

well, M. P. Crowder, Robert Ritchey and George Bailey. Red Rock, William E. James, Samuel Geddis, Argus A. Martin, John H. Mikesell, and John Jordan. Scott, Adam Tool, John Vance, Jacob H. Majors, Mr. Highland and Hezekiah Gay. White Breast, J. B. Hamilton, Alfred Vertreese, Elias Elder, Osee Matthews and John T. Clark.

We find the following order on the commissioners' record, under date of May 11th, 1844: "Ordered by the board, that sealed proposals will be received by the commissioners' clerk, at any time from this date until the 1st of July next, for the building of a court house in Oskaloosa, the seat of justice of Mahaska county." This was the initiatory movement towards the erection of the building now owned and occupied by Mitchell Wilson as a storehouse. At a meeting of the commissioners commenced on the 8th day of October, A. D. 1844, we find the following record: "Ordered, that M. T. Williams, agent for the sale of lots, pay to James Edgar the sum of \$100, on contract for building court house, and that he file the receipt thereof with the treasurer, and the clerk be required to notify said Williams of the same." Thus it was that the erection of the court house progressed from time to time.

(To be Continued.)

HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA.

BY CAPT. F. M. IRISH, IOWA CITY.

(Concluded.)

CHURCHES IN IOWA CITY.

In drawing the original plat of the city, the commissioners laid off a number of quarter blocks to be devoted expressly to the use of churches, and the following liberal offer was made: Any religious denomination might select one of those quarter blocks, and by erecting upon it a substantial brick church edifice of a specified value, to be completed within a limited time, the society should then receive a deed *in fee simple* from the territorial government for the quarter block, on condition that a church building should always be kept upon it.

The Protestant Methodist Association was the first to avail itself of this liberal offer. Its members selected the quarter block upon the corner of Iowa Avenue and Linn street, and there was erected the first church building in Iowa City.

The corner-stone of this church was laid by the Rev. John Libby, on May 13th, 1841, His Excellency Gov. Lucas assisting in the ceremony. The society, not large in numbers at any time, had for many years no settled pastor, and maintained but a precarious existence; sold its property at length to the Christian Association, mention of which will be made further along in this article.

The First Universalist Society of Iowa City was organized at a meeting held at the house of Edward Foster, on the 6th November, 1841, at which meeting Edward Foster was elected president, Seth Baker and Daniel Hess, trustees for the term of two years, Robert Walker and Benj. Weiser, trustees for the term of one year; Seth Baker, clerk, and Daniel Hess, treasurer. On November 19th, 1841, Seth Baker, Geo. T. Andrews, Rev. A. R. Gardener, Benj. Weiser and C. S. Sangster were chosen a building committee. On the 17th of August, 1842, Rev. John Libby was retained as pastor, and added to the building committee. On the 22d of May, 1843, it was resolved by the committee to commence the erection of a church building at once. The edifice erected in accordance with that resolution, stood upon the quarter block at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Dubuque street, and the Rev. A. R. Gardener was employed as its first preacher. This society has had its share of vicissitudes, but is now in a flourishing condition.

First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City. Partially organized August 1st, 1840, by Rev. L. G. Bell and Rev. Leonard Freely. Completed its organization August 12th, 1840, by Rev. L. G. Bell, assisted by Rev. Michael Hummer, then of Rock Island, Ills. John McConnell was elected ruling elder; Diodate Holt, deacon; Chauncey Swan, Jos. Schell, Robt. Hutchinson, J. W. Margrave and Diodate Holt, trustees. The congregation adopted the present constitution governing

them August 13, 1849, and appointed the following trustees: Rev. Silas H. Hazzard, Mr. John Shoup, John Brandon, Thos. Hughes, Hugh D. Downey, Henry Murray and S. H. McCrory. Rev. M. Hummer was the first pastor. He removed to Keokuk in 1848. (A further account of this gentleman will be given at the close of this article.) Rev. S. M. Hazzard supplied the pulpit till 1852; Rev. John Crozier for about six months, in 1853; Rev. F. A. Shearer, of Ohio, was pastor from 1854 to 1858; Rev. O. O. McClean from 1859 to 1861; Rev. Jacob Winters from 1861 to 1862. Rev. S. M. Osmond, the present pastor, commenced his labors with the church October, 1862. The first edifice was commenced in 1844. Services were held for the first time, in the basement, December 7, 1846. Completed and dedicated in 1850, and soon afterwards burned, causing a heavy loss to the congregation. The present spacious building occupied by the society took the place of the one destroyed. This stands at the corner of Market and Clinton streets, on a fine, commanding site, and is one of the best church buildings in the city, and under the charge of the present popular pastor, the congregation is in a most flourishing condition.

Besides the misfortune occasioned by the loss of the church, they were afflicted by a yet greater one in the conduct of their first pastor, Michael Hummer. A sketch of this man's character, together with a history of the *bell* belonging to the church, deserves a place here.

HUMMER AND HIS BELL.

From a memorandum before me, it appears that Mr. Hummer was pastor of the Presbyterian Church from 1841 until 1846, at which time he was appointed by the presbytery as an agent to go east and collect funds to aid in the erection of the Des Moines College, at West Point, in Lee county. It appears that he met with good success in collecting funds, but the small amount finding its way into the church treasury created a suspicion that a large portion of it stuck to the Rev. gentleman's fingers. This, together with certain irregular habits and irreverent conduct, caused the presbytery to cite

Mr. Hummer to appear before them to answer to certain charges preferred against him. At the trial Mr. H. behaved in a most unbecoming and disorderly manner, and after having violated all the rules of propriety, he left the house in a towering passion, declaring that the presbytery was "*a den of ecclesiastical thieves.*" He appeared no more before them, but continued his disorderly behavior, totally disregarding the authority of the presbytery, until it was rendered necessary to strip him of all ministerial authority and expel him from all connection with the gospel ministry. Hummer still held claims against the church at Iowa City, for his services as clergyman. Some difference of opinion existed as to the value of those services. The church building was now enclosed, and the belfry so far completed as to receive the bell, which was hung therein. The bell was a large one, of heavy and splendid tone, presented to the church by some gentlemen of Troy, N. Y., the proprietor of the bell foundry being one of the number.

On a certain day in the year 1848, the peaceful citizens of Iowa City were thrown into a high state of excitement by the report being spread that Michael Hummer, accompanied by his pliant tool, Dr. Margrave, had arrived in the city with means of transportation, intending to take the bell from the Presbyterian church, and convey it to Keokuk, there to be placed in a new temple which Hummer had erected and dedicated to the service of some devilish deity of his own. These two worthies procured ropes and blocks and proceeded to the church. Ascending to the belfry by the aid of a long ladder, they proceeded to unhang the bell and lower it to the ground. While Margrave went to the stable for the horses and wagon, Hummer ascended into the belfry for the purpose of getting down the tackle. By this time a number of citizens had gathered at the church and seemed bent on interrupting the plans of the ex-Rev. gentleman. They first removed the ladder, rendering his descent impossible. A conveyance appeared upon the ground, the bell was quickly loaded into the wagon, and escorted by some six or eight citi-

zens, moved rapidly out of the city and disappeared in a northerly direction. This was done in less time than it has taken to relate it, the Rev. Michael viewing the whole proceedings from the belfry, venting his rage and mortification in violent jesticulations and expletives, which would sound strangely coming from a pulpit. In this pleasant manner he was compelled to pass the time until the coming of his *confrere* Margrave, who, by replacing the ladder, released Michael from his elevated prison. His reverence descended, his sandy locks standing erect, vowing vengeance through his livid lips, and presenting a most perfect picture of impotent rage. He commenced suit against certain of our citizens, and like Saul of old, he applied to the sooth-sayers and those who have dealings with familiar spirits, but all in vain. The whereabouts of the bell remained a sealed mystery to him, and to nearly all of our citizens for some years. At length the following facts were developed: The company taking the bell from Hummer, proceeded up the river to a point near the mouth of Rapid Creek, where the bell was sunk in deep water. This was to remain a profound secret until the difficulty between Hummer and the church could be settled. Then the bell was to be returned to its rightful owners. The parties engaged in this were not members of the church, but citizens actuated by a laudable desire to retain so valuable a bell in the city.

But they had a traitor among them who secretly removed the bell to another point in the river, and when it was sought for by the parties hiding it, it could not be found. Nothing further was ascertained of the whereabouts of the bell until the return of some of our citizens from California, when the mystery was revealed.

David Laumreau, a native of England, who belonged to the Mormon church and had been living in the city for some years, and James Miller, started in company for California. They took the bell from the river, where they had last placed it, and headed it up in a cask well packed in saw-dust. It was secretly loaded upon an ox-wagon and transported across

the plains, over the Rocky Mountains to Salt Lake City, where it was sold to Brigham Young, for a sum far below its value, and is now being used to call the "latter day saints" together to their strange and heathenish worship. Thus I have given the readers of the ANNALS the somewhat strange and romantic history of what is commonly called "Hummer's Bell." Sketches of it have appeared in print at different times, and its history has been embalmed in song. I think a poetical effusion upon this subject appeared in a former number of the ANNALS. Had it not, it should have received a place here.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, held its first quarterly conference at Iowa City, July 9th, 1841. Rev. Garrett G. Worthington was appointed to the Iowa mission, embracing what is now Iowa City Station, the church was duly organized and its officers appointed. Rev. G. B. Bowman was appointed preacher in charge of Iowa mission. He was a man of great energy of character and active business habits. Under his management funds were raised and a substantial brick edifice erected, on the quarter block on the corner of Dubuque and Jefferson streets. Rev. J. L. Thompson, with Rev. L. Case as junior preacher, was appointed to this charge the following year. Rev. David Worthington was appointed preacher in charge, in 1844. He was succeeded by Rev. Jas. D. Templin. These were days of severe trial and bitter discipline to the church. The country was comparatively new, and sparsely settled. Facilities for travel were meager, and all the disadvantages of frontier life were experienced by preacher and people. In 1846, Rev. J. Harris was appointed to Iowa City, followed in the year 1847, by Rev. Alcinous Young, whose labors during the two years of his pastorate, were signally blessed and attended with substantial benefits to the church. Father Young is still living amid the scenes of his former trials and triumphs, loved and revered by all. The pulpit has since been supplied by the following gentlemen. Rev'ds D. Worthington, J. B. Hardy, M. H. Hare, T. E. Corkhill, E. W. Twining, L. B. Dennis, A. J. Kynett, E. C.

Byam, L. Taylor, R. L. Collier, A. B. Kendig, J. Laverty, I. K. Fuller, J. Bowman and E. R. Young. The last named gentleman is now pastor of this church. During the pastorate of Rev. A. B. Kendig, extensive improvements and additions were made to the building, and the present spacious and tasteful edifice is the fruit of his zealous and efficient labors.

The Baptist Church of Iowa City was organized June 26th, 1841. Rev. W. B. Moray was the first pastor. Elder Parks officiated here at different times during the succeeding four years. In 1845 the Rev. Dexter P. Smith took charge of the congregation, and soon after commenced collecting funds here and in the east for the erection of a church building. A building committee was chosen, consisting of D. P. Smith, Jos. T. Fales, H. Brown, G. Hartssock and Jas. D. W. Marsh. The present church was completed and dedicated in 1848. It is a neat brick structure, 40 by 65, with portico; cost, \$5,000.

Rev. D. P. Smith continued pastor from 1845 to 1851, when, in consequence of ill health, he abandoned this charge and accepted an appointment from the Sunday School Union as their general agent for the State, in which capacity he labored with great success for eight years. During this time the following remarkable circumstance occurred. I give it in the gentleman's own words:

"I addressed a union meeting in Davenport, and took up a collection and pledges for money to aid in furnishing libraries for the new settlements. An unknown individual gave a pledge to furnish \$1,000 at a bank in Davenport, within a specified time. As the man was not known to any one in Davenport, this pledge was thought to be a hoax. Before the maturity of the pledge, Rev. Miles Parker, of the Baptist Church of that place, was met in the street by a stranger, who inquired if he remembered the discourse of Mr. Smith and a small pledge that was given by a stranger. He replied that he did. Thereupon the stranger placed in Mr. P.'s hand a bag containing \$1,000 in gold, saying, 'you will please convey this to Mr. Smith.' He then passed out of sight, and nothing has been heard of him since."

This was truly a noble gift, and made in a real christian manner.

German Methodist Episcopal Church. This church was organized in 1849, the first minister, the Rev. Phillip Funk, the first members Henry Ahlbrécht, Louise Ahlbrécht and Frederick Blume. In 1857, G. W. Marquardt, Henry Ahlbrecht, Barnhard Gesbürg and John Wagnér were chosen a board of trustees. They purchased a lot on the corner of Gilbert and Jefferson streets, and upon it erected a neat church building. This society is progressing harmoniously under the pastoral charge of Rev. Conrad Bemrenter.

The Congregational Church of Iowa City was organized July 20, 1866. President, N. H. Brainerd; secretary, C. F. Clarke; treasurer, C. Starr; trustees, O. C. Isbell, John Döe. On July 31, 1866, the church had fifty-one members who listened to a sermon by Rev. G. F. Magoun. Rev. G. D. A. Hebard was chosen pastor, D. S. Holmes and Dr. John Doe deacons, Harmon Goodrich clerk, and DeWitt C. Holmes treasurer. The corner-stone of the church building was laid June 9, 1868. This building is of brick, situated at the corner of Clinton and Jefferson streets, of fine proportions, built in the Gothic style of architecture, and reflects credit on the building committee.

The Christian Church of Iowa City was organized March 23, 1863, by Elder D. S. Burnett, of Baltimore, Md. First board of trustees, K. Porter, G. K. Zimmerman and Constantine Evans. The building formerly occupied by the Protestant Methodists, then being unoccupied, was purchased by the Christian congregation, and now known as the Christian Chapel, is occupied by them as a place of worship. It stands on Iowa Avenue, fronting the City Park. In the purchase of this property and in many other important steps in the organization of this congregation, its members are largely indebted to the liberality and generous spirit evinced by the late Col. Kimball Porter, who was one of its most worthy members. The regular preachers of this congregation have been Samuel Lowe, Joseph Lowe and John C. Hay, the latter gentlemen being the present pastor.

The foregoing is a brief history of all the churches in Iowa City of which a record of organization can be obtained. An account of the remaining churches will be given from memory and the personal knowledge of the writer.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—This society now occupies a building at the corner of Burlington and Dubuque streets, which was purchased for the temporary use of the church. A fine building site at the corner of College and Gilbert streets is the property of the congregation, whereon it is proposed to erect a church edifice which will prove a credit to the city and adapted to the requirements of their rapidly increasing numbers. The present pastor, Rev. Mr. Ganter, by his earnest zeal and persuasive eloquence, has added many to the membership of his church, and by a constant attendance upon the affairs of his flock *solely*, has secured the respect and esteem of all who know him.

The New School Presbyterian Church was organized and a substantial stone structure erected in the early days of our city, under the pastoral care and superintendence of Rev. W. W. Woods, and under his ministry a large and flourishing society was built up. At length other preachers came into the work, dissensions arose among the shepherds causing the flock to scatter, until now it is nearly broken up. The church building is at present occupied by the State Historical Society.

The Catholic Church, under the pastoral charge of Rev. Wm. Emmons, is the largest congregation in the city. A magnificent building for its use is now in process of erection at the corner of Jefferson and Linn streets.

The United Presbyterian congregation occupy a snug brick edifice for public worship, on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Gilbert street.

The Lutheran Church is situated on the corner of Dubuque and Market streets. Here English followers of Luther meet for worship.

German Lutheran Church Society occupy a substantial brick building on the corner of Bloomington and Johnson streets. Here a large congregation of the countrymen of the great reformer meet to worship.

As will be seen by the foregoing brief sketch thirteen different societies have their churches for worship in Iowa City, thus affording a fair opportunity for those who are in search of religious truth to select a church in accordance with their religious views. In addition to the number in Iowa City, there are, in the different townships within the limits of Johnson county, fifteen other church structures, many of them built of brick and all of respectable size. These are filled each Sabbath with earnest and zealous christians. If any county can present a fairer religious aspect than this, let it be done.

Now, to leave ecclesiastical for incidental history, I will speak of the

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

In January, 1855, the legislature of the State provided for an election on the first Monday in August, 1856, for taking a vote of the people for or against a convention to revise or amend the State constitution. The election resulted in a majority of 18,628 in favor of holding the said convention. An election for delegates was holden in November, 1856, and the convention met at Iowa City, January 19, 1857, and adjourned on the 5th of March following. This convention was composed of the following named gentlemen: Ed. Johnstone, M. W. Robinson, Rufus L. B. Clarke, D. H. Solomon, Jas. A. Young, W. Penn. Clarke, H. W. Gray, W. A. Warren, A. Scott, W. Patterson, J. C. Hall, Geo. Gillaspv, D. W. Price, H. D. Gibson, G. W. Ells, J. C. Traer, A. H. Marvin, S. G. Winchester, Squire Ayers, D. P. Palmer, John Edwards, D. Bunker, Lewis Todhunter, R. Gower, H. J. Skiff, J. H. Emerson, J. T. Clark, T. Day, Jas. F. Wilson, Amos Harris, Jer. Hollingsworth, J. A. Parvin, A. R. Cotton, T. Seeley, John H. Peters, T. J. Saunders, Secretary; Francis Springer, President.

By reference to the first constitution of the State of Iowa two sound provisions may be found, one prohibiting the State legislature from contracting a State debt of more than \$100,000, without first submitting the question to a vote of the people at the general election. The other prohibiting bank-

ing of every description within the limits of the State. Under the influence of the foregoing wise and just provisions the true interests of the masses of the people were protected; and the correctness of this line of policy was proved by a tide of immigration that flowed in, and a rapid increase in wealth, unequaled in the history of the settlement of any new State. But now a body of men had met to revise this constitution and introduce a new policy. They struck out the clause limiting the State indebtedness, also the one prohibiting banking; and our late State debt of \$600,000, to pay which our taxes have been doubled, may be looked to as the fruits of this new policy. By this constitution was created a State Board of Education, the office of Lieutenant Governor, and a grant of the privileges of banking to such corporations. The Board of Education proved of no benefit unless the absorption of a portion of the school fund for the benefit of the Board should be deemed such.

The history of the churches of Johnson county having in a measure been given, it is due that charitable and philanthropic associations, not acting under directions of sect or creed, have a place in this history. First, as to the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of

FREE MASONS.

The different Lodges of Free Masonry in Iowa City, are Iowa City Lodge, No. 4, Chartered January 8, 1844. Dr. Wm. Reynolds was the first W. M., Dr. S. M. Ballard the first S. W., Geo. S. Hampton the first J. W.

Zion Lodge, No. 31, chartered June 2, 1852. George W. McCleary first W. M., Geo. D. Crosthwaite first S. W., Jas. P. Carlton first J. W.

Iowa City R. A. Chapter, No. 2, chartered June 8, 1864.

Palestine Commandery Knights Templar, No. 2, chartered September 15, 1856. J. R. Hartsock, first E. C., Kimball Porter, first Gen., D. S. Warren, first Capt. Gen. Following in the train of these workers for good amid the unfortunates of earth, yet not inferior to them in ennobling influences, comes the fraternity of

I. O. O. F.,

Whose members are found in the following Lodges: Kosciusko Lodge, No. 6, chartered September 14, 1846. Charter members, S. M. Ballard, Wm. Patterson, Abraham H. Palmer, M. L. Morris, J. R. Hartsock, Thos. Hughes, G. W. McCleary, E. Lindsey.

Eureka Lodge, No. 44. Chartered March 7, 1853.

Teutonia Lodge, No. 129. (German.) Chartered February 29, 1860.

All of the above named Lodges are full in membership and in flourishing condition.

But amid the changing years, and with the increase of population, the farmers of the county had been steadily gaining ground in material prosperity. To further their gains and beget an emulation that should incite its members to strive for a more perfect method of farming,

THE JOHNSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

was organized in 1853. A plat of ground was purchased, one-half mile south-west of the city, upon which was erected buildings for the accommodation of the officers and exhibitors, and a fine half mile track laid out for the exhibition of horses and trials of speed, stables and sheds for horses and cattle on exhibition, and other accommodations projected. Here the Iowa State Fair was held in the years of 1860, and 1861. During the late unhappy war, the prosperity of this association suffered a material check, but now with the return of peace and peaceful arts it resumes and wore its old thriftiness, as the exhibition of the present year has disclosed.

In this display was shown a praiseworthy spirit among our farmers and fruit growers, while the present officers of the association deserve the thanks of the community, for the handsome manner in which they have completed the much needed improvements upon the grounds.

While Johnson county has been thus improving, and we have noticed the evidences of her prosperity, there remains yet another ally to be spoken of.

RAILROADS.

About the year 1850, a number of citizens of Chicago, together with some eastern capitalists, formed a company for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Chicago to Rock Island. This company was organized under the name of Chicago and Rock Island R. R. Co. They commenced work at Chicago and advanced rapidly westward with the construction of the road. Soon after this a company was formed in Iowa for the construction of a road from Davenport, on the Mississippi, opposite Rock Island, to Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, passing through Iowa City and Des Moines. The work on this road was commenced in 1853, and though having to encounter many severe obstacles, yet through the energy and perseverance of those having the work in charge, it steadily progressed, and at the close of the year 1855 it was rapidly approaching Iowa City. This was a most important era in the history of Johnson county, and the citizens of Iowa City and vicinity prepared to celebrate it in a manner becoming so great and important an event. On the 26th of November, at a meeting of the common council, alderman J. H. Gower offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the mayor be requested to call a meeting of the citizens of Iowa City on Saturday, the first day of December next, at the city school house, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for a railroad festival or celebration upon the completion of the M. and M. R. R. to this place."

This meeting and others of a similar character were held, when our citizens responded most liberally to the call for a contribution of funds, some \$2,500 being raised. Committees were appointed, and every necessary arrangement perfected for a grand jollification. Invitations were extended to the citizens of Chicago, Rock Island and the intermediate towns, to the citizens of Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine and all the principal cities of Iowa, to be present at the festivities. Preparations were made to give to all comers a most cordial

and hearty welcome. As the day approached, our city presented a scene of bustle and excitement unparalleled in its history.

It had been decided that on New Year's day the laying of the track should be completed to our depot grounds. To enable the contractors to accomplish this our citizens turned out in heavy force, and though the weather was most inclement they worked during the last day of December, assisting to lay the track, continuing their labors into the night, and by dint of hard exertion they had the gratification to usher in a railroad car and the year 1856, both at the same time. The scenes of that night will long be remembered by those who participated in them. It was said that among the many strange effects the cold produced was an unaccountable excitement manifested among many of the Sons of Temperance.

Large wood fires were kindled along the line of road by which the workmen warmed themselves, and a horse and wagon made regular trips to and from the city bringing oil and other "trimmings" for the work. Thus the New Year was ushered in with great joy. All arrangements being completed, the citizens looked forward with bright anticipations to the 3d of January, the day fixed for great ovation. It was ushered in by the coldest blasts of winter, the mercury standing 20° below zero.

At 2 o'clock the booming of artillery announced the arrival of a train of seven cars filled with guests, who were received by our citizens and escorted to the State House where the warmth and comfort awaiting them bid defiance to Boreas. After the usual preliminary salutations the company was welcomed in a neat and appropriate speech by Le Grand Byington, Esq., president of the day, which was responded to by Dr. Maxwell of Chicago. On the assembling of the guests at the tables, Mr. Byington called them to order by remarking in substance, that they had now arrived at a most interesting point in the festivities of the occasion, and were about to discuss the substantial bounties which had been spread by the patriotic ladies of Iowa City—a banquet in its abundance and

in the splendor of its arrangements far too magnificent for kings, princes and potentates, and just good enough for the projectors and builders of western railroads. As grace before meat was an ancient and good custom, he desired the company to join him in the request, that our esteemed friend, Bishop Lee, of Davenport, would invoke a blessing, which being done, the repast began. Of the supper prepared by the ladies of Iowa City, and under the direction of the sub-committee, Mr. Hutchinson, words are inadequate to convey a description. To say that the tables in point of magnificence, taste and bounty, surpassed anything of the kind ever attempted in the State, were but a sorry compliment, we heard so many higher encomiums lavished upon the whole arrangements.

The repast concluded and cloth removed, a number of toasts, highly complimentary in character, were given and responded to in a manner happy and appropriate. In the meanwhile, those who found pleasure in the dance were tripping the "light fantastic" to the mellow strains of Jones' band. Joy and pleasure ruled the hour.

"Without, the wind might war and rustle,
They minded not the storm a whistle."

At one o'clock in the morning the last strains of music died away, and the last footfall of this merry company resounded among the corridors of the capitol as they sought lodgings at the homes of our citizens, where we fear many of our guests occupied closer quarters than they ever had before.

At an adjourned meeting of the general committee of arrangements for this festival in honor of the completion of the railroad to Iowa City, on the 12th of January, 1856, the following proceedings were had:

The sub-committee on finance reported that they had audited and arranged with the treasurer to pay all the bills contracted for the celebration, and that there then remained a surplus fund of nearly five hundred dollars. After a general interchange of opinion as to the best method of disposing of this surplus, it was, on motion of Mr. Downey,

Resolved, That said surplus fund be expended, under the direction of a sub-committee of six, in procuring a practical survey and estimate of a line of railroad from Iowa City to Mt. Pleasant or Cedar Rapids, in the discretion of the committee.

The following named gentlemen were selected as said committee: LeGrand Byington, H. D. Downey, Sylvanus Johnson, S. C. Trowbridge, E. C. Lyon and F. H. Lee. On motion,

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this committee be tendered to the ladies of Iowa City for their invaluable aid in spreading the bountiful and elegant repast for the late festival.

LEGRAND BYINGTON, *Chairman*.

L. B. PATTERSON, *Secretary*.

Thus was Iowa City connected by rail with Chicago and the east at a much earlier period than the first settlers could have anticipated. After a few years the construction of the road west was commenced, but its progress was slow under the management of the M. and M. Co. About the year 1866 the whole line of road to Council Bluffs was purchased by the Chicago and Rock Island Co., under whose management the work has been pushed rapidly on, and the completion of the road to the Bluffs may be looked for early in 1869. To this company belongs the honor of constructing the first bridge across the Mississippi, over which trains have been running for some years, at Rock Island. This road will form one of the most important links in the great Pacific Railroad. Its course is through the very heart and centre of Johnson county.

Besides this road, now known as the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, another is in progress of construction, an important one, running from south to north through the county, intended as a connection between the cities of Keokuk and Cedar Rapids, and when built it will give us an outlet to St. Louis and the lower Mississippi on the south, and connect with Minnesota and the upper Mississippi on the north. This enterprise originated with the citizens of Iowa City and the people of Johnson county, who, with the co-operation of the

people of Des Moines, Henry, Washington and Linn counties, are carrying it on to a speedy completion. About 50 miles of the line are already graded and the company is working busily at the remainder, including the bridge across the Iowa River, one and a half miles below Iowa City. The line of this road passes through the townships of Liberty, Iowa City, Newport, Big Grove and Jefferson, and when completed will constitute one of the most important thoroughfares in the State, tapping as it does the fine bituminous coal region of southern Iowa, by which the eastern and northern portions of the State can be cheaply supplied with fuel; and penetrating the pine growing regions of Minnesota, thus bringing to our doors cheap lumber for the use of farmer and mechanic.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

Johnson county lies between $41^{\circ} 24'$ and $41^{\circ} 51'$ of north latitude.

The longitude of its central meridian is about $91^{\circ} 33'$ west.

It is bounded on the north by Linn county; on the east by the counties of Cedar and Muscatine; south by Louisa and Washington counties; and on the west by Iowa county.

It at present contains seventeen full congressional townships and about six sections over, which is equivalent to six hundred and eighteen square miles, or three hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and twenty acres.

The latitude of its principal point, Iowa City, is $41^{\circ} 38' 30''$ north. The correct longitude is unknown to the writer.

The surface of the country presents a great variety; the south-west and western portions are perhaps the most rolling or undulating, while the north-east and eastern parts are the most regular. The bluffy and broken lands lie principally along the streams.

In shape the county is not regular; its west line running north and south, is an unbroken township line, and it is the same with its north line, running east and west, also its east line. But its south line extends from its south-east corner in a due west direction to the Iowa River, cutting that stream three times. At the third intersection the boundary follows

along the channel up the river to the south line of township seventy eight north, then following this south line to the south-west corner of township seventy-eight, north range eight west, which south-west township corner is also the south-west corner of the county.

The north-west corner of township eighty-one, north range eight west, is the north-west corner of the county, and in like manner the north-east corner of township eighty-one, north range five west, and the south-east corner of township seventy-seven, north range five west, constitute respectively the north-east and south-east corners of the county. The county is traversed by two streams of considerable size—The Iowa and Cedar Rivers, and with their branches is therefore well watered.

The Cedar runs but a short course in the county, striking its north line about two and one half miles west of the north-east corner and cutting the east line about three miles south of the same corner, running in all about six miles in the county.

The branches of the Cedar within the lines of the county are few and small, the largest one heading near Mr. Nolan's, in section two, of township eighty, range five west, and running about due north a distance of three miles, empties into the river just below quite a large island.

The Iowa river enters the county at the north-west corner of section thirty-six, five miles south of the north west corner of the county. It then runs a course a little north of east to section nineteen in township eighty-one north, range six west, at which point it changes its course to nearly south-east, running to the south line of section fifteen in township eighty north, range six west. Here its course is about south 25° west to section five in township seventy-nine, range six. At this last point it makes a sudden bend, taking a course of about north 25° east (or a direction about opposite to its last course), to section three of the last named township, from which point it runs almost due south about twelve miles, to the south line of the county, making in that distance only one mile of easting.

The river, in its passage across the county, makes some very sharp and remarkable bends, the most notable of which is the one where it changes its course from north-easterly to almost due south—a feature which is shared by other streams in the State, such as the Cedar and the Wapsipinicon (see maps of the State). Among the smaller bends, the one on section thirty-one in township eighty-one north, range six west, deserves notice. It is called horse-shoe bend, from its shape. The river, after running a distance of two miles, comes back within about a third of a mile of itself. The banks, nearly all the way around the bend, are high, and the river channel narrow, causing the stream to rise very high in times of flood. During the high water of 1851, a gorge occurred in this bend, throwing the waters back and raising them to a great height. In the fork of a tree standing near the mouth of Hoosier creek, about a mile above the gorge, the writer saw, a year ago, a rail that the waters of the gorge had lodged there. He found, by actual measurement, that the rail was elevated 25 feet above the ground at the foot of the tree, and nearly 30 feet above the water.

Another bend occurs just above Iowa City where the river, after running a distance of about three and one-half miles, comes back within a mile of itself. A number of surveys have been made with a view of bringing the waters of the river, by canal or tunnel or both, from the northern flexure of this bend to the city, for manufacturing purposes.

The last survey of the kind was conducted by Peter A. Dey, Esq., C. E. of Iowa City.

A remarkable contraction in the high water channel of the river takes place just below Iowa City, at a point below Joseph Stover's, Esq., and directly west of the residences of Cyrus and Richard Sanders, Esq's.; here the river, in 1851, rose 3 to 4 feet higher than it did a half mile below.

About a mile above where the river leaves the county altogether are the Buttermilk Falls, a place of danger in low water to the flatbottomed craft of that pioneer merchant and the first boatman to successfully navigate this tortuous stream, John Powell, Esq.

The river at this point has cut a channel through an ancient bed of "Drift," washing away the clay and leaving the boulders, large and small, scattered thickly along its bed, and the water rushing and foaming along through them constitutes the Buttermilk Falls.

Just above these falls is to be seen the remains of an ancient ferry, and the trace of the line of an old road running towards Muscatine.

The old or first crossing places of this river are mostly abandoned, for the reason that the trade which of old went to Muscatine in a direction across the river now goes to Iowa City near the center of the county, and for the entire south half of the county travels in a direction parallel with the river. Iowa City being on the east bank, it is only the trade and travel from the west that must cross there, so that almost the entire trade and travel of the west half of the county reaches the city by crossing the river on the "free bridge" at that place.

Two ferries, Roberts and Cottrell's, furnish the means of crossing the river for the trade of the northwestern part of the county.

But to resume: Next above the old crossing at "Buttermilk Falls" is to be seen the marks of what was once known as Stover's ferry, about a mile below Iowa City. This is perhaps the oldest crossing of the kind on the river, in this county. It was owned by Mr. Joseph Stover, who now resides on the west bank near the old site. Next in order going up the stream, are the loose piles of stones, the remains of what was once the foundations of the piers of Dr. Metcalf's bridge. It stood a short distance above the present Rock Island & Pacific Railroad bridge. Then comes the "free bridge," over which rolls an almost continuous tide of trade and travel to and from the city.

A short distance above the free bridge are the abutments and remains of the piers of "Folsom's bridge." At this point was the principal crossing of the trade and travel from the west to the city, and indeed of all the westward travel that

centered at Iowa City, bound for Council Bluffs and the great West, until the erection of the free bridge. There before the days of trestle or "Howe Truss" bridges, was kept the ferry, owned and operated first by Alexander Able, then by Pleasant Arthur, and afterwards by G. Folsom, Esq.

The writer remembers well how the east bank of the river was crowded with the tents and white covered wagons of the "Californians" during the years of 1851 and 52, and how during the high water times of those years, Mr. Folsom busied himself in the labor of crossing these emigrants. No rope could be procured long enough to reach from shore to shore of the turbulent and greatly swollen stream, so the ferry boat had to be propelled by poles in the hands of stout men, and foremost among them was to be seen Mr. Folsom, pole in hand guiding his flat bottomed craft. The good people of Iowa City and the travelling public generally, owe Mr. Folsom a constant debt of gratitude for the energy he displayed, and the persistent manner in which he kept up this crossing.

Over the road leading to this crossing point, has passed an immense amount of life, trade and treasure. Over it has passed no small number of the many thousands who years ago wended their weary way westward to the "land of gold," some of whom were destined to be wafted home on the wings of the wind or by the power of steam, with hopes blasted and constitutions mined, a very few with the gold they sought: Others passed to the west over this worn and dusty highway never to return, finding a comfortable home on the bright shores of the Pacific, or perhaps a grave.

For a time a ferry was kept just below what was then known as the "Mill Company's Dam," now known as "Clark's" or "Close's" dam. This crossing has long since been abandoned. The Iowa River abounds in fish, many of them of excellent quality and large size, such as pike, pickerel, bass, river salmon and cat fish, together with a great variety of suckers and fish of an inferior quality.

The Iowa river has been navigated in times past by some of the medium sized Upper Mississippi boats as far as Iowa

City, and lately by a boat which was built here by Capt. Reninger. The boat took its name from the place where it was built, "Iowa City."

In these days of railway travel, no necessity exists for the building of "flat-boats" to carry away the farmer's produce, nor of "light draft steamers" for the same purpose, for the "iron horse" now performs that duty for us in a much more expeditious manner.

On the west side of the Iowa river, the principal streams that empty into it within the limits of the county are, beginning at the south side of the county, first, a small creek that, for want of any other name, I shall call Fessler creek. It enters the river about half a mile above the south line of the county. Next in order, going northward, is "Old Man's creek," quite a large stream. It waters nearly all of the civil townships of Hardin, Union, Sharon and Liberty, with a part of Washington. The remainder of this township is watered by Deer creek and another branch of English river.

Passing from Iowa City, on the west side of the Iowa, to the southward, the first object of note is the hill called the Indian Lookout, a high, towering knob or point. In the river valley, to the east of this hill and the river, the Indians once occupied a town or village. This spot they had inhabited for a long time previous to the settlement of the country by the whites, and continued to inhabit it after their coming. Here it was that these dusky people spent their idle hours in feasting and dancing, and on the lofty hill to the west the old men kept watch and ward. A most suitable place was the top of this hill for such guardianship, for it towers above all the surrounding country. To the east, from its top, can be seen the most of Scott and Pleasant Valley townships. To the south and west, on a clear morning, is presented a most lovely view. Stretched out before and beneath you is the broad valley of Old Man's creek, checkered with farms, dotted with farm houses, and bordered by the heavy timber on the creek, relieved by a dim background of the distant hills beyond.

About one mile and a half west of Iowa City, and above it on the river, Clear creek empties itself. Not so large a stream as Old Man's Creek, yet it gives power to at least one mill on its banks. This stream waters the townships of Oxford and Clear Creek, with a part of Penn, Union and Iowa City townships.

There is but one more stream of note on the west side of the river—this is called on the map Buffalo Creek, but is known to the inhabitants along its banks as Dirty Face Creek. It waters the eastern part of Penn township, and empties into the river about two miles north of Iowa City.

The north parts of Penn and Oxford townships are watered by insignificant rivulets, in a northerly direction running into the Iowa.

As we are now in the northwest part of the county, we will descend the river on its eastern bank and note the streams that flow into it on that side. Now as the river, in this part of the county, runs nearly east for a distance of about 12 miles the streams flowing into it run southward.

And first in Monroe township we have, beginning at the west line of the county and going eastward, Price, Knapp and Plum creeks.

In Jefferson township Brown's, McAlister's, and a branch of Hoosier or Lingle creek.

In Big Grove township, is Hoosier or Lingle creek. This is a considerable stream, the proper name of which is Lingle from the mouth to the forks about three miles above, at which point the west fork takes the name of Hoosier creek, and the east one retains that of Lingle. There is a branch of Lingle creek on the west side about a mile above the mouth which has already been spoken of as watering a part of Jefferson township. Just below the point of the meeting of Hoosier and Lingle creeks is the mill once known as "Lingle's mill." Who of the old settlers does not remember Lingle's mill, one among the first to take the place of coffee mills, hominy blocks and other "corn crackers?" The mill is now in running order, and is known as "the Bohemian

mill." Also in Big Grove township, and to the south of Lingle creek is Sells, or Mill creek. This stream is properly called Sells creek, from Anthony Sells, who settled upon it in an early day and built a mill now known as "Hendricks mill." Mr. Sells still lives upon the banks of the stream. This creek forks about a half mile above its mouth, the south branch taking the name of Jordan creek. Hendricks mill is situated upon the north branch, on Sells creek, just above where Jordan joins it. We have now passed the point where the river makes its great bend to the south, and are now travelling southward. The last stream that we crossed (Sells creek) flows westward as do all that succeed it. Going southward the next in order of importance is Turkey creek. Between this stream and Sells creek are to be found two or three small ones, the names of which are unknown to the writer. Turkey creek empties into the river about four miles above Iowa City. All of the streams we have crossed since leaving Sells creek are in Newport township.

South of Turkey and about two miles above Iowa City is the mouth of Rapid creek, a large stream watering the township of Graham, a part of Cedar and a part of Newport. Its principal branch leaves it on the north side, about one half mile above the mouth, and is called Sander's creek. Upon this stream are still to be seen the remains of the following mill sites: Redabaugh's saw mill, near the mouth of the stream; above this one mile was Strub's mill; at the crossing of the Dubuque road was the saw mill of Henry Felkner, Esq., the first mill built in the county, and above this a short distance stood the Taylor, or McCrady mill. These mills have played an important part in the early history of the county. They ground the flour and the meal that kept grim hunger from our doors, they sawed the lumber that sheltered us from the vicissitudes of the seasons, and in fences protected our crops. Right nobly did they battle for us until superceded by the all devouring monster the steam mill, which has since and in so short a time levelled so much of our majestic forests.

But to resume our journey. Passing Iowa City, we find running through its limits a small stream called Ralston creek. It was named after one of the founders of the city, Robert Ralston, Esq. Below the city five miles, we find Snyder creek, which waters a part of Scott and Pleasant Valley townships. Ten miles below Iowa City, is a small creek, the name of which is unknown to the writer. It waters a part of Pleasant Valley and Fremont townships. The eastern part of Scott township is watered by the heads of the Wapsinonoc, a small branch of the Cedar river; which is also the case with the east part of Graham township. This completes the list of water courses within the county.

The surface of the county is well diversified with groves and dots of timber, and in the northern part, especially, is heavily timbered. All the forest trees indigenous to the north west exist in abundance. All the varieties of oak, walnut, hickory, with ash, elm and cottonwood, abound. Its springs are pure and limpid. In short, the county, with its springs of pure water, its waving groves of timber, its dancing rivulets, its broad-spread farms, its deep and slow-flowing rivers, its tidy farm houses and rapidly growing city and flourishing villages, presents a landscape most beautiful to look upon.

From whence does all this that is so beautiful and enchanting spring? But thirty years ago, where now you see the signs and hear the sounds of happy industry, was to be found the silent prairie and the trackless forest, trodden only by the wild beast and the wily Indian. It is all due to the onward march of civilization; due to the intelligence of the white man.

Geologically speaking, the foundation rocks of the county are known as the upper Devonian, or old red sandstone system, capped, perhaps, in the north-west and northern parts by the lowest strata of the subcarboniferous beds, and above all is that thick blanket that dame nature so lavishly spreads over mother earth's breast, called by the geologist "drift." The rocks abound in rare specimens of fossil shells and corals, and furnish the best of building material. On

the tops of some of the highest hills are to be seen the marks of man's habitation many ages since—those rounded mounds of earth disposed in rows and circles, and attributed to the “mound builders.” At what time they were constructed, must remain a matter of speculation; but certain it is that they were built before the growth of the present forests, for I have frequently seen the largest trees growing on the tops and sides of the mounds. But I leave the subject to the antiquarian.

Along the river and principally along Turkey and Rapid creeks are to be seen the marks of a more ancient power than the “mound builders.” It is that of old Titan himself, or if you please the upheaval power. The heavy beds of rock are thrown upward and broken through, forming bluffs, crags and precipices enchanting and picturesque in their appearance.

I turn now from the works of time—the works of water and the works of man all done in former ages, and times gone by, to the marks that we, the men of the present age are making. Besides the massive public buildings and churches that we have erected; the wild prairies have been converted into waving grain fields and thriving villages.

The productive capacity of Johnson county, and the prosperity and number of her inhabitants, may be judged from the following showing, taken from State census report of 1867.

Total white population, 21,562; negro population, 75; dwelling houses, 3634; number of acres of land inclosed in the county, 160,821; uninclosed, 227,680; bushels of wheat grown in 1867, 274,843; bushels of oats grown, 512,399; bushels of corn grown, 1,629,207; gallons of syrup from sorghum, 52,410; bushels of flax seed grown, 22,319; gallons of oil manufactured, 65,000; number of horses, 9,391; number of mules, 595; number of cattle, 25,706; number of hogs, 50,611; number of sheep, 47,686.

Thus have the readers of the ANNALS been furnished with a rather imperfect history and sketch of Johnson county, from its first settlement in 1837, up to the present time.

Any errors that may exist in the foregoing pages must be attributed to the fact that no records were kept of many of the incidents mentioned, and to the conflict of opinions regarding the same. I submit them to the public in the hope that they may furnish material for the future and more able historian wherewith to weave a history worthy the perusal of our childrens' children.

F. M. IRISH.

Rose Hill, October, 1868.

DAVENPORT, October 16th, 1868.

To the Editor of the Annals of Iowa :

DEAR SIR—It is stated on page 182 of the July number of the ANNALS OF IOWA, in an interesting article by Col. J. C. Parrott, that "the county of Lee was named for Lieut. Robert E. Lee (now General Lee)."

I have met with this statement elsewhere, but must doubt its correctness. You probably saw, not long since, General Lee's denial of all knowledge of any connection between his name and the name of Lee county; but this is not decisive. Dr. (Isaac?) Galland, who resided in Lee county and vicinity at least from 1833, when I first met him, till his death, was agent for a New York capitalist of the name of Lee, in purchasing half-breed claims in Lee county. He told me, probably twenty years ago, that members of the legislature of Iowa had proposed to him to give his name to Lee county, but that he suggested *Lee*, the name of the gentleman whose agent he was, and that his suggestion was adopted.

Truly yours,

JULIUS A. REED.

NOVEMBER STAR-SHOWER.

The field now occupied by the science of Meteoric Astronomy is, perhaps, to the casual observer, a barren one. The appearance of a meteor is so sudden, it vanishes so soon, and everything that relates to its distance, its orbit and the quarter of the heavens from whence it comes, is so uncertain and apparently so varied for different cases, that it would

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