

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

EDITORIAL TRANSITION.

The third series of the *Annals of Iowa* was projected by the founder of the Historical Department as an auxiliary to the activities in which he was engaged. Through it has been gathered and preserved a vast amount of material on formative Iowa. But precious thoughts of men have not only been thus gathered. By publication and exchange of these, *The Annals* has brought many times its cost in the value of picture, book, document, map, manuscript, relic and trophy for the different collections. Its run of sixteen years, closing with the January number, embraced the ripest thought and finest skill of a brilliant man, Charles Aldrich, who died March 8th, 1908, and of a cultured, faithful woman, his assistant, Miss Mary R. Whitcomb, who died April 8th, 1909. The duties of Mr. Aldrich were assigned to us at his death, about a year from the time of entering his service as an assistant. These duties were materially shared and lightened by Miss Whitcomb, whose full value may now for the first be known outside this office through the tribute appearing elsewhere in this issue. With the positions of Curator and a chief assistant vacant we venture to issue the first number of the ninth volume of *The Annals*. The contributions it contains are very fit to connect even the splendid work of the founder with that of his successor, whoever he may be. No effort has been made either to exactly pattern after one or present a model for another editorial regime.

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