

will have your arms if possible. If I can't get them I will go out among you in case of trouble and share your danger. I will know more about arms as soon as I get back.

Very truly,

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

A FORGOTTEN CENSUS.

It has been well known that an enumeration of the population of Wisconsin was taken in 1836, when what is now the State of Iowa was a part of that Territory. That work has been mentioned in the prefaces or introductions to other enumerations, and the aggregate of our population at that time included in summaries of these statistics. The State of Wisconsin in quite recent times has published so much of that first census as pertained to her own present territory, but that of the region west of the Mississippi has remained in the original manuscript, now dingy with age, in the archives of that State. A few months ago Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh of the Iowa State University, while making a search for original documents in the archives of Wisconsin unexpectedly found this interesting document. He copied so much of it as refers to Dubuque county, proffering the manuscript to the Historical Department for publication. By authority of the Trustees, it has been printed in a neat pamphlet of 47 pages. This is now ready for distribution, and will soon be sent to public libraries and the press throughout the State. The document has been carefully edited by Prof. Shambaugh, who has supplied it with a historical introduction. This is the first appearance of the first census taken in Dubuque county. It is a very simple affair as compared with the elaborate census of the present decade. The names of the heads of families are all given. These are followed by an enumeration of—"I. Males over 21 years. II. Males under 21 years. III. Females over 21 years. IV. Females under 21 years." Dr. Shambaugh has "followed the original manuscript literally as to spelling, capitalization, punctuation," etc., even including palpable errors. He proposes to revisit Madison and copy the census of "Demoine

county." This will also be published by the Historical Department sometime in 1898. When this last pamphlet appears all of the enumerations that have been made in Iowa will have been in print. The most important of our census publications were those of 1880, (which included summaries of all the enumerations back to 1836), 1885 and 1895, the last of which was issued but a few months ago. A few copies only of the valuable volume of 1885 are left in the Capitol for distribution, while the edition of 1836-80 is wholly exhausted. The Iowa State Historical Society at Iowa City, however, owns a few surplus copies of this last Report. The 1895 volume may be had on application to the Secretary of State. As a hint to Iowa librarians it may be stated that the scarce volumes can doubtless be "picked up" within their own counties. They are indispensable in every well-equipped Iowa public library and within a short time cannot be had at all. Aside from statistics, these volumes contain much important historical information which is in frequent request. But of the various more limited Iowa census publications—some fifteen or sixteen in number—the most of which appeared in pamphlet form—all long ago disappeared from the State document room, excepting only a few of 1875. They are now only to be had as one may accidentally find them here and there. It is doubtful whether a complete file is anywhere in existence.

"THE WOES OF SLAVES."

Recollections of American Slavery have well nigh gone out of the minds of the people, and more especially of the generation which has grown up since the war of the rebellion. Surviving soldiers occasionally mention the contraband camps, in which fugitives from slavery, who sought the protection of the Union armies, were congregated for support and protection. We have been accustomed also to read in war stories how slaves fed and protected and piloted on their journeys Union soldiers who had escaped from rebel prisons and were making their way back to our army. In such

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