

They drum no more—
Those splendid, springtime pickets!
The sweep of share and sickle has thrust them from the hills.
They have scattered from the meadow
Like the partridge in the thickets;
They have perished from the sportsman, who kills, and kills, and kills!
—Hamlin Garland.



PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

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New York, from Prof. D. G. Elliot's "The Gallinaceous Game
Birds of North America."

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

A PIONEER BISHOP.

Our first article in this number is an account of the romantic and useful life of Rt. Rev. Mathias Loras, the pioneer Catholic Bishop of Dubuque, from the pen of Rev. B. C. Lenehan, of Boone. Father Lenehan was himself acquainted with the Bishop from his early years, and was in fact one of his acolytes or altar-boys. No one could have known him more intimately. At the time the reverend missionary settled in Dubuque there were not less than 30,000 Indians in his broad diocese, which included the territories of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, and portions of Illinois. He laid the foundations of the Roman Catholic Church as it exists to-day in these portions of the Middle West, building churches and establishing schools wherever the growth of the country indicated a necessity for them. The first Sisters of Charity came to Iowa through his influence, as well as the Visitation Nuns and the Trappist Monks of New Melleray, Dubuque county. When he first removed to Iowa much of the preaching by the Catholic missionary priests was in the French language, which, however, soon fell into disuse. That he was a good and useful man, and enjoyed the highest measure of confidence of the pioneers of Iowa, are facts well understood by all whose recollections go back to his times. Father Lenehan's tribute is a valuable contribution to Iowa history and will also be appreciated as very interesting reading.

We have hoped to present in these pages some adequate and appreciative sketch of each of the representative missionaries of the churches in early Iowa, and have already published such articles relating to Rev. Samuel Clark, the pioneer

champion of Methodism in Southeastern Iowa, and of Father Asa Turner, who performed such hereculean labors for the Congregationalists. These distinguished old-time clergymen labored for the most part in Southeastern Iowa. (See the ANNALS, Vol. I, pp. 454-66 and pp. 526-31; and Vol. III, pp. 53-62.) We have another of these articles in hand at this time and others are promised.

AN EARLY IOWA PHILANTHROPIST.

From the first discovery of this country the Indians have been steadily fading away, and at the present time there only remain the feeble and for the most part decaying remnants of a once numerous and powerful people. That much of this decay would have resulted from contact with the whites, even if the Indians had always received kind and honest treatment, is possibly true—for it seems to be the order of nature that all wild races shall disappear before the advance of civilization. But the red man has almost invariably been the victim of the most grievous inhumanity—treatment which not only cheated him in the dealings of the day, but which, through intemperance, needless wars, and the introduction of infectious diseases, has hurried him to ruin. He easily acquired the vices of civilization while utterly failing to be benefited by its advantages. A “Century of Dishonor” has brought many of the tribes to the verge of extinction. But there has occasionally appeared one who has striven to deal justly by these wards of the nation, and whose conduct stands out in striking contrast to that of many who have been connected with Indian affairs. Such a man was Gen. Joseph M. Street, an illustrious pioneer, who devoted many years as a government official, to the best interests of the Indians of Iowa and Wisconsin. His last years were spent at Agency City, near Ottumwa, as a U. S. Agent for the Sacs and Foxes. He died there, May 5, 1840, and his decaying monument may be seen from the car window, just east of the little village. Unfortunately,

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