

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THIS number of the Annals is tardily issued; but future numbers will be in season, as the same hindrances will not be likely to occur.

THE saucy sparrows, those city street scavengers, infest Davenport, driving out other birds. Both the city and country will rue the day when the people of Brooklyn, N. Y., imported them. They are the sauciest birds known. Away with the impudent little fellows!

WE desire to make special mention of the date of the admission of Iowa as a State. Congress, by a special act, on the 28th day of December, A. D., 1846, admitted Iowa into the Union. Some mistakes in the date of admission were in the Annals, old series. The civil organization and history must be left for other succeeding numbers.

SELDOM, if ever, in many winters, has the Mississippi river been navigable by Captain Robinson's ferry boat, about to give place to a new one in the spring. May the good old boat which has carried so many safely over be honored in its departure. We love old things for the good they have done. We are growing old, all of us, alike, year by year.

CORRESPONDENCE and communications are solicited on the general topics peculiar to this magazine. One man, although in search and research of early incidents and facts, cannot be expected to collect all, single-handed and alone. Ye veterans of Iowa, help! Short pithy communications, or facts by observers, especially before 1839 and 1849, will be welcome. Capt. Eliphalet Price, the real hero of the Blackhawk war, will be welcomed to these columns with all his good humor. The editor of this magazine does not know the Captain's address or residence.

SOME very interesting correspondence of David W. Kilburne, an early friend in Iowa, may appear in our next, and a piece of prime poetry on "Hauling Goods from Keokuk," where Mr. Kilburne lived the latter part of his residence in our State. May be his sons will give some details of his marvelous history, in connection with the half-breed tract of which he was agent. Also, of the veteran minister, who died with his armor on, as a pioneer in Iowa, Rev. Gamaliel C. Beeman, the hero of two wars—the Mormon and the late civil war. Rev. Dr. Craig, of Keokuk, has embalmed the memory of this good man.

THE last attempt at the Indian name, Des Moines, was made by a correspondent of the *Register*, at the capital. He derives it from *Moingona*, a town at the crossing of the Northwestern railway over the Des Moines, un-

mindful that the name was formed from Moines by adding gona, of no significance whatever. It is like Algona, the proprietor of which town told the writer, some twenty-five or more years ago, that he had invented it for his own site, in the wild prairie. Mr. Negus, in the old series of the "Annals," has as strange a conceit and derivation. Antoine Le Claire, Esq., knew more than all the men of his time about the Indians. Let his interpretation stand while the State stands, to his everlasting credit as an Indian interpreter of many dialects, perfectly familiar to the good and generous man. Erect him a statue in Davenport!

THE portrait of General Roberts, fronting this number, is in the highest perfection of engraving, by J. C. Buttre, No. 7 Barclay street, New York. The printing and binding at THE GAZETTE office, Davenport, are highly creditable to the press.

General Roberts is associated with the history of the State of Iowa as Captain in command at Fort Madison when the Indians were there. Subsequently he was in the Mexican war. The Legislature of Iowa voted him an elegant sword with a gilded scabbard, and suitable inscriptions on it, indicative of his bravery in that war. He was in command of the camp at Davenport, and had charge of the Indian prisoners there during most of the time of their confinement.

STATE SYNOD OF IOWA CONSTITUTED.

"The Synod of Iowa North and Iowa South are hereby consolidated and constituted into the SYNOD OF IOWA, which synod includes all the Presbyteries within the State of Iowa, and all the ministers and churches under the care of said Presbyteries; and the Synod of Iowa, as thus constituted, is hereby declared to be the legal successor of the Synods of Iowa North and Iowa South, and, as such, is entitled to the possession and enjoyment of all the rights and franchises, and liable to the performance of all the duties of those Synods.

"The Synod of Iowa, as thus constituted, shall meet on the third Thursday, A. D., 1882, at half past 7 o'clock, P. M., in the Central Presbyterian church of Des Moines, Iowa, and shall be opened by a sermon by the Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe—or, in his absence, by the Rev. Alexander S. Marshall—who shall preside until a Moderator be elected. This resolution and action shall take effect on the second day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1882."

This extract from the minutes of the Assembly of 1881, at Buffalo, A. D., 1881, explains itself; and it is hardly necessary to add that the preacher and President of the new State Synod, to meet next autumn, is the editor of this work, on whom devolves the obligation of formally organizing the same.

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