

The writer was born in Clayton County and his pride has been inflamed by the fact, among many other reasons, that it was the first spot in Iowa ever seen by a white man. That particular locality is situated about three miles south of McGregor and is a part of the high bluffs opposite the Wisconsin river. Down this in 1673, Father Marquette and Louis Joliet were sailing on a voyage of exploration. The river at the base of the bluffs is about a mile wide. The summit of the peak is about three hundred feet high. The colors of the various layers of sandstone are as perfectly blended as if by some inspired artist. On the one hand is the view and on the other the approach. It was curiously brought about that the initial scene should be of the "pictured rocks," thought by many travelers to be one of the most engaging spectacles in the whole course of the Father of Waters. On the summit, one finds himself in the center of a vast panorama stretching to the horizon's outmost rim. The grandeur of the scene meandered by the King of Rivers silences all comment. It is a beautiful call to read from the book of nature lying open before one and from its suggestive pages to receive inspiration.

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Colesburg, May 13, 1853.

Mr. Editor.—At your request I cheerfully furnish a brief account of the meeting of the Dubuque Congregational Association, recently held in Garnavillo. This Association is composed of the ministers and churches of this denomination that are north of Maquoketa River, in this state. Its object is not to legislate for the churches, but the promotion of mutual improvement, and to devise ways and means for promoting the general welfare of the cause. Owing to the bad state of the roads the attendance was much smaller than usual, but it was an occasion of interest. There were literary, exegetical, and hermeneutical exercises, and many instructing reports from the churches which afforded gratifying evidence of progress.—E. B. Turner, *Clayton County Herald*, June 17, 1853.

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