

could not say, "the better day, the better deed;" and that his distant friends would rather have had him die in that way on any other day of the week. Sad sight, a young man sinking into a watery grave.

The writer, also, "paddled his own canoe" over the Mississippi—or rather a borrowed one—visited Blackhawk's cave, at the foot of the Island. It took just twenty minutes by the watch, to return from Rock Island shore, then called Stevenson.

With Mr. Strong Burnell, also, he visited Mr. LeClaire and solicited him to give a lot for a Congregational church, which he afterwards did. He said very pleasantly and smilingly, "I have given the Catholics a lot, and, I suppose, I must treat them all alike." He was a very generous man, and often boasted that he was the first *white* man that ever came over the Mississippi. Half Indian and half French by descent, he was more tawny than white.

### SKETCH OF ANTOINE LE CLAIRE.

*From "Davenport Past and Present."*

ANTOINE LE CLAIRE was born December 15, 1797, at St. Joseph, Michigan. His father was a Canadian Frenchman, his mother the grand daughter of a Pottawottamie chief. At this time the territory of the Northwest, out of which half a dozen mighty States have been formed, was peopled almost solely by the Red man, with here and there one of a different race, fearless enough to brave the perils of frontier life, among the dusky denizens of the wilderness; the father of Antoine Le Claire was one of these.

In 1808, he established a trading post at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, exchanging manufactured articles for various kinds of furs. In 1809, he engaged more extensively in the business, in connection with John Kinsey, at Chicago, (Fort Dearborn then) Illinois. In 1812, though surrounded with Indian tribes with whom he was trading, and who, through the influence of British emissaries, were generally hostile to the United States, Mr. Le Claire espoused the American cause, engaged actively in the service—was in the contest at Peoria, where, with others, he was taken prisoner. The prisoners were confined at Alton, Illinois, but were released during the same year.

About this period, at the solicitation of Gov. Clarke, of Missouri, Antoine Le Claire entered the Government service, and was placed at school, that he might acquire a proper knowledge of the English language. In 1818, he acted as interpreter under Capt. Davenport, at Fort Armstrong; and the same year returned to Peoria, where, in 1820, he married the grand-daughter of the Sac Chief, *Acoqua*, (the Kettle.) The same year he was sent to Arkansas, to watch the movements of the Indians in that locality. He was returned to Fort Armstrong in 1827, and was present as interpreter in 1832, when the treaty was made by which the United States purchased of the Sac and Fox tribes the territory west of the Mississippi river.

In consequence of cholera among the soldiers at Fort Armstrong, the treaty, which would otherwise have been held in the Fort, was transferred to the Iowa shore opposite. Here the great chief of the Sacs, Keokuk, made a reserve of a section of land, which he donated to Mr. Le Claire's wife, requir-

ing, as an only condition, that Mr. Le Claire should build his house on the section, and on the spot then occupied by the marquee of Gen. Scott in making the treaty, which condition he afterwards filled to the letter. The Sacs and Foxes also gave him another section at the head of the Rapids, where Le Claire now stands. The Pottawottamies, in the treaty of Prairie du Chien, reserved two sections on the Illinois side, which they presented to Mr. Le Claire. The flourishing town of Moline is situated on this reserve.

The treaty was ratified by Congress the following winter. In the spring of 1833, Mr. Le Claire erected a small building, or "shanty," in the then Fox village, "Morgan," which had occupied this ground for years previous. Of the tribe having this as their headquarters, *Maquopom* was the head warrior, and *Poweshiek* head chief. In the fall of 1834, the Sac and Fox Indians left here for the Cedar river.

In 1833, Mr. Le Claire was appointed postmaster at Davenport, and also justice of the peace, to settle all matters of difference between the whites and Indians. His jurisdiction extended over all the territory purchased of the Sacs and Foxes west of the Mississippi, from Dubuque on the north, to Burlington on the south.

#### HENRY W. STARR—IN MEMORIAM

Henry W. Starr was born July 26, 1815, at Middlebury, Vt. He graduated at Middlebury, in 1834, and studied law at the Cincinnati law school till 1837, when he came to Burlington, Iowa, and settled permanently. He married Miss Marion T. Peasley, September 28, 1843. They had two sons, Charles Egbert and Peter James, the latter of whom died in 1873. Mrs. Starr died April 23, 1854, and in 1857 he married Miss Eliza A. Merrill, of Middlebury, Vt. They had two daughters who survive him. He died October 30, 1881.

The following tribute of the Bar, in memory of Mr. Starr is taken from the Burlington papers:

"The Des Moines County Bar met pursuant to adjournment, Hon. A. H. Stutsman presiding. The chair calling for the report of the committee on resolutions heretofore appointed, Hon. George Robertson, chairman of said committee, with very touching and impressive remarks, submitted the following resolutions, and moved they be adopted, to-wit:

"We, the members of the Des Moines county Bar, have read with profound sorrow of the sudden and unexpected death of Henry W. Starr, at his residence in this city, on Sunday evening, the 30th inst., and entertaining for our deceased professional brother the sincerest respect as an able lawyer, a citizen of integrity and manly virtue, and a man of varied accomplishments; and cherishing for him as an associate and companion the warmest and most affectionate recollections, have:

"*Resolved*, In the death of Mr. Starr the bar has sustained a loss irreparable as a learned and accomplished lawyer, a polished and finished orator and eloquent advocate, the county and State a citizen of worth and probity, society a brilliant and cultured member, and his family a kind, tender and indulgent husband and father.

"*Resolved*, That we, his professional brethren, deeply deplore his death, and will keep in affectionate remembrance his many virtues as a lawyer, citizen,

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