

however, his labors were long ago forgotten by the general public and only borne in mind by two surviving members of his family—a son who is now an aged man, and a granddaughter. Documentary evidence of his efforts exists only in long-neglected government archives at Washington.

Miss Ida M. Street in this number of the ANNALS presents the first of a series of papers relating to her grandfather's connection with Indian affairs. Her present effort is mainly directed to showing how heroically he strove to establish schools and various handicrafts at his different agencies, for the education, improvement and comfort of the Indians. The series of letters which he wrote to the authorities at Washington is incomplete, through the loss of one of greatest importance and the mutilation of others, but sufficient appears to show that Gen. Street was a man of large ability, a broad-minded philanthropist, and a Christian statesman. We are glad—though it is late in the day to make these matters known—to print these records of actions so worthy at all times of public approval. They show that while the Indian service was so largely controlled in the interests of thieving speculators one Iowa man stood firmly for the right.

IS IT A "KITCHEN-MIDDEN?"

The vicinity of Lehigh, Webster county, was a favorite section of country with the Mound Builders. South and west of the town on the high bluffs, there are some twenty or more large mounds, one of which was originally fully ten feet in height and probably fifty feet in diameter. Many others are in the immediate vicinity, and in one place the traces of an embankment, which would probably be considered the remains of a line of fortifications, are visible for many rods. Several of these mounds have been partially explored, but there are doubtless many relics of the old race still left to reward the pains of whoever searches for them. Fragments of pottery, curiously ornamented, are occasion-

ally found in the mounds or plowed fields. While in that vicinity last October our attention was called to a deposit of bones some four or five miles above the town, in the valley of the Des Moines. At that point a brook comes in from the adjacent prairie and winds around a beautiful terrace which has an elevation of twenty to thirty feet. The little brook has washed into this bank exposing a stratum of bones about one foot in thickness and perhaps forty feet in length. We had no means of ascertaining to what animals these bones had belonged, but they were doubtless deer and elk. They had the appearance of having been broken into small pieces, possibly to obtain the marrow, or for the purpose of boiling out the animal matter. The largest fragments were about three inches in length. Among these bones there have been found in past years many implements of stone, as flint arrow-heads and axes. Some of these implements are quite unique, having been manufactured from materials which are not found in this State. Our visit to the spot was made in some haste, but it seemed evident that on the terrace mentioned there had once dwelt a community or family of Mound Builders, and that these bones were the refuse-heaps which accumulated from their kitchens or cooking-places. The bones had simply been poured over the bluff or swept from the level ground, and slid down to the level of the valley where they had been covered up by a land slide. From the vast quantity of these remains the old Mound Builders must have resided there a long time. Sheltered by the steep bluffs and thick woods, this would be an ideal location for such people as we may suppose the Des Moines Valley Mound Builders to have been. At that particular point the ground is as level as a floor, and high and dry above the water. It is an ideal location for a summer camp even now. A thorough investigation by a scientific explorer might result in the discovery of other objects of archeological interest, or in a different opinion in regard to the origin of this great deposit of bones. But the above explanation would seem to be consistent with the habits of the ancient men who made and used the stone implements. The term "kitchen-

midden" is defined as "a mound composed of sea-shells and bones," though it is doubtless equally applicable to any kitchen refuse from ancient dwellings.

THE DUBUQUE AUTOGRAPH.

In the last ANNALS mention was made of a document among the Chouteau papers in St. Louis which bears in two places the signatures of "Aug'te Chouteau" and "J. Dubuque." Since that publication this paper has been kindly sent as a loan to the State Historical Department, by Col. Pierre Chouteau, the present representative of that distinguished family. In sending it Col. Chouteau stipulated that it might remain in the Historical Department, where it is now on exhibition, subject to his order for the time being. Should another paper be found, any portion of which was written by Mr. Dubuque, Col. Chouteau will present one of them to the Historical Department of Iowa. The result of his search, however, is quite uncertain; but while the paper is in our possession we have improved the opportunity of presenting in these pages a facsimile of this very scarce signature. Here it is:



The document referred to has been kindly translated from the French language by Miss Mary Avis Scott, of Des Moines, and is as follows:

MR. JULIEN DUBUQUE *in account with* AUG'TE CHOUTEAU.

	Debit.		
For divers notes received	4575.37	For contract of 72000 arpents land	
For divers objects of which record		bought,	10848.60
has been given,	1450.12	For certain records,	32.79
	6025.49		
Balance to him due,	4855.82		
	10881.32		

The which balance of \$4855.82 I will pay to him in two installments:—to wit the half of said balance in the course of the year eighteen hundred five, of which two hundred dollars shall be payable in deer skins at the current price and the remaining sum in

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