

and preserve these passing facts, especially the passing away history of the early days of the State, is the work which the Historical Society has undertaken, which the Legislature has aided, and to which all are invited to contribute.

EDITOR.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY.

Captain Irish will complete the History of Johnson County in the next number ; a compact history, beginning with the first and ending with the last number of the year. We shall be disappointed if a very large number of persons in the county do not call for the purchase of this volume, so soon as the fact of this history comes to be generally known. It alone is worth many times the price of the volume of *THE ANNALS* containing it, to any citizen who takes an interest in the county and allows that interest to carry his inquiries above the question of its adaptability for the raising of corn or swine.

The Captain has been an extensive participator in the transactions of which he writes ; has been a keen observer, and possesses a memory of wonderful retentiveness ; has been at great pains withal in the collection of his material ; writes graphically and elegantly, and, with the assurance of "one having authority," recounts the stories of the olden time. Defects there may be—no doubt are yet our old settlers almost unanimously join in pronouncing it correct in all essential points ; and, while they would, they think, here and there modify a date or a statement, grant that it is superior in truthfulness, fairness and *completeness*, to what (in their judgment) could be produced by any other living man.

The Captain promises—having in this number passed through the more dry details and statistics—to give us more lively reading in the next number ; and those who know his peculiar raciness of style and wealth of anecdote, will know what expectations to form, based upon this promise.

In anticipation of a large demand for this volume, by the people of this county, now and hereafter, we have arranged that sufficient copies to supply the demand shall be ready upon call.

MOUNDS.

HON. ELIPHALET PRICE does not appear in this number, with a continuation of his interesting paper on the "ORIGIN, ANTIQUITY AND OBJECT OF THE MOUNDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI," but promises to resume the subject in the October number. We will give his excuse in his own words. He says :—"It will be impossible for me to send you a continuation of the Mound subject for the July number. I have been away from home some ; have been very busy some ; and lazy and indolent some ; but I will, I think, without doubt, be on hand in the October number."

The opening one of these papers indicates thorough research and much thought ; bears evidence of superiority, in every respect, to most of the writings upon this conjectural topic, and is written in a style that places it among the very best productions from the pen of the accomplished author.

“INCIDENTS OF PRISON LIFE IN 1862.”

MAJOR VAN DUZEE closes his narrative of “Prison Life” in this number. We hoped that it would have still continued. The story is one of interest, and the manner of relating it is happy. There is a felicity of expression and of scholarly finish to these articles indicative of clearness, and culture, and a literary talent of a high order.

The Major could as easily win distinction in a literary field as money profits in a business vocation, in which we believe he is eminently successful. In behalf of the many readers who have expressed to us the pleasure and interest they have found in the perusal of these articles, we extend to the writer cordial thanks for the contribution, and the State owes him gratitude for having rescued and made of record this portion of the hitherto unwritten history of her sons in prison.

STAR SHOWERS.

It was our expectation to have published an interesting article on the Great Meteoric Event of this generation, occurring on the morning of the 14th of November of the past year, from the pen of Prof. N. R. Leonard, acting President of the State University, prepared specially for *THE ANNALS*; but the sudden illness of the Professor while engaged in writing it, compels us to publish without it. It is promised for the October number.

Hon. Geo. G. Wright promises, at the earliest opportunity when he can secure *leave of absence* from his very pressing business engagements, to become a contributor to *THE ANNALS*. Being of the class of earliest citizens of the State, long in public life, extensively acquainted with the prominent men of the State (past and present), familiar with public events and public interests, his recollections will be of rare interest. We hope for a beginning in the October number.

INDIANS.

Walter Hoyt, Esq., of Iowa City, hopes to be able in the next (October) number to commence a History of the Sac Indians, which promises to be of unusual interest—tracing their migrations, their fusions with other tribes, and separations again, from their ancient homes on the borders of the great lakes to their final occupancy of lands west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Hoyt was, in early life, much among the Indians on both sides of the lakes, in Canada and in the States, and gathered his facts among them. It will hence have the merit of being new and hitherto unwritten.

“THE BEND.”

Nicholas Zeller, Esq., of Penn township, Johnson county, has furnished us with a history of the early days of that portion of the county (including two townships,) known as the “BEND,” which we are unable to publish in this number, having already given a large space to the History of Johnson County, by Capt. Irish. The sketch by Mr. Zellir contains several very interesting particulars of the early settlement of that portion of the county, and, as soon as practicable, will be published.

NEWSPAPERS.

It is a "consummation devoutly to be wished" by us that every newspaper published within the State would send a copy regularly to the *Historical Society*. Such gifts are duly appreciated. The papers received are carefully filed, bound and preserved. We are in receipt of nearly *one hundred* weekly. It is very desirable to have all.

MILITARY HISTORY OF IOWA.

Mr. A. P. Woods is still working faithfully upon his great history of the part Iowa took in the war of the rebellion. Several years of patient labor have already been devoted to the collection of material for the work. It augurs well for it. Truthfulness and completeness in particulars are qualities which give to such a work value; and these can only be secured by patient *personal* plodding through an immense mass of desultory and promiscuous matter, after a long and wearisome labor in collecting it. To collect material, arrange, compare and select, and then write a history of such a character is no holiday task.

NEWLY INAUGURATED.

This season has witnessed the inauguration of a ceremony new among the observances of communities; the *decoration of the graves of fallen soldiers*. All over the country has this ceremony been performed by returned soldiers—their former companions in arms—joined by citizens.

The 30th of May was set apart by act of the Grand Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States, and announced by the Grand Commander, Gen. John A. Logan, Washington, D. C., and under the auspices of that organization of soldiers, was carried into effect throughout the whole country.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

We expect to commence publishing a History of Washington County in the next number, written by one personally familiar with its history from its beginning.

THE ANNALS FOR 1864.

Those having extra copies of the April and July numbers of THE ANNALS of 1864, will confer a great favor by sending to us. There is a large demand for these numbers, and the supply of the Society has long been exhausted. We will send THE ANNALS gratuitously the current year to any one who will send us a copy of the July number, 1864.

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