

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

We are especially fortunate in being able to present in this number of *THE ANNALS* a full and carefully prepared sketch of the origin of that institution and of its progress down to the present time. This work is from the pen of Dr. J. L. Pickard, one of its honored presidents, a pioneer settler and educator in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, whose fame has become national. It could not have fallen into more appropriate hands. He bore a conspicuous part in its upbuilding himself, and has witnessed whatever has transpired in the great field of western education for half a century. His narrative is clearly written, embodying every necessary fact, and he is familiar with all the State and United States laws relating to the subject, giving ample references to his authorities. Dr. Pickard may be presumed to have held his own opinions upon the various perplexing questions which have from time to time arisen in the development and management of this great school; but he has written in a spirit of judicial fairness and impartiality, and with every manifestation of kindly feeling toward all with whom he has been associated. Up to this time no writer has attempted so full a treatment of this subject—though Prof. L. F. Parker of Iowa College, in his elaborate monograph upon “Higher Education in Iowa,” devotes to it one of his most interesting chapters. That work was issued by the Bureau of Education at Washington, D. C., and has had but a limited circulation. This paper by Dr. Pickard supplies a real want, and its statements will be accepted as authoritative. In addition to its circulation in *THE ANNALS*, through which it will reach

libraries throughout the State, it will appear simultaneously as a separate and distinct pamphlet, of which an edition of several hundred has been ordered by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Pickard is to be congratulated upon his success in writing this history of our higher educational development, in which he has borne such an honorable and distinguished part.

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### THE BOUNDARIES OF IOWA.

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In the literature of Iowa history there are many references to the boundaries of the State. They relate chiefly either to the boundary on the south or the boundaries on the west and north. The former bear upon the dispute between Missouri and Iowa over the exact location of the northern boundary line of Missouri; the latter have to do with the dispute between Congress and the people of Iowa over the western and northern boundaries of the State. The dispute with Missouri was technical and involved no great amount of territory. While the dispute with Congress was over broad general principles and involved a very large area of territory. The general historical facts connected with these two disputes are too generally known to call for review in this place.

But there are some facts relative to the dispute between Congress and the people of Iowa over the western and northern boundaries which have not generally been noted. We refer to the source or origin of the several propositions made for fixing these boundaries. The several propositions are: (1) the one contained in Article I of the Constitution of 1844; (2) the one contained in the act of Congress of March 3d, 1845; and (3) the one contained in Article I of the Constitution of 1846.

The boundaries as prescribed in the Constitution of 1844 were, we believe, first suggested by Governor Robert Lucas in his message to the Legislative Assembly in December, 1839. In support of this view of the origin of the boundaries

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