



HOMER HORATIO SEERLEY

From a portrait in oil by Henry Salem Hubbell in the galleries of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa. Presented in 1928 by the Iowa State Teachers' Association.

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NOTABLE DEATHS

HOMER HORATIO SEERLEY was born on a farm near Indianapolis, Indiana, August 13, 1848, and died in Cedar Falls, Iowa, December 23, 1932. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Cedar Falls. He came with his parents, Thomas and Louisa Ann (Smith) Seerley when they removed to a farm near South English, Iowa, in 1854. He received his early education in the rural public school near them. For a year he attended the Preparatory Department of the State University of Iowa, then returned home and taught the country school near his parents' home, and the next year entered the University, from which he was graduated in 1873 with the degree of Ph.B. He returned later to the University and received the degree of Bach. Di. in 1875, and of M. A. in 1876. In 1898 Penn College conferred on him the degree of LL.D., as did the State University of Iowa in 1901. On finishing his liberal arts course in 1873, he became an assistant principal in the public schools of Oskaloosa, was advanced to a principalship in 1874, and in 1875 was made superintendent of the city schools. In that position he served eleven years, or until 1886, when he was chosen by the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Normal School as its principal. In 1890 the title of his position was changed to president, and in 1909 the name of the institution was changed to Iowa State Teachers College. He continued to serve as president until 1928 when he resigned, when the title of president emeritus was given him. During the forty-two years he was at the head of the institution it grew from an obscure normal school with 200 students to a great teachers college with an enrollment of from 2,000 to 3,000. Dr. Seerley was president of the Iowa State Teachers' Association in 1884 while he still was at Oskaloosa, and in 1925 was made an honorary member by reason of his half century of service as an active member. About the same time he received a like honor from the National Educational Association. During his career he held many positions among sectional and national educational associations, having won a national reputation in the educational field. He had the qualities essential to a great educator, such as scholarship, judgment, sympathy and high moral and spiritual standards. Many believe he did more than any other one person to advance educationally the people of Iowa. He was the author of only one book of note, *The Country School*, published in 1912, but his many addresses and lectures, some of which were published, were valuable contributions. He was a Republican in politics and was a member of the Congregational church.

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