

that this undertaking would be burdensome to the people. Our State was alleged to be "full of barefooted women and barefooted children," and the expenditure was denounced as nothing less than criminal. This same statement was made in 1860 at the time of the heroic effort to found our first Hospital for the Insane, at Mount Pleasant. It has been heard on more than one occasion since. Often in the past, when it has been sought to throttle some great public enterprise demanded by the necessities or best interests of the State, this false and foolish cry has been raised. We have been compelled to hear a great deal about these hordes of unfortunate people. That such a class has existed within the borders of productive and prosperous Iowa is purely a myth and always was. Happily, while so loudly proclaimed, this cry has not availed to stay the progress which the closing and the coming century demand from our great State. Public institutions have arisen where they were needed and such will be the record of the years to come.

All who read Mr. Kasson's history of this great fight will award him the highest praise for the manner in which he conducted it. He worked with unbounded activity, but with unruffled temper, and a degree of prudence and judgment which won the heartiest approval throughout the State. We deem it well to place this paper among our permanent records, that future generations may have some knowledge of the cost of one of the proudest steps in the history and progress of Iowa.

STATUES OF GRIMES AND HARLAN.

Readers of THE ANNALS will no doubt remember that the old Hall of Representatives in the capitol at Washington is now used as a Hall of Statuary. Under the law each state is entitled to place therein the statues of two of its representative men, to be selected by its own authorities. Many of the

states—including Wisconsin, Rhode Island and Delaware—have complied with this regulation, in whole or in part, but Iowa has never had any representation in the national pantheon. The recent lamented death of Senator James Harlan has brought the subject up for consideration, and many of his friends are urging that his statue should be placed there as soon as practicable. We are of the opinion, however, that a better plan would be to provide for the statues of both James W. Grimes and James Harlan. They occupied high places and were an honor to the State and to the country in a time of great national peril. Certainly, if there were any “giants in those days” they were among the foremost. It would take at least two or three years to secure these statues and place them in the National Capitol. They could be made either of marble or bronze. It occurs to the writer, however, that bronze would be the better material, and that while provision should be made for placing them in the Hall of Statuary, copies could be cast at a great reduction of expense for the State Capitol. It is also quite probable that Burlington—or Philip M. Crapo, of that city—would purchase a copy of each. To the suggestion that one should be provided by this legislature and one in the future, it may be replied that the expense, if that question is raised, need not be incurred in any one year, but can be apportioned to two or three years. Our great military heroes have been honored in connection with the Soldiers and Sailors’ Monument at the Capitol, and it would seem to be but justice that the next statues to be provided at the public expense should be those of statesmen. The finest work of art now in possession of the State is a superb oil portrait of War Governor Kirkwood, painted by our greatest artist, by order of the 24th General Assembly. Possibly some farther memorial may in justice to his memory be provided in the future. But the names of the two great Senators of the period of the Civil War should go together, if it is contemplated that Iowa shall be represented in the National Hall of Statuary. There can be no

good reason for waiting another year in seriously considering this subject. The people of Iowa, we feel certain, will heartily commend such an undertaking by the 28th General Assembly.

LINCOLN-GRIMES CORRESPONDENCE.

George Bancroft in his Memorial Address before Congress delivered in the House of Representatives, February 12, 1866, upon the fifty-seventh anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, characterized Mr. Lincoln's habits of mind as "those of meditation and inward thought." "He never sought," said Mr. Bancroft, "to electrify the community by taking an advanced position with a banner of opinion, but rather studied to move forward compactly, exposing no detachment in front or rear; so that the course of his administration might have been explained as the calculating policy of a shrewd and watchful politician, had there not been seen behind it a fixedness of principle which from the first determined his purpose, and grew more intense every year."

This characterization of Mr. Lincoln is justified by his letters to Mr. Grimes in 1856-7, which are published in the "Life of James W. Grimes," by Rev. Dr. William Salter of Burlington, Iowa, and by the following letter which was preserved by the late Governor Kirkwood.

Prefixed to the letter was a copy of an Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1863, "To regulate the duties of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in preparing for the organization of the House." A form of certificate by the Governor of the State for the regularly elected members of the House of Representatives for the Thirty-eighth Congress was appended.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 29, 1863.

Hon. James W. Grimes:

MY DEAR SIR.—The above Act of Congress was passed, as I suppose, for the purpose of shutting out improper applicants for seats in the House of

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