

origin and signification of the name of one of our counties, our largest river, and our capital city. These questions have puzzled historical students ever since the term grew into its present application. Dr. Keyes shows how it came about that "the river Des Moines" was thought to mean "the river of the monks." What he believes it did and does signify he sets forth very lucidly. The article is illustrated with three maps which are especially worthy of study and preservation in Iowa libraries. The original copy of the large one was presented to the Historical Department by the Rev. Father Philip Laurent, of Muscatine, after Dr. Keyes had written his article. Many years since, while on a visit to France, Father Laurent secured seven copies of this map, of which this was the only one left in his possession. It certainly possesses great interest, as showing the condition of geographical knowledge at the time it was made, aside from happily illustrating this important article.

THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.

In the last ANNALS we presented a fine cut of the proposed edifice, giving a statement of the progress which had been made looking to its erection. Since that article was written the work has been put under contract and operations begun. At this writing (Sept. 15) the excavations for the foundation are nearly completed, and the laying of the brick walls will soon be commenced. There are three separate contracts for the work. That for the excavations was let to J. M. Stewart of Des Moines; the plumbing and heating was awarded to the Davenport Steam Heating Company; and that for the erection of the structure to the Capital City Brick and Pipe Company—the latter represented by J. B. McGorrick. The Executive Council decided that Le Grand stone should be used for the outside, and Fort Dodge stucco for inside plastering. But for the war the contracts would have been let several months ago; but everything has come around at last and work will doubtless go on as fast as the weather will permit. The building is to be completed by October 1, 1899.

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