printed from his own written copy. Judge Springer's has had the benefit of his own revision.

This reunion, a portion of which the writer was privileged to attend, was an interesting and notable affair, and attracted much attention at the time. A beautiful programme was issued, of which copies were printed on white satin. Alderman J. J. Williams, in the absence of the Mayor, extended a cordial welcome to the freedom and hospitality of the city to the distinguished guests. The roll was called by the Secretary, letters were read from absent members and invited guests, and eloquent addresses were delivered by Hon. Messrs. James F. Wilson, D. H. Solomon, Aylett R. Cotton, R. L. B. Clarke, D. W. Price, Edward Johnstone and others. The honors accorded the surviving members were rounded out on the evening of the 19th, following the exercises in the Opera House, by a splendid reception and supper at the home of Mr. L. Harbach, at which there was a large attendance. On the whole, the occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by these eminent pioneer law-makers, as well as by those who had the good fortune to attend this memorable reunion. Especial mention is often made by members of the convention who are still living, of the kindness and hospitality of the Capital City on that occasion, and of the attention bestowed upon them by Gov. B. R. Sherman, Hon. Messrs. George G. Wright and P. M. Casady, Mr. L. Harbach and others. It is a distinct loss to the State that the proceedings were not carefully reported in full and published in pamphlet form.

Of the convention the following memorabilia have been secured by the Historical Department: Two copies of the full stenographic reports of its proceedings— one the gift of Hon. W. J. Moir, of Eldora, and the other from the State Historical Society; one copy of its now very scarce official journal, the gift of Hon. John Mahin, of Muscatine, who printed the volume; and a set of original daguerrestypes of its members and officers. The official copy of the Constitution, signed by its makers, is preserved intact in the office of the Secretary of State. The records left by the two preced-

ing constitutional conventions are unfortunately very meager. As a part of so much of this record as refers personally to Judge Springer, we copy the following expressions of the press at the time of this memorable reunion. *The Louisa County Record* of January 26, 1882, said:

Judge Springer has been honored by Louisa county, and he has honored the county by his bold and noble life. He came to this country when he was scarcely past boyhood (or years), and here he bore Iowa was admitted as a sovereign State of the Union. He has served the county and State in various important positions for the past forty years, and every word spoken in his praise reflects honor on the whole county, whose citizens have always been anxious to bestow a tribute on one to whom they have never butingly, and now after almost his sixtieth year passed as a public servant, and in all the varied and trying positions in which he has served the county, State and Nation, it must be quite vain to think as well as his friends who love him that no respectable person has ever charged him with a dishonorable act. We hope he may live many years to reap the fruits of a well spent life.

We take the following from an editorial in the *Des Moines Daily Register* of January 20, 1882:

Twenty of the members and most of the all-star convention of twenty-five years ago were on the stage, and a splendid looking lot of men they were, much superior even to what had even now been expected. It was a proof that fine looking men have been the fashion in Iowa from the first. Judge Springer, the President twenty-five years ago and again yesterday, past three score and ten years, is even the gentleman of this respect and respectability, and wears his years gracefully. He surprised and delighted all present by the preserved vigor and undimmed force of his mental powers, and was a presiding officer in every way worthy of the distinguished occasion. The people of Iowa would be content to present him as their type of a true man and higher ideal of government. He has lived in Iowa a long life that is without a stain, has filled it constantly with good works and good deeds, has won the respect and kept the friendship of his fellow men, and served the State with equal fidelity and ability. A man so admirable, so deserving to be warmly cherished, let it be our grace to this occasion of yesterday, and here his honor with such quiet yet perfect dignity as to gain renewed admiration from all who witnessed the ceremonies.

We will only add that Judge Springer has spent the past winter at his long-time home in Columbus Junction, in excellent health for one of his years, his perfect habits of living having enabled him to withstand an attack of the grip which came upon him in the winter. All who enjoy the acquaintance of the venerable statesman, as well as those who read his personal recollections in the last number of *THE ANNALS*, will join us in the hope that he may long be spared to his kindred and the State he has served with such fidelity and distinction.

## THE BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL.

It has been well stated by some writer that no correct realization of the war of the rebellion would be possible until the private soldiers should write their recollections of the

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