

ords its passage by a unanimous vote of that body. The fact is, *everybody favored and nobody opposed this meritorious bill* (House File No. 60).

### SLAVERY LEGISLATION IN IOWA.

There was presented in the last number of *THE ANNALS* (pp. 145-147) "an act to regulate Blacks and Mulattoes," which was passed by our first Territorial legislature and approved by Gov. Lucas. We can find no law by which it was ever directly repealed, but it would seem practically to have been a dead letter from the first. In the changed sentiment of these times such a law would be universally regarded as nothing less than infamous. It is a veritable curiosity, and might well be included by Dr. Shambaugh among his "materials for history." Men are now living to whom such laws were familiar—for they existed in many Northern States; yet, to the thoughts and feelings of the generation which now rules this country, the impulses which inspired them are as far removed and as much out of date—as foreign to the thoughts of the people—as the events which led to the war for American Independence. The great statesmen who became famous—whose names were "familiar as household words"—from their warfare upon slavery, are but seldom mentioned in these days. Their names are well-nigh forgotten by the mass of their countrymen, and their patriotic and humane labors, which were deemed herculean in their day, only possess interest to the students of history. Mould is fast gathering upon their memories. Even the god-like Charles Sumner is seldom referred to, and the great edition of his speeches and writings, which he supervised with such scholarly care, receives little attention in the public libraries.

### A VALUABLE DONATION.

Hon. Theodore S. Parvin quite recently sent to the Historical Department thirty bound volumes of early Iowa newspapers which thus become the property of the State.

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.

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### 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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