

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### PRESIDENT GRANT'S DES MOINES ADDRESS.

In our effort to present in the last ANNALS the speech of Gen. Grant at the reunion in Des Moines of the Army of the Tennessee, September 29, 1875, the only printed copy at hand was that which contained errors wholly misrepresenting what the great soldier said on the subject of education. This was hastily compared with a photographic copy of the original manuscript in pencil—many of the words in which were quite faded and obscure—and was presumed to be correct. (It is due to the writer of these lines to state, that during the time this address was a subject of controversy he was in a distant territory and knew nothing of it.) The worst errors were not corrected, and in that form it went to our readers. But in all undistributed copies, however, corrected pages have been substituted for those containing the errors, and corrected pages will be included in the last number of this volume, with directions to the binder for their proper insertion. No copy of THE ANNALS which is bound should contain an imperfect copy of this speech. In giving currency to this mutilated copy of the document we erred in a numerous and distinguished company. Most of the published reports have contained several errors; indeed, it has been stated that the only correct copy extant is the President's manuscript and its reproduction by photography. In another place we print an explanatory article from the pen of Mr. L. F. Parker, the distinguished Professor of History in Iowa College. To Prof. Parker is due the credit of making a stout fight for the acceptance of what President Grant intended to say, and in fact, what he really said. In his able monograph on "Higher Education in Iowa," which was published by the Bureau of Education (Washington, D. C., 1893),



PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT.

and which, by the way, ought to be found in every public library in the State, Prof. Parker presents (pp. 105-108) a clear and concise history of this curious affair. This account is illustrated with a fac-simile of the address, which we understand to have been approved by President Grant, an exact copy of which will be found in this number of *THE ANNALS*. He also printed a similar article in *The Iowa Historical Record*, Vol. II, pp. 123-128. The errors which appeared in this address upon its first publication were made wholly unintentionally, late at night, or rather "in the small hours," by reporters who were worn out with hard work. Then came the somewhat acrimonious controversy, some people claiming one construction, and some another, of the President's simple remarks. As printed, they were of such a nature, owing to very slight changes, as to seem to be an attack upon the idea of public education higher than the common schools—something never entertained by their author. He was little given to correcting or challenging the truth of statements regarding himself, and so the matter went on until his attention was called to it by Gov. Kirkwood, as stated by Prof. Parker. In printing from type the revised pages for insertion in *THE ANNALS*, we have followed the President's manuscript as closely as possible, making only some very slight changes in unimportant words, which seemed to be necessary.

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#### HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.

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In another place we print a Message of Gov. Robert Lucas to the territorial legislature which convened in extra session at Burlington, July 14, 1840. It may possibly have appeared in some territorial newspaper of that day, but if so we have been unable to find it. The probabilities would be in favor of its having been so published, but at this time we know of no copy save that in the official manuscript of the legislative journal which was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. The journal of that extra session has never yet been published—the only instance of a neglect of that

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