

county—the pioneer in this peculiar work of erecting Iowa monuments—in 1887, placed a fine brass tablet in her new court-house to the memory of the Company which she sent into the Spirit Lake Expedition, and the State, during the administration of Governor Frank D. Jackson, erected an imposing pillar at Lake Okoboji, in memory of the settlers murdered by the Indians in 1857 and of the volunteers who hurried thither to relieve the survivors and bury the dead. It is most fitting that this grave of Charles Floyd, the first U. S. Soldier to lay down his life within the limits of the Louisiana Purchase, shall be marked by the magnificent shaft now in course of erection. It is but a just recognition of the interest which has long been manifested by the people at large, and especially by travelers to that portion of our State.

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#### UNFINISHED MEMOIRS.

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During the later years of their useful and honored lives the editor of *THE ANNALS* repeatedly urged Hon. George G. Wright, Hon. James Harlan and Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood, to write their recollections of men and events in Iowa. Judge Wright began such a work, confining his writing to recollections of public men. Two of these, relating to Judge Caleb Baldwin and Van Caldwell, have appeared in *THE ANNALS*. The manuscripts of several others are in the keeping of his sons. Mr. Harlan, we hear it stated, had written several hundred pages, but had only brought his narrative down to 1863. The manuscript is in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Robert T. Lincoln. On this matter Governor Kirkwood wrote as follows:

IOWA CITY, IOWA, Nov. 16, 1888.

DEAR SIR: Yours of yesterday rec'd. I think it probable I will commence this winter writing a sketch of my life, and of the changes in the manners and customs of our people as I have seen them in the seventy-five years I have lived. I do not intend to publish this, but leave it in manu-

script to some one of my blood relatives or my wife, to be used as may be thought best after my death.

I wish very much to get copies of all my messages to the General Assembly of our State, and of my inaugural addresses; also of my proclamations during the war. . . . My purpose is to have them and one or two speeches I made in the Senate bound in one volume for my family. Can you help me to get them?

Very truly,

S. J. KIRKWOOD.

We are of the opinion that the old War Governor never carried out the purpose above expressed, though he published a few short articles. It is a matter for deep regret that each of these illustrious Iowans did not write an autobiography. A world of recollections of pioneer men and women, of legislators and soldiers, filled their minds, and it was often urged that they could perpetuate hundreds of precious memories which would otherwise perish. But death overtook them, as so commonly happens, before they found time for such tasks, and state history is in consequence a great loser.

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### TWO IMPORTANT IOWA BOOKS.

The Honorable John F. Dillon, who is remembered in great kindness by thousands of our people, as a distinguished citizen and Chief Justice of our State, though he removed to New York City nearly twenty years ago, has sent to the Historical Department of Iowa a copy of a privately printed volume, an excellent review of which appears elsewhere in our pages. This book was prepared and printed in memory of his wife, Mrs. Anna Price Dillon, who perished at sea in the wreck of the French steamship *Bourgogne*, July 4, 1898. This is doubtless the finest privately printed work of its class thus far seen in this country, no expense having been spared in its preparation. It will only be circulated, however, as a gift to cherished friends and to a few libraries. The review, which is accompanied by a fine etching of Mrs. Dillon, will give the reader a good idea of this remarkable volume.

The other work is entitled, "Twenty Years in Europe," by Major S. H. M. Byers, of Des Moines, a name well known throughout our State. It is finely printed and tastefully illustrated. Aside from the portraits, it contains many exquisitely beautiful half-tones from original sketches by Mrs. Byers. The book is one of the best from the Major's prolific pen, at once bright, breezy, entertaining and instructive. It contains many letters from Gen. William T. Sherman, all of which show that the grim old soldier had a most amiable and social nature when once free from "camps and courts." The book might well have been named "The Record of Twenty Happy Years."

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