

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.

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### LINCOLN-GRIMES CORRESPONDENCE.

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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

Representatives; and I fear that there is some danger that it will be *used* to shut out proper ones. Iowa, having an entire Union delegation, will be one of the States the attempt will be made upon, if upon any. The Governor doubtless has made out the certificates, and they are already in the hands of the members. I suggest that they come on with them; but that, for greater caution, you, and perhaps Mr. Harlan with you, consult with the Governor, and have an additional set made out according to the form on the other half of this sheet; and still another set, if you can, by studying the law, think of a form that in your judgment promises additional security, and quietly bring the whole on with you, to be used in case of necessity. Let what you do be kept still.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

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SENATOR GRIMES TO GOVERNOR KIRKWOOD.

(*Private.*)

BURLINGTON, Nov. 3d, 1863.

DR. GOV.—The enclosed letter from the President will sufficiently explain itself. Will you be good enough to cause duplicate credentials to be made for each of our representatives in Congress and be forwarded to me. I leave for the East two weeks from to-day not going direct to Washington. The credentials will follow me if sent to me here. I had hoped to see you before I left.

Yours truly,

J. W. GRIMES.

Would it not be well to send two extra sets of credentials, one including all the members from the State as in the accompanying form, and one for each member separately.

G.

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## THE DEATH OF SENATOR HARLAN.

This widely lamented event occurred at his home in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, October 5; 1899. The last public appearance of the illustrious statesman at the State Capital was at the laying of the corner-stone of the Iowa Historical Building, on the 17th of May preceding his death, upon which occasion he acted as President of the Day. His remarks upon taking the chair, together with his engraved portrait and a biographical sketch of the man, appeared in *THE ANNALS* for July, 1899. (See pp. 87, 88, 89, 148 and 149, of the current volume). A more extended notice of his life and public services we understand to be under consideration by his

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