

priation for the purpose of increasing the library of said Territory, and state to your honorable body that the law portion of said library is extremely deficient—so much so that the Supreme Court are frequently compelled to take causes under advisement from term to term in order to enable them to get access to authorities.

So defective is the library that it embraces very few reports of the states of this Union, and none of the reports of the United States by *Peters*, and many other reports and works of the highest and most frequently cited authorities.

Your honorable body need hardly be reminded that our country is new and young; that our libraries are few and small, and that we cannot hope to increase the Territorial library for some years to come, and that we are suffering very great inconvenience during the sessions of the courts for want of those books of authority which are a part of the law of the land and necessary to allow our judiciary to do justice to themselves and the country, and permanently to settle the law of our Territory and to construe in an enlightened manner the statutory enactments of our own Legislature.

We respectfully suggest that an appropriation of five thousand dollars be made.\*

This memorial is signed by Charles Mason, J. Williams, and T. S. Wilson (Judges of the Supreme Court) and by thirty attorneys.

B. F. S.

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### THE LAWS OF IOWA, 1838-39.

The Historical Department has begun a work for which the people of Iowa are deeply grateful. The recent reprint of "The Statute Laws of the Territory of Iowa" which were "enacted at the first session of the Legislative Assembly of said Territory, held at Burlington, A. D. 1838-'39," is the beginning of a line of reprints that should be continued without interruption until all of the laws of the Territory of Iowa, the journals of the constitutional conventions of 1844 and 1846, and the code of 1851 have been made accessible to the people of the State. The truth is that only a few of the older libraries of the State contain copies of the originals

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\*Taken from the original manuscript copy of the memorial, as preserved in the office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

of the volumes just mentioned. Within the last twenty years scores of school and public libraries have been established; and recent legislation relative to libraries will mean the establishment of a much greater number in the future. Not one of the many school and public libraries in Iowa should be without a complete set of the statute laws and codes of the State and Territory. We shall look to the Historical Department to furnish the necessary reprints. An excellent beginning has been made.

But students of law and government outside of this State are interested in our laws. It is a fact that Iowa has furnished models for more than one commonwealth. The volume of laws which the Historical Department has just reprinted was in 1843 adopted and enacted as a part of the law of the Provisional Government of Oregon. The Iowa Code of 1851 was in many parts enacted verbatim by the neighboring State of Nebraska. No one can discuss the development of law in the West without making prominent mention of the statute laws and codes of Iowa.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH.

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### HISTORIC MARBLES.

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During the month of December the Historical Department came into possession of marble busts of Gov. and Mrs. William Larrabee. They were from the studio of the Messrs. Pugi Brothers, Florence, Italy, and were accompanied with beautiful dark polished stone pedestals. The material from which these busts were carved is the finest Carrara marble. As likenesses of those well-known and distinguished Iowans they leave nothing to be desired. They are at once recognized by all who have known them in the past. The Department also owns a fine marble medallion bust of the late Hon. William Pitt Fessenden of Maine. This was from the chisel of Larkin G. Meade, one of the best

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