

## REPORT.

---

*To His Excellency, Wm. M. Stone, Governor of Iowa:*

In compliance with the Act of the General Assembly taking cognizance of, and making appropriations to, the State Historical Society of Iowa, which requires of its Executive Board a biennial report of the condition and management of its affairs, and the modes of expenditure of the money received, the Board of Curators of the Society respectfully submit the following report:

### MODES OF EXPENDITURE OF MONEY RECEIVED.

The Board has established relations of exchange with a large number of kindred Societies and Institutions in many of the States and Canada. The receipt of packages from these necessarily incurs considerable expense, as will be seen from appended vouchers.

The following is the list of the Societies and Institutions with which this Society is on terms of reciprocal intercourse and interchange of historic material:

Historical Society of Ohio.

American Antiquarian Society of Massachusetts.

Boston Numismatic Society of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Historical Society.

New England Historical Society, of Massachusetts.

Historical Collections, Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts.

New York Historical Society.

American Ethnological Society, New York.

American Statistical Society, New York.

American Numismatic and Archæological Society, New York.

Long Island Historical Society.

Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois.

Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Minnesota Historical Society.

New Hampshire Historical Society.

New Jersey Historical Society.  
Rhode Island Historical Society.  
Delaware Historical Society.  
Maine Historical Society  
Wisconsin Historical Society.  
Dakota Historical Society.  
Missouri Historical Society.  
Montreal Historical Society, Canada.  
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

## ANNALS.

The second and principal source of expenditure since 1863, has been the publication of the "Annals." A quarterly publication designed by the Board to carry out the objects of the Society, in collecting and preserving in a permanent form, facts connected with the early history of the State, and such of its current history as may be deemed important, and which is liable to be lost from the memory, or pass from the attention of men in the press of conflicting or other paramount interests.

Through it many valuable histories of the early days of the State, many interesting biographical sketches of its prominent citizens, of those who have been the founders of its institutions, and representative men, and of its soldiers in the field; historical sketches of counties, towns, and other localities; the origin and interpretation of the names of rivers, streams, and places; the elucidation of its natural history; the origin and development of its public institutions, its relics of antiquity, its aboriginal inhabitants, and much of miscellaneous anecdote and history of interest to the present, and great value to the future, have been gathered in its pages, and placed within easy reach of the future historian of the commonwealth.

As might have been reasonably expected of a work of this exclusive kind of reading, it has not secured that extended circulation necessary to make it a sustaining thing, and the funds appropriated by the State have been used to meet the deficiency in the expense of publication.

In this experiment the Board have met with no disappointment. In view of the character of its matter, and the inefficient means in their power for its promulgation, the subscriptions to the *Annals*

have reached the highest point of calculation of its projectors; and they look with a high degree of satisfaction at its nearly one thousand pages of local historic matter, the contributions of the oldest inhabitants of the State, some of whom are among its ablest men.

A copy of the work for the biennial period since the last report accompanies, and the "Index" to the whole work will be incorporated as an appendix to this report.

#### COMPENSATION TO ITS OFFICERS.

These prime sources of expenditure, together with the lighter incidental expenses, have yearly exhausted the resources of the Society, and left little, and sometimes nothing, as compensation for its working officers.

The Board of Curators and all the officers of the Society perform their various duties without compensation, with the exception of the Corresponding Secretary, who is also, *ex officio*, editor of the *Annals*, and the Librarian, to whom it has been customary to award a merely nominal salary — the residuary after other expenses have been met out of the funds derived from annual dues. As an instance of the lucrativeness of these positions, it may be stated that the amount of salary received by both these officers for the current year is the modest sum of one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars.

The Board would respectfully represent that the duties of the Corresponding Secretary, with his editorial duty of editing the Quarterly above-mentioned, are really quite heavy, and of a character to draw largely upon his time, if the duties are faithfully performed.

Its cabinet of historical, geological and mineralogical collections are to be arranged, cared for and protected. Its library and collections of books, documents, magazines, manuscripts, etc., are a source of constant care. Its transactions of exchange with other societies need careful attention. Its correspondence is very great. Its editorial duties require the use of much valuable time to the business man, in arranging and preparing its matter for publication, and in the distribution of the copies. In short, there is not a day but what the Secretary is called upon to devote some portion of his time to the affairs of the Society.

We have long hoped that the Legislature would so far appreciate the importance of the objects of the organization and the amount and value of the services of its prominent organ and working agent, the Corresponding Secretary, as to grant a yearly allowance sufficient to compensate him for the very considerable portion of his time, which he is compelled to devote to the services of the Society. And with the fact patent to the Legislature, that no individual of the Board or member of the Society is to be personally benefited by the accomplishment of the objects of the Society beyond what accrues to every member of the public at large; that the interests of no one of the organization is to be advanced by its prosperity, except in the satisfaction derived from the public good, we feel a perfect freedom in asking any aid from the Legislature, which, in our judgment, formed as it is from a personal transaction of its business, will best promote its interests. We, therefore, invite your attention to the propriety and justice of such an appropriation. We have long felt the injustice of asking any competent individual to accept this responsible and laborious position, sacrificing the necessary amount of time to the injury of his private affairs, gratuitously. But to such a course we have heretofore been forced, and by such unpaid labor has the past success of the Society been won.

For a tabular exhibit of the receipts and expenditures of the Society for the last biennial period, we refer to appended document marked "A." Also to the tabular reports of the Treasurer of the Society, marked "B."

#### COLLECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

##### BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS, EXCLUSIVE OF LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, FOR EXCHANGE.

Bound volumes.....	1753
Unbound books and pamphlets.....	2952
	— 4705
Miscellaneous books and pamphlets for exchange.....	3020
	—
Total books and pamphlets on hand Dec. 1, 1867.....	7725
Relics and articles of historical value, with geological and mineralogical specimens.....	3150

The Society is also in receipt of the following newspapers and periodicals, published within the State, which are carefully filed and preserved for binding, so soon as the funds of the Society shall warrant an expenditure for that purpose.

## NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

- Union, Albia, Iowa.
- Index, Boone, Iowa.
- Lutheran Watchman, Decorah, Iowa.
- Ledger, Eldora, Iowa.
- Press, West Mitchell, Iowa.
- Journal, Elkader, Iowa.
- Republic, Decorah, Iowa.
- Phoenix, Waverly, Iowa.
- Opinion, Glenwood, Iowa.
- Monitor, Corydon, Iowa.
- Sentinel, Iowa Falls, Iowa.
- Republican, Iowa City, Iowa.
- State Press, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Times, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- Iowa Instructor and School Journal, Des Moines, Iowa.
- State Register, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Statesman, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Homestead, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Der Democrat, Davenport, Iowa.
- Democrat, Davenport, Iowa.
- Gazette, Davenport, Iowa.
- Freeman, Webster City, Iowa.
- North Iowan, Osage, Iowa.
- Constitution, Keokuk, Iowa.
- Gate City, Keokuk, Iowa.
- Courier, New Hampton, Iowa.
- Bugle, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
- Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
- Conservative, Independence, Iowa.
- Guardian, Independence, Iowa.
- Bulletin, Independence, Iowa.
- Gazette, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
- Eagle, Vinton, Iowa.

- Plaindealer, Fort Madison, Iowa.  
Eureka, Anamosa, Iowa.  
Advocate, Wheatland, Iowa.  
Register, Marion, Iowa.  
Ledger, Fairfield, Iowa.  
Transcript, Toledo, Iowa.  
Temperance Platform, Des Moines, Iowa.  
National Democrat, Dubuque, Iowa.  
Times, Dubuque, Iowa.  
Herald, Dubuque, Iowa.  
Union Guardian, Bloomfield, Iowa.  
Courier, Muscatine, Iowa.  
Journal, Muscatine, Iowa.  
Home Journal, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.  
Republican, Montezuma, Iowa.  
Advertiser, Tipton, Iowa.  
Times, Marshalltown, Iowa.  
Press, West Mitchell, Iowa.  
Intelligencer, Charles City, Iowa.  
Democrat, Washington, Iowa.  
Press, Washington, Iowa.  
Hawkeye, Burlington, Iowa.  
Union, Manchester, Iowa.  
Observer, DeWitt, Iowa.  
Vedette, Panora, Iowa.  
Herald, Oskaloosa, Iowa.  
Republican, Mason City, Iowa.  
North West, Fort Dodge, Iowa.  
Mirror, Lyons, Iowa.  
Post, Memphis, Tennessee.  
Daily Mercury, Ottumwa, Iowa.  
The Evangelist, Oskaloosa, Iowa.  
U. S. Railroad and Mining Register, Philadelphia, Pa.  
American Presbyterian, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Presbyterian Reporter, Alton, Illinois.  
The Historical Magazine, New York, N. Y.  
Millennial Harbinger, Bethany, West Virginia.  
Herald, Clinton, Iowa.  
The Gazette, Yonkers, N. Y.

- Signal, Bentonsport, Iowa.  
 Excelsior, Maquoketa, Iowa.  
 Ægis, Nevada, Iowa.  
 Republican, Bedford, Iowa.  
 Times, Niles, Michigan.  
 Express, Monticello, Iowa.  
 The Loyal Citizen, Centreville, Iowa.  
 Independent, Eddyville, Iowa.  
 Register, Le Claire, Iowa.  
 Jefferson Era, Jefferson, Iowa.  
 Tama County Union, Iuka, Iowa.  
 The Dallas Weekly Gazette, Adel, Iowa.  
 Clermont Leader, Clermont, Fayette county, Iowa.  
 News, McGregor, Iowa.  
 Citizen, Mount Vernon, Iowa.  
 Adair County Register, Fontanelle, Iowa.  
 Home Visitor, Fairfield, Iowa.  
 Leon Pioneer, Leon, Iowa.  
 New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Boston,  
 Massachusetts.  
 Historical Collections of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.  
 Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, Boston,  
 Massachusetts.

#### ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY.

For the safe keeping, the proper arrangement, classification, preservation, and useful exhibition of this property, the Society is suffering greatly for the want of appropriate rooms. In fact, for nearly two years it has had no place of its own, and has been virtually an unwilling trespasser upon the State University.

The growing importance of that Institution, the very great increase of the number of its pupils, and the enlarged demand for space by the various departments to accommodate their varied exercises, or to give place to the accumulating libraries and various collections, has rendered it difficult for the Trustees to find, in the University buildings, appropriate rooms for the use of this Society.

Since the abandonment of the gymnasium as a part of the prescribed exercises of the University, the room formerly used for

that purpose (the old Representative Hall), is vacant, which enabled the Board of Trustees at their last regular session, in June, 1867, to offer to the Society for its use, the room now used as a library room for the University, which will be ample and commodious for some years to come. The proposition was, however, accompanied by one condition, inadvertently, no doubt, introduced by the Trustees of the University, which the Board of Curators could not, in justice to the interests of the Society, and their oaths of office under the law assent to, and hence, no arrangement has as yet been affected, inasmuch as the propositions were not received until after the adjournment of the Board.

A copy of the resolution of the Board of Trustees will be found appended, marked "C."

By the first proposition of this resolution, it will be seen that it is required that the "property in the custody of the State Historical Society, shall be and remain under the ultimate control of the Board of Trustees of the State University, and in case said Board deem it for the security or preservation of the property to assume control, they may do so."

To this proposition the Board of Curators and the Society dissent, upon the ground that it would be a virtual yielding of the organization and all its interests, which they have been many years in building up, into other hands, who may assume control and take possession at pleasure. It would in fact be a virtual disorganization of the Society, by removing from it that stimulus to action arising from the feeling of responsibility for its management and its results, and engendering in its stead a feeling of insecurity, that its management may be interfered with, its plans deranged, its best interests thwarted, and its treasures removed at any time by the interference of parties, who, from their remoteness from the scene of the active efforts of the Society, or for want of attention to, and knowledge of, its workings, purposes and plans of operation, must of necessity have but slight understanding of its intimate needs, and comparatively little interest in its prosperity; and place a lighter value on its collections than those who have gathered them one by one, arranged, and classed them again and again, and watched its increase and growth from year to year with a feeling akin to paternal solicitude.

We desire it to be understood that the Board of Curators, and

the Society for whom they speak, have no objections, in fact desire, that any legislative restraint may be interposed to prevent its property under any circumstances, either from the dissolution of the Society, or from any other cause, from being appropriated to individual uses by any member or members of the Society; or from being sold or disposed of in any manner, for the profit of individuals or the Society corporate.

And furthermore, our dissent is based upon another fact, to-wit: This Society is an association of citizens who have organized, and become incorporated with the definite purpose of making the collections and accomplishing the ends set forth in the act of incorporation, and in the law taking cognizance of the Society and furnishing aid for carrying out its plans.

And as there is no provision made in the act of incorporation, nor in the legislative act for the assumption of control by any party or board whatever; but the Society is left free as all other corporate bodies are, to transact its own affairs in its own way.

And therefore, under our oaths to transact its business faithfully under the law, to the promotion of the objects set forth, we can not shift that responsibility, and transfer its interest to the management of any other party or parties.

#### RELATIONS TO THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

The question above referred to, to-wit: the occupancy of rooms in the University buildings, has led the Society, and probably the authorities of the University, to examine with more care than hitherto, the exact nature of the relation sustained to that institution by the Historical Society.

The language of the statute which places it "under the *auspices* of the State University," faintly indicates a relation between the two, without specifying what that relation is.

It is, therefore, differently interpreted by different parties who are called upon to act in its behalf, or in behalf of the University, candid men in their official action, taking different views of the subject; and, hence, embarrassments have arisen at times between the executive officers of the Society, and the Faculty and Trustees of the University concerning it.

As instances of the different views taken by different parties, at different times during its history, we call attention to the actions

of the different Boards of Trustees of the University concerning it. The earlier Boards of that Institution recognized it as having, by virtue of this legislative recognition, some claim upon their good will, fostering care, and *material aid*, and assigned it a room in the University building. For five years, viz: from 1857 to 1862, it occupied some one of the rooms in the University building.

The growing necessity for greater space to be occupied by the departments of that Institution, seeming to require all the then room in the building, (the two new buildings being neither of them completed), the then existing Board, without a question as to their fostering relations to the Society, procured for it a suit of rooms in the building known as the "Mechanics' Academy." These rooms the Society continued to occupy for three years, viz: until March, 1865, when the Board of that year authorized it to occupy a room in the University, jointly with the library of that Institution, where its property now is.

In June, 1866, another Board of Trustees took a different view of their relations to it; and although no change in the plans or workings of the Society had occurred, no additional inconveniences to the University had been complained of, no offensive action had been perpetrated by it, but while in the quiet and unobtrusive pursuit of its work, it was summarily dismissed from the building, without the provision of another place for its occupancy, as is shown by the appended resolution marked "D."

The performance of this change was utterly impractical, as coming unexpectedly, the Society were entirely without the means of procuring and fitting another room.

By sufferance, therefore, they were permitted to remain, when at the assembling of the Board in 1867, another view of the meaning of "auspices" was taken, which resulted in the action referred to in appended resolutions marked "C."

Thus it will be apparent to your Excellency, and the Members of the Assembly, that the Society is under a constant feeling of insecurity — when its highest interests are thus liable to be jeopardized at any time by the views of relationship intended by the law, which any Board may take, governed by no explanation of meaning by the law makers.

## AUSPICES.

It is therefore earnestly desired by the Society, that the true intent and meaning of the relation intended by the Legislature, as expressed in the word "auspices," in the law referred to, may be clearly set forth.

If a *bona fide* relationship is therein intended, we ask that the Trustees of that Institution shall be instructed to provide an appropriate and permanent place for the use of the Society, and that they may be taught to regard it as having a claim upon the protection and aid of the State, through, and derivable from, the appropriations made to the State University.

On the contrary, if there is no tangible link of connection, then we respectfully request that an appropriation for the purpose of procuring and fitting up a room for the Society, be made direct to it, to be disbursed by some authorized responsible party.

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.