

THE
ANNALS
OF THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JANUARY, 1863.

NUMBER I.

INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE,

BY THE EDITOR.

The object, as well as origin, of the State Historical Society is briefly expressed in the following Acts of the Legislature.

I.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That there is hereby annually appropriated until the Legislature shall by law otherwise direct, to a State Historical Society, formed or to be formed in connection with, and under the auspices of, the State University, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, to be expended by said Society in collecting, embodying, arranging and preserving in an authentic form, a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary, and other materials illustrative of the state of the history of Iowa; to rescue from oblivion the memory of its early pioneers; to obtain and preserve varieties of their exploits, perils and hardy adventures; to secure facts and statements relative to the history, genius and progress or decay of our Indian tribes; to exhibit faithfully the antiquities, past and present resources of Iowa; also, to aid in the publication of such of the collections of the Society as the Society shall from time to time deem of value and interest; to aid in binding its books, pamphlets, manuscripts and papers,

and in paying other necessary incidental expenses of the Society, but no part of such annual appropriation shall ever be paid for services rendered by the officers to the Society.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee of the said State Historical Society of Iowa, to keep an accurate account of the expenditure of the said sum of money hereby appropriated, and furnish the same, together with the vouchers thereof, to the Governor of the State, in the month of December of the year the Legislature shall meet, to be by him laid before the Legislature.

SEC. 3. There shall be delivered to said Society thirty bound copies of all documents published by order of the State, for the purpose of effecting exchanges with similar Societies in other States, and also fifty bound copies of all such documents, to be transmitted through the medium of the Secretary of said Society, to Mr. Vattimere, at Paris, in furtherance of his system of international literary exchange.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force, from and after its publication according to law.

APPROVED, January 28, 1857.

II.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That chapter two hundred and three (203) of the laws of the sixth General Assembly, approved, January 28th, 1857, be amended as follows :

That there is hereby annually appropriated, until the Legislature shall by law otherwise direct, to the State Historical Society, formed in connection with, and under the auspices of, the State University, the sum of five hundred dollars, to be expended by said Society in collecting, embodying, arranging and preserving in authentic form, a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary and other materials illustrative of the History of Iowa; to rescue from oblivion the memory of its pioneers; to obtain and preserve varieties of their exploits, perils and hardy adventures; to secure facts and statements in relation to the history, genius, progress or decay of our Indian tribes; to exhibit faithfully

the antiquities, past and present resources of Iowa; also to aid in the publication of such of the collections of the Society as the Society shall, from time to time, deem of value and interest; to aid in binding its books, pamphlets, manuscripts and papers, and in paying other necessary incidental expenses of the Society.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force, from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and State Journal.

APPROVED, March 26, 1860.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Journal, April 7th, 1860; and in the Iowa State Register, April 4, 1860.

ELIJAH SELLS, Secretary of State.

The second act of the Assembly is a mere repetition of the first, with a few verbal alterations, except that it increases the annual appropriation to five hundred dollars, and does not restrict the expenditure, as did the first act.

With these acts of the Legislature, the Society has begun and progressed, till a library of about two thousand volumes, including books for exchange, and a considerable cabinet of minerals, shells, portraits and trophies of war has been accumulated, together with several manuscript and printed histories of leading counties, for publication or reference, all which will be of great utility to the future historian of Iowa.

No apology is needed for beginning the "short and simple Annals" of Iowa. The very name of the State, in the Indian tongue, signifies, "Here is the place," of all others, in which to dwell. Hunted, as were the native tribes, by their enemies, until they found a home beyond the great river, Mississippi, they exclaimed: "Here is the spot." Such is the interpretation by ANTOINE LE CLAIRE, Esq., the last and best Indian interpreter of the language, himself a half native, by descent, as given to the writer of this article, a few years before his decease.

The times, indeed, are not propitious, as the nation is involved in a most unhappy civil war, the like of which, for extent and atrocity, the world never saw. A half million of volunteers, fully armed and equipped as soldiers, with improved

cannon, muskets, rifles, revolvers and sabres, on land; with three hundred vessels of war, in part iron-clad and turreted, and manned with fifty thousand hardy sailors, on the seas and rivers, compose the grand army and navy of the United States against the insurgent attacks of nine Southern States, leagued in rebellion against the General Government of the Union. And, here, on American soil, is to be settled forever—the great principle, that a free, popular, constitutional Government can defend itself against domestic traitors, as it has done against foreign foes. Already the nations of Europe have begun to learn a lesson of warfare from this national struggle, which will change the deadly implements of carnage for those more defensive or offensive than were ever before invented. So that civil war, and all war, will hereafter be a terrible venture, that men of ambition and blood will scarcely dare to try.

In this conflict for national life and liberty, against domestic enemies, the State of Iowa has embarked, from first to last, with fifty thousand picked men as volunteers. Their blood has flowed like water on the battle fields of Springfield, Blue Hills Belmont, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth, Arkansas Post and Vicksburg; and wherever, in the Southwest, the fight has been the fiercest, Iowa men have been foremost in the assault. The annals of Iowa soldiers alone would make a library, and the trophies of Iowa troops would fill a cabinet of no small dimensions.

It is therefore most fit, that some pages of current events, illustrative of the character of a people so brave and patriotic, should be recorded, for the benefit of future generations. Well have the enemies of the Union, made captive by our citizen soldiers, exclaimed: "Where is that Iowa, from which come so many soldiers, who fight so bravely?"

In connection, also, with the Annals of the State, it is thought desirable to incorporate brief biographies of distinguished citizens of Iowa, in the various walks of life. Happily, the Annalist of Iowa has not to go back to the story of fabulous heroes, nor to uncertain dates, unless the origin of the Indian tribes, once dwelling in this land, be excepted.

Iowa was made a Territory, separate from Wisconsin, so recently as the fourth of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; and, by the adoption of a Constitution, and election of a Governor, with other officers, and a Legislature in August, of the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, was fully inaugurated, on the third of December following, as a sovereign State.

Iowa has already outgrown more than half of the older States in population, having by the United States Census of eighteen hundred and sixty, six hundred seventy-three thousand, eight hundred and forty-four inhabitants; and ranks next to Michigan in numbers. In extent of territory, it is equal to both New York and New Jersey, as may be seen by inspection of the map and square miles. In health, it stands next to the Green Mountain State, Vermont. In fertility and variety of soil, it is not surpassed by any State in the Union.

Shall not such a State, already grown so great, have a history? And will any one say that its authentic Annals are too soon begun, or that the aid of the intelligent citizens of this commonwealth has been invoked too soon, to fill the Library and Cabinet of the Historical Society, connected as it is with the State University?

In troublous times, these Annals of the Society are begun. Yet humble reliance may be reposed on the God of history, unfolding leaf after leaf in his continual providence that ruleth over all. He only can prosper all honest endeavors, and send a brighter day in our country's history. With such a trust, this humble publication is begun, relating to a State, already illustrious in arms; but destined of high Heaven, it is confidently hoped, to be still more illustrious, when arms shall yield to peace and prosperity throughout the whole land.

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