

kind since the organization of Iowa Territory. We therefore treat it as an unpublished public document, which ought to be found in print in the public libraries of this State. It will not only interest the reader at this time, but it throws much light upon the condition of things in Iowa Territory fifty-seven years ago. It shows the watchful care and keen interest taken by our earliest Iowa Governor in securing not only a penitentiary in which criminals could be confined and punished, but a capitol for the convenience of the various public offices. He also considers the matter of the sale of lots in Iowa City, the proceeds from which were to come into the treasury of the Territory. The question of the admission of the Territory as a State was also a prominent one before the people, and this also was discussed by the Governor. Incidental to this he expresses his regret that he has not been able to procure a statement of the number of inhabitants of the Territory. He had no doubt, however, that the number was sufficient to entitle it to be enrolled in the list of States. This paper, on many accounts, is one of much historical interest.

AN IMPORTANT ACQUISITION.

During the years 1838-44 there was published in the city of Philadelphia, in three volumes, folio, a unique work entitled "History of the Indian Tribes of North America, with Biographical Sketches and Anecdotes of the Principal Chiefs. Embellished with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War, at Washington. By Thomas L. McKenney, late of the Indian Department, Washington, and James Hall, Esq., of Cincinnati." Each of the three volumes had a large frontispiece, representing respectively, "A War Dance," "Hunting the Buffalo," and "Encampment of Piekan Indians near Fort McKenzie." This work has long been out of print, only occasionally coming to light in the catalogues of dealers in second-hand books. A fine edition in three volumes, royal octavo, with some minor changes in the engravings, was also issued in

1855. Copies of each of these editions with less than the original number of engravings are occasionally offered for sale; but whether they have been reprinted, or have simply suffered mutilation, we are unable to state. The Historical Department has fortunately obtained a copy of each of the genuine first editions of this great work. The octavo edition was acquired three or four years ago—the original folio copy quite recently. Curiously enough, the last was offered for sale in a catalogue issued by a dealer in fine and second-hand books in Liverpool, England, for a mere fraction of its original cost, and was promptly purchased. This edition was not dated, but the date of its publication is well known. It is an especially valuable addition to the growing Indian Collection in the Historical Department, from the fact that it contains twenty-five to thirty portraits of Indians belonging to tribes living within the present borders of this State. The portraits in both editions are very fine lithographs colored by hand. That they are excellent likenesses of the Indians whose names they bear is vouched for by the authors. They are full of life, representing the Indians in all the glories of paint, feathers, beads and blankets. It requires bright colors to show these chieftains and braves in their gala dresses. Some of the portraits are exceedingly striking, especially those of Blackhawk, Keokuk, Wapello, Mahaska, and his wife, Rantchewaime, Kishkékosh and Powesheik, as well as several of lesser note. "In the good time coming," doubtless many of these will be reproduced in oil, for the portrait gallery which will be one of the attractive features of the Iowa Historical Building. As data for such an undertaking they are simply invaluable.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PIONEER LAW MAKERS.

Prior to 1896 the State legislature made provision for the publication of the Proceedings of our Pioneer Law Makers Association at each of the biennial reunions. But at the first session of the 26th General Assembly the bill making this provision was lost. At the late extra session, however,

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