

The policy of the Board of Trustees has been thus far a liberal one. They are educating free of expense every Iowa soldier enlisted for three years and honorably discharged. Also all orphans of Iowa soldiers. Besides these, four free students are admitted upon proper recommendation from every county in the State.

With such a policy continued and the still generous action of the legislature, and with such a practical course of instruction, we cannot but indulge in anticipations of a brilliant future for this the choicest and noblest of the institutions fostered by the State.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND REMARKS.

In the next number of *THE ANNALS* will appear an article from our former correspondent from Clayton County, Hon. Eliphalet Price, who having resumed the pen will entertain our readers and serve the State and the future with more of his interesting sketches of the early days of Iowa.

Hon. Charles Negus continues his valuable papers. Hon. Wm. L. Toole of Toolsburg, one of the earliest settlers in Louisa County, will furnish sketches and recollections of the early days of his locality. Also *Eight Months in Rebel Prisons of the 8th, 12th and 14th Regiments Iowa Infantry*, by one of their number, an officer of the 12th.

These regiments were captured on that memorable first line at Shiloh, after a defense that lasted all day from reveille in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, a single division holding the larger portion of the rebel forces in check, in heroic obedience to orders to "hold the position," and surrendering only when isolated from the rest of the army by its giving way, they were entirely surrounded by a numerical rebel force, against which it was useless and suicidal to contend. The story of their prison life will be graphically told by its accomplished writer.

Curtis' *History of the Army of the South-West* will be continued and other interesting and appropriate matter.

THE HISTORIAN OF JOHNSON COUNTY.

The Historian of Johnson County is called for. Will he come forward and take his place in *THE ANNALS*? It is a remarkable fact that, although the State Historical Society is eleven years old, and located in this County, and *THE ANNALS* have been published here since 1863, not a line has ever been written (so far as is known) relative to Johnson County. Why, we are unable to explain, unless it be from the extreme modesty of our old settlers that renders them reluctant to appear in print.

Certainly a county, which is among the earliest settled in the State, containing a city which is its *ancient* capital, where the first Legislature convened; where the first high courts were held; where embryotic statesmen, since famous, made their *debut* in public life, declaimed their maiden speeches and blushing drank in applause; where its first Governor, an excellent and eloquent old man, lived and died; where nearly all the State charitable and educational institutions have at some time been located; has a history of more than ordinary interest and importance.

Col. Trowbridge, Capt. Irish, Henry Feltner, David Switzer, Saml. H. McCrory, Philip Clark, Cyrus Sanders, Stephen B. Gardiner, and others whose names do not occur to us now of the earliest class, and Judge Lee, Maj. Bowen, Gillman Folsom, Dr. Murray, George Paul, J. Hartsock, Robt. Walker, John Parrott, and many others of a later date of old settlers, whom we meet daily in our streets, carry about in their memories the material for a history of great interest to the present and value to the future. Gentlemen, come forward and be heard.

A MONTH BEHIND TIME—WORKS AND NEEDS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

This number of *THE ANNALS* makes its appearance a month behind time. It would be difficult to assign any particular reason for the delay, as several have conspired to hinder its prompt appearance, none of which, however, let it be understood, are chargeable to the enterprising publishers, Luse

and Griggs, who have ever been prompt in the performance of their part of the work. We therefore assume all the responsibility of the delay, and without explaining the causes that justify it, respectfully inform its readers that we do not grieve over the fact as we should, if we were publishing a news periodical, or one of which a few days time gave particular value to its matter. Nor do we feel the weight of the responsibility of delay as if we were receiving compensation for our labor in preparing it.

The duties of the Corresponding Secretary of the State Historical Society are really quite heavy; editing *THE ANNALS* being the lightest portion of them. Its correspondence is large, and the other labors incident to a faithful performance of its duties draws heavily upon his time, all of which is nearly gratuitous service.

The small annual appropriation received from the State and the receipts on subscriptions for *THE ANNALS* being used in meeting the expenses of the Society and the publication of *THE ANNALS*. Few men dependent on a business can *afford* to give largely of time and labor unrequited; the demands and necessities of daily business, overruling the benevolent desire to help forward a good cause.

Having given to the Society faithfully all the time possible in discharging all pressing duties relating to it, we are easy in our minds for any short-comings any where manifest. Our immediate predecessor, the faithful Secretary and accomplished editor of last year declined for this reason a continuance of the duty, and it was made to devolve upon us, and accepted under a sense of duty to an organization with which we had been identified, from the first year of its existence.

Having said thus much, opens the way of which we avail ourself to say a few words concerning the needs of the Society.

What is needed most, is liberal action upon the part of the legislature, granting a yearly appropriation sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of the Society, and a fair compensa-

tion to one man to spend a considerable portion of his time in its behalf, and also to provide for it a permanent place for its property and meetings.

There are few Historical Societies that have larger or more interesting accumulations of historic material than this of our State, and yet none have been so meagerly encouraged by their respective States as it. In other States, these and kindred societies engaged in similar laudable work, have been placed on a permanent working basis by liberal appropriations. In Minnesota, for instance, a State younger; numerically smaller; and less wealthy than ours, a fine building has been fitted up for its use, and adequate provision made for aiding the work, while the property of ours has been shifted from place to place about the city, and from room to room about the University, and into byecorners of rooms devoted to other uses, or packed away amid the twilight and damp of basement stories. Yet amid these discouragements, it has steadily and persistently worked on, steadily and gradually extended its work, and steadily increased its valuable stores, until now it shows a wealth of them second to none in the West. Regularly have met its Board of Curators every month, and pushed on the work to the extent of their ability and means. I believe it to have been a fact that never for once during the eleven years of its history has this body adjourned for want of a quorum, and the fruit of their labor may be seen in a portion of an upper room in the University Building, where it forms a prominent feature of interest to the visitors of that institution; and in the basement of the same building, where cords of books, papers and articles priceless in value to the future are packed away.

“DEATH LOVES A SHINING MARK.”—This season he has drawn largely from his quiver and scattered his shafts thickly over our State, reaping a harvest of distinguished men. Curtis, of Keokuk, Lauman, of Burlington, Bissel, of Dubuque, and Downey, of Iowa City, are among those he has called within the year.

We are grateful for the very complimentary notices which have greeted each successive number of THE ANNALS by the press of the State, during our editorial charge of it.

CORRECTIONS.—Page 906, July number of the ANNALS, first line, should read Judge Moore instead of Judge Moon. Also, on page 908, near the top of the page, should read Colonel David Moore instead of Colonel David Moon.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.