

the prophets, are only comparisons, and not real occurrences. Nay, that even some novels are truer to nature than many other writings of higher pretensions to veracity. In reply, it is readily admitted, that it is hard to separate the precious from the vile, or to distinguish that which inculcates only truth, and virtue, and piety, as do scriptural Parables, and as Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* does under allegorical representations, from that which instils more or less falsity, immorality and irreligion. Yet, discriminate, all must do, or else suffer the bitter consequences. In general, any book or work of any writer, which discloses the least deviation from truth, or the least wanton or wicked allusion, should be shunned, as one would avoid poison. And, although

The flowers of eloquence profusely poured
O'er spotted vice, fill half the lettered world.

Yet, books enough remain, for a short hasty life. One cannot read every thing. Nor is it necessary to eat all "the apples of Sodom" to learn that they are bitter. Nor are people born to merely chase butterflies and hunt for buttercups, like little children; for death is too near the door.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

GOVERNOR RALPH P. LOWE.

During the year 1883, two of the early governors of Iowa passed away—Stephen Hempstead and Ralph P. Lowe. The last named was the fourth in succession under our State organization, his predecessors being Ansel Briggs, Stephen Hempstead and James W. Grimes. All of them were identified with the early political history of the Territory and State. Gov. Lowe became a citizen of Iowa in 1838, and soon after was called to serve the people of the Territory in important positions. In 1844 he was a member of the first Constitutional Convention, being elected from Muscatine county. Afterwards

he was District Attorney, and then District Judge in the first Judicial District. He was elected Governor of the State Oct. 13, 1857, and was inaugurated January 14, 1858, becoming the first Governor under our present State Constitution.

Gov. Lowe's competitor on the Democratic ticket was Hon. Ben. M. Samuels, of Dubuque, a man of brilliant parts, and a most fascinating public speaker. Both made a pretty thorough canvass of the State, and the election resulted in a majority of 2,149 for Lowe.

After serving the State as its chief executive, he was twice called to serve in its highest judicial position. The later years of his life were passed in Washington City, where he devoted a portion of his time in the prosecution of a claim of the State of Iowa against the Federal Government, which accrued during the period of his administration as Governor. He died in that city on Saturday, December 22, 1883, at the age of 78 years. In an official proclamation announcing the sad event Gov. Burren R. Sherman said:

"Ex-Gov. Lowe was a lover of his country and a diligent and faithful servant of the people. In the prime of his life he was called to serve in earnest political contests, but in his old age the asperities of the past were forgotten and he enjoyed the sincere respect of men of all parties—a tribute fairly won by his sterling worth as a man. In respect to his memory it is hereby ordered that the national flag be displayed at half mast on the State capitol and the executive department be closed on the day of the funeral."

RT. REV. JOHN McMULLEN,

Bishop of Davenport, Iowa, was born at Ballinahinch, County Down, Ireland, March 8, 1833, but his parents came to Canada in 1837, and settled in Chicago in 1843. The future bishop was graduated from St. Mary's College in 1853; pursued a theological course at the Urban College, Rome, was ordained in 1858, and appointed to St. Louis Church, Chicago. He

built churches at Blackberry, Lodi, De Kalb and Sycamore. He was successively President of the University of St. Marys, pastor of Wilmington and Chicago, Vicar-General of the diocese, and administrator after Bishop Foley's death. He was consecrated Bishop of Davenport, July 25, 1881, and, after a brief but most laborious administration, died, of Bright's disease and cancer, July 4, 1883.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MARRIAGE.

Thomas Jefferson introduced by statute marriage into Virginia, where it had always been a religious rite by a clergyman, as a merely civil contract, whereas it had been regarded, the world over, as a religious ceremony. In his day, clergymen of England only could marry; and it seemed to work a hardship and a hindrance to have to go a distance to find a minister of the church of England. Following suite, in most or all of the United States a justice of the peace, mayor, or judge can marry as well as any ordained minister of the gospel. And it has become an easy matter to be married.

Mrs. Judge Dillon, late of Davenport, Iowa, said she should not consider herself married at all, without a clergyman solemnized the rite.

May not the loose way of being married by a justice of the peace, so common now-a-days be one cause of the frequent divorce of couples, after a short experience of matrimonial bonds? The statute laws of Iowa make many unscriptural causes of divorce. Only two causes are found in the Bible, adultery and wilful desertion. And the best commentators maintain that neither party to a divorce can again marry. Were this the civil law of our State, divorces would be less frequent. In some instances, a person has married again the very day of divorce, showing the intent of separation by law is to marry another party.

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