

The majority of these papers were published in Muscatine, from 1842 to 1849, comprising volumes of *The Herald, Journal, Democratic Enquirer, Review* and *Courier*. There are four volumes of *The Bloomington Herald*. Bloomington was the early name of that city—but it was changed to Muscatine by order of the district court, in 1849. Several volumes bear the names of Burlington, Iowa City and Des Moines, and all of them appeared before 1865. This is one of the most valuable contributions yet made to the resources of the Historical Department. These ancient journals throw a flood of light upon even earlier Iowa history than the dates of their publication, for most of the distinguished men of our territorial days were still living and often heard from through their columns. Even a very casual examination shows that they contain “materials for history” which can be found nowhere else. Many of these valuable facts and articles we expect will reappear in the pages of THE ANNALS, and thus become accessible in the public libraries of the State. This gift is only one of the characteristic acts of the useful life of Mr. Parvin, who has done more in the direction of preserving Iowa history than any other man of his time. Even now, in his eighty-first year, with multiplied labors on his hands, he is as alert in collecting these precious materials, and as judicious and earnest in placing them where they will do the most good, as at any period of his life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13, 1897. }

DEAR MR. ALDRICH:—Your favor of the 10th inst. requesting information regarding the present status of the Passenger-pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), has been received.

In reply, I would say that while wild pigeons are occasionally reported from different parts of the country, many of the supposed occurrences have, on investigation, been proven erroneous, and there can be no question that the species is quite extinct over much the greater part of the area once inhabited by it. The wild pigeon mentioned by your Kansas City correspondent is an entirely different bird, belonging in fact to a distinct genus. It is the Band-tailed Pigeon, (*Columba fasciata*), which ranges from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast and from British Columbia to Nicaragua.

Very truly yours,
R. RIDGWAY, Curator Dep't Birds.

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