

THE NEW COLLEGIATE HALL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

On the 7th day of June were held the formal ceremonies in connection with the laying of the Corner-stone of the new Collegiate Hall for the University of Iowa. Governor Leslie M. Shaw presided. The address for the faculty was given by Prof. G. T. W. Patrick. Hon. John P. Dolliver gave the leading address.

This new building; when completed, will be not only the largest but at the same time the most beautiful of the group of University structures. It will cost the State about \$200,000.

The erection of this magnificent building at Iowa City, along with the erection of the Historical building at Des Moines, is evidence of the fact that Iowa will in the future deal more liberally with her literary and educational institutions. Today the State stands committed to the policy of making these institutions institutions of the highest order. It has taken years to establish this policy; but once definitely settled there will be no retreat therefrom. B. F. S.

SLAVE-CATCHING IN IOWA.

This was a business which did not thrive on our free soil. When the Supreme Court of Iowa Territory was organized in July, 1839, its first case, as our readers will remember, was that of the alleged fugitive slave, "Ralph," who was delivered to one Montgomery, his pretended owner, by the sheriff of Dubuque county, by virtue of a precept from a justice of the peace. The work of recovering this piece of "property" went on swimmingly until the proceeding was stopped by a writ of *habeas corpus*. It was then taken direct to the supreme court of the territory "by the consent of the parties." Ralph was discharged by order of the court and permitted to go free. The decision is published at length in THE AN-

NALS, Vol. II, pp. 531-39. In our present number we publish an interesting and valuable article by Mr. George Frazee, of Burlington, giving an account of the first fugitive slave case after Iowa became a State. It resulted like that in Chief Justice Charles Mason's court—the colored man went free. The case has been often referred to, but it derives fresh interest and additional details from the fact that Mr. Frazee was "the court" before whom it was brought, and gives a vivid presentation of his own recollections. Unless one finds these affairs "in books recorded," it requires an effort to realize that, within the recollection of persons now living, colored men—alleged slaves—who were fleeing from bondage were hunted within the limits of this State. It is also a curious fact that the rights of a colored man were held as of such little consequence in our territorial days that "a precept issued by a justice of the peace" was sufficient to consign him to slavery. After Iowa became a State the mandate of a higher court was required, but the courts in the few recorded instances found means to avoid such infamous conclusions. Once a slave breathed the air of Iowa his freedom was assured.

OUR SUPPLY of Numbers 1 and 4 of Vol. I, of this 3d series of THE ANNALS OF IOWA, has for some time been exhausted. If any of our readers can kindly send us a copy of either or both, the favor will be gratefully appreciated, or we will cheerfully pay for them. The receipt of a copy of each of these numbers will enable the Historical Department to complete an additional set of this publication. They therefore possess more than ordinary value.

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