

teers, like those of these later times, were eager to be organized and go to the front, but that they were not needed. Iowa had then but a small population, and doubtless Capt. Guthrie's company was its full quota:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, NOV. 25, 1846.

His Excellency James Clarke, Governor of Iowa, Burlington, Iowa:

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 19th instant, stating that the regiment of Iowa volunteers are anxious to be called into active service, and to inform you that their patriotic wishes cannot now be gratified consistently with the claims of other States.

Very respectfully, your Obt. Servt.,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Part of the Mormon battalion was mustered out at Los Angeles, California, in July, 1847, and the remainder at San Diego the following March. This battalion never took part in any battle. The record of its losses shows but nine deaths, under the heading—"Ordinary"—something quite unusual with a body of men on such a long march. It is a matter of regret that the letters of Gov. Clarke have not yet been found in the War Department. U. S. Senator John H. Gear has lately asked that careful search be made for them.

THE DEATH OF DR. ELLIOTT COUES.

This widely known author died at the hospital of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on Christmas day, 1899. He was widely known as a general naturalist, but his most distinguishing works were in the direction of ornithology. The most important was "The Key to North American Birds," an elaborate work which has passed through several editions and is still in demand. His "Birds of the Northwest" and "Birds of the Colorado Valley" come next in importance. The cyclopedias give a list of thirteen important works of which he was the author, in addition to several hundred monographs and scientific papers. For a time he edited the zoological department of the *American Naturalist*, and was also connected with several other natural history periodicals. He was the compiler of the natural history definitions in "The Century Dictionary," a work which employed his time for several years. He had also edited editions of the travels of Lewis and Clark, Gen. Pike, and several other western explorers. He had taken an especial interest in this magazine and intended to write for it an article on the origin and meaning of the word "Iowa." In editing the books of travel he journeyed up both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, making a careful examination of the regions traversed by the early explorers. He told the writer of these lines that he could locate every camp made by Lewis and Clark and Pike. He was a man of the most extensive learning, not only in the direction of natural history, but also in languages and general literature. His death at the early age of 57 is a distinct loss to scientific and historical literature.

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